

**Agenda Item: B-3**



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
DECEMBER, 2002**

Fisheries managed under delegated authority to the State of Alaska since the last council report: salmon, crab, and groundfish.

**Salmon Troll Fishery**

(FIGURE 1) The Southeast Alaska chinook salmon winter troll fishery opened October 11, 2002. This fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" (see 5 AAC 29.020(b)) and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. The winter fishery will continue through April 14, 2003 or until 45,000 treaty chinook salmon are harvested. The 2003 harvest to date is 16,680 fish, which is 60% greater than the 2002 catch for this same time period, and well above the most recent 5-year average. It appears that the larger, early winter catch is related to the large abundance of chinook salmon observed during the 2002 spring and summer seasons. This phenomenon has occurred in other years with high abundance.

This year's all gear chinook catch was the highest since statehood and the troll catch was the 4th highest since statehood. Escapements from Alaska to California were very high and at record levels in many areas.

### **Aleutian Island Golden King Crab**

(FIGURE 2) The 2002/2003 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened at noon on Thursday, August 15, 2002 with a guideline harvest level of 5.7 million pounds. Twenty two vessels registered in the fishery. The fishery is managed to allow for a harvest of 3.0 million pounds of golden king crab in the area east of 174° W longitude, and the remaining 2.7 million pounds available for harvest west of 174° W longitude. The fishery is managed inseason using processor production reports, fishery performance data collected by observers stationed on each vessel, and reports from fishermen. The commercial golden king crab fishery in that portion of Area O east of 174° W long. closed on September 7, 2002. Inseason catch reports indicated that the guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3.0 million pounds would be reached by that time. Actual harvest from the 19 participating vessels stands at 2.82 million pounds from 44 landings. That portion of Area O west of 174° W long., where the catch is now approximately 1.2 million pounds, will remain open until further notice.

### **Petrel Bank (Western Aleutian Islands) Red King Crab**

(FIGURE 3) The Petrel Bank area of the western Aleutian Islands opened for commercial red king crab fishing at noon on October 25, 2002. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game established a GHL of 500,000 pounds of legal male red king crabs. The Petrel Bank area is defined as those waters of king crab Registration Area O west of 179° W long., east of 179° E long., and north of 51° 45' N lat. Only those waters in the above described area that are 125 fathoms or

less in depth were open to fishing for red king crab. Thirty four vessels registered to participate in the fishery. The fishery closed October 27, 2002. Estimated harvest is 505,600 pounds.

### **Preseason registration for the 2003 *C. Opilio* crab fishery**

Fishermen are reminded that the preseason registration deadline to participate in the 2003 *C. opilio* crab fishery is December 24, 2002. Copies of the registration form are available in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak. I also have several on hand at this meeting.

### **Central Region Pacific Cod**

#### **Cook Inlet**

(FIGURE 4) The state managed Pacific cod fishery in the waters of Cook Inlet opened on March 10, 2002, twenty-four hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The 1.57 million pound Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear. The GHL is calculated as 2.25% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area. The area initially closed for pot gear by regulation at noon on May 1, 2002. It is now open to both pot and jig gear. To date, 17 vessels have landed approximately one million pounds of Pacific cod.

#### **Prince William Sound**

The 2002 Prince William Sound (PWS) state managed Pacific cod season opened March 16, 2002 with a 1.9 million pound GHL allocated 60% to pot gear and 40% to jig gear. The GHL is calculated as 25% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. To date, there has been no participation in the fishery.

## **Westward Region Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 5)

### **Kodiak** (FIGURE 6)

The 2002 Kodiak Area GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod season is 8.7 million pounds. This is 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. No more than 25% of the guideline can be taken by vessels over 58 feet with pot gear prior to September 1, 2002. The fishery opened on March 16, 2002, which was seven days after the Central Gulf of Alaska was closed to cod fishing. A total of 96 vessels are registered to participate. Fishing with pot gear initially closed May 4, 2002. On September 1, the fishery was reopened to pot gear, the size-restriction on pot vessels was dropped, and the remaining GHL was made available to both gear types. Minimal harvest occurred through September and October. The pot and jig machine limits and the exclusive area designation were rescinded effective October 30 as prescribed in the management plan to stimulate additional harvest. The fishery has taken 6.4 million pounds through November 16, 2002. Pot vessels have harvested 5.2 million pounds while jig gear has taken 1.2 million pounds. Although some increased effort has occurred in the fishery since the pot limit was eliminated, the fishery is expected to close by regulation on December 31, 2002 before its 8.7 million pound GHL is attained.

### **Chignik** (FIGURE 7)

The 2002 Chignik area GHL is 4.9 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The season opened on March 1, 2002 with 30 vessels registered to fish. Through November 16, 2002 landings totaled 4.1 million pounds with 92% of the harvest attributable to pot gear and the remainder to jig gear. Fishing with both gears remains open. The Chignik Area fishery will close on the regulatory closure date of December 31, 2002 and a small portion of the 2002 GHL will likely remain unharvested.

### **South Alaska Peninsula** (FIGURE 8)

The 2002 South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL is 12.4 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This is 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The fishery opened March 5, 2002, seven days after the closure of the Western GOA to cod fishing. Fishing with pot gear closed March 24, 2002 and the harvest totaled 10.7 million pounds. Fishing with jig gear began in early March and effort steadily increased after that time. The fishery closed April 26, 2002. The harvest from jig gear totaled 2.1 million pounds. The final catch was 12.8 million pounds from both gear types. There were 114 vessels registered to fish in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

### **State Pacific Cod Enforcement**

The Alaska Department of Public Safety's Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection conducts targeted patrols during the Pacific cod fisheries. In the northern Gulf of Alaska and Westward areas, patrols were made on the fishing grounds, and shoreside processing facilities were inspected. Specific to the Westward Region's "C" Detachment, the P/V Stimson and P/V Woldstad conducted patrols for a total of 40 days. During patrols, a total of five vessels were boarded at sea. Enforcement officers inspected 181 cod pots on the grounds, and seized 52. Sixteen criminal cases have been developed. These numbers do not include vessels that received warnings, or cases that are not being prosecuted.

For the 2003 season, directed cod patrols are scheduled for 77 sea days. This will be an increase in enforcement effort of almost 80% over the last fiscal year. This should equate to more visibility on the grounds, more gear inspected, and higher detection of non-compliance.

**Southeast Groundfish** (FIGURE 9)

The Clarence Strait (SSEI) longline sablefish fishery opened on June 1, 2002 and closed on August 15, 2002. Twenty eight permit holders landed a total of 554,074 round lbs of sablefish in the 2002 fishery. The Chatham Strait (NSEI) longline sablefish fishery and the Clarence Strait (SSEI) pot sablefish fishery opened on Sept. 1, 2002 and closed on November 15, 2002. A preliminary tally for NSEI shows 109 longline permit holders harvested 2,009,254 round lbs of sablefish. The final tabulation for four pot permit holders harvesting sablefish in SSEI was 96,265 round lbs.

The fall demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery opened November 16, 2002 in Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO), Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) management areas. The East Yakutat (EYKT) and Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) management areas did not open for this fishery. CSEO closed on November 17, 2002 after 75,730 round lbs of DSR had been harvested. SSEO closed on November 24, 2002 and tickets entered to date account for a DSR harvest of 35,981 round pounds in that management area. The DSR fishery in SSEI and NSEI remains open. To date 3,625 round lbs of DSR have been harvested in SSEI and no landings have been reported for NSEI.

## Figure 1. 2003 WINTER CHINOOK SALMON TROLL SEASON, SOUTHEAST ALASKA

This fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" (see 5 AAC 29.020(b)) and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. Table updated Nov. 5, 2002.

Troll Year	Total Catch to Date	Statistics for October 27 - November 2					Week 44	
		Week 44 Catch	Permits Fished	Landings	Catch per Landing	Average Weight (lbs)	Average Price per Pound (from fish tickets)	
2003	16,680	1,045	55	69	15	13.4	\$ 1.67	
2002	10,639	1,695	78	93	18	13.2	\$ 3.20	
5-year avg. 1998-2002	6,012	1,236	58	75	16	14.4	\$ 2.96	

Weekly Chinook Salmon Catch and Effort Data							
Troll Year 2003	Week	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds	Average Price	Average Weight
	41	31	32	2,750	38,130	\$ 2.20	13.9
	42	129	209	8,188	110,008	\$ 2.07	13.4
	43	92	125	4,693	56,469	\$ 1.68	12.6
	44	56	69	1,045	13,956	\$ 1.67	13.4
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>16,680</b>	<b>218,605</b>	<b>\$ 1.96</b>	<b>13.1</b>

**Note:** Winter Troll season is from October 11, 2002 through April 14, 2003 or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested. Totals for 2003 include data for a portion of the current week, so are not the sum of weeks which are listed. Data preliminary.

FIGURE 2

## ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST, 2002/2003 SEASON

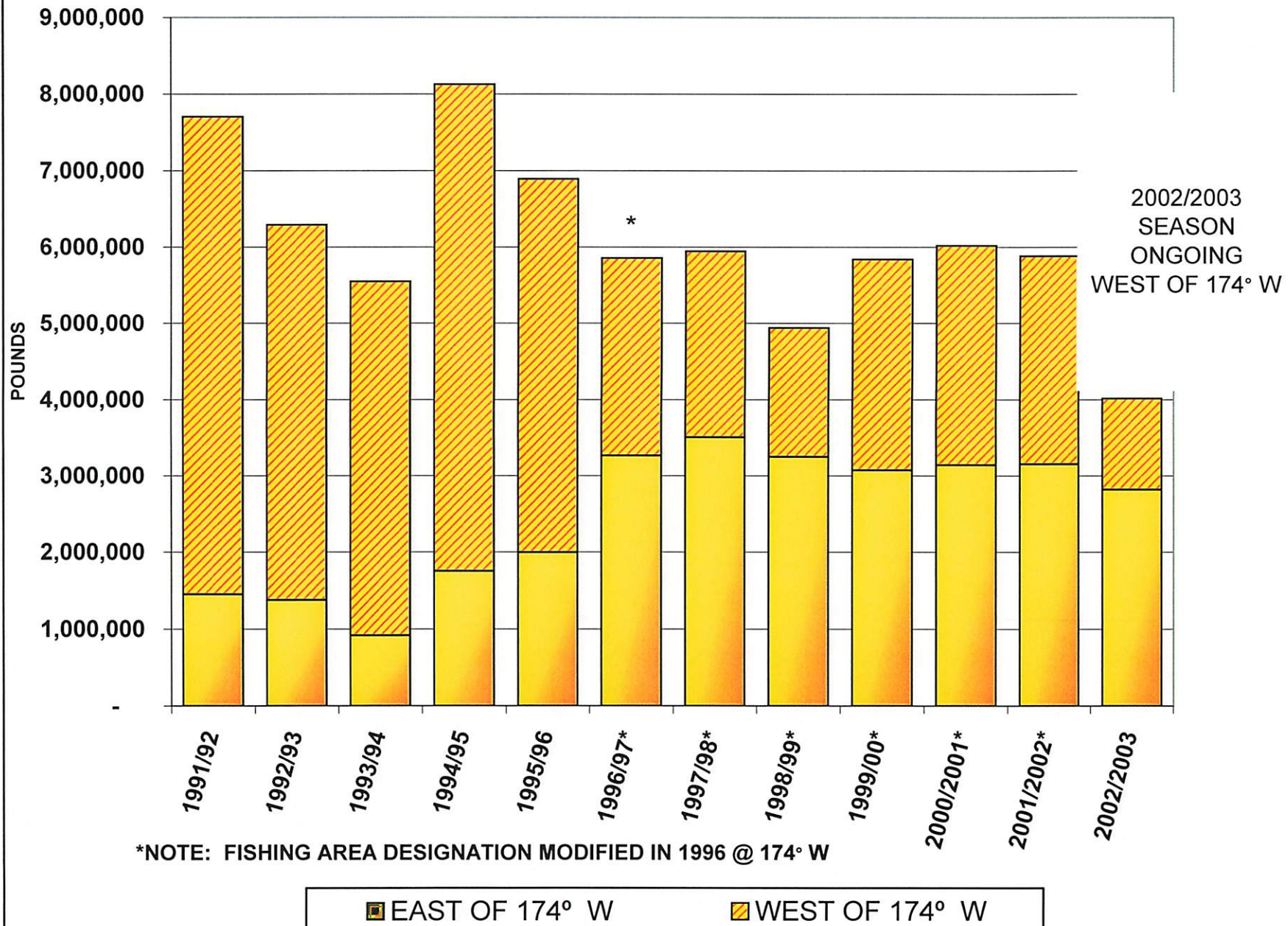
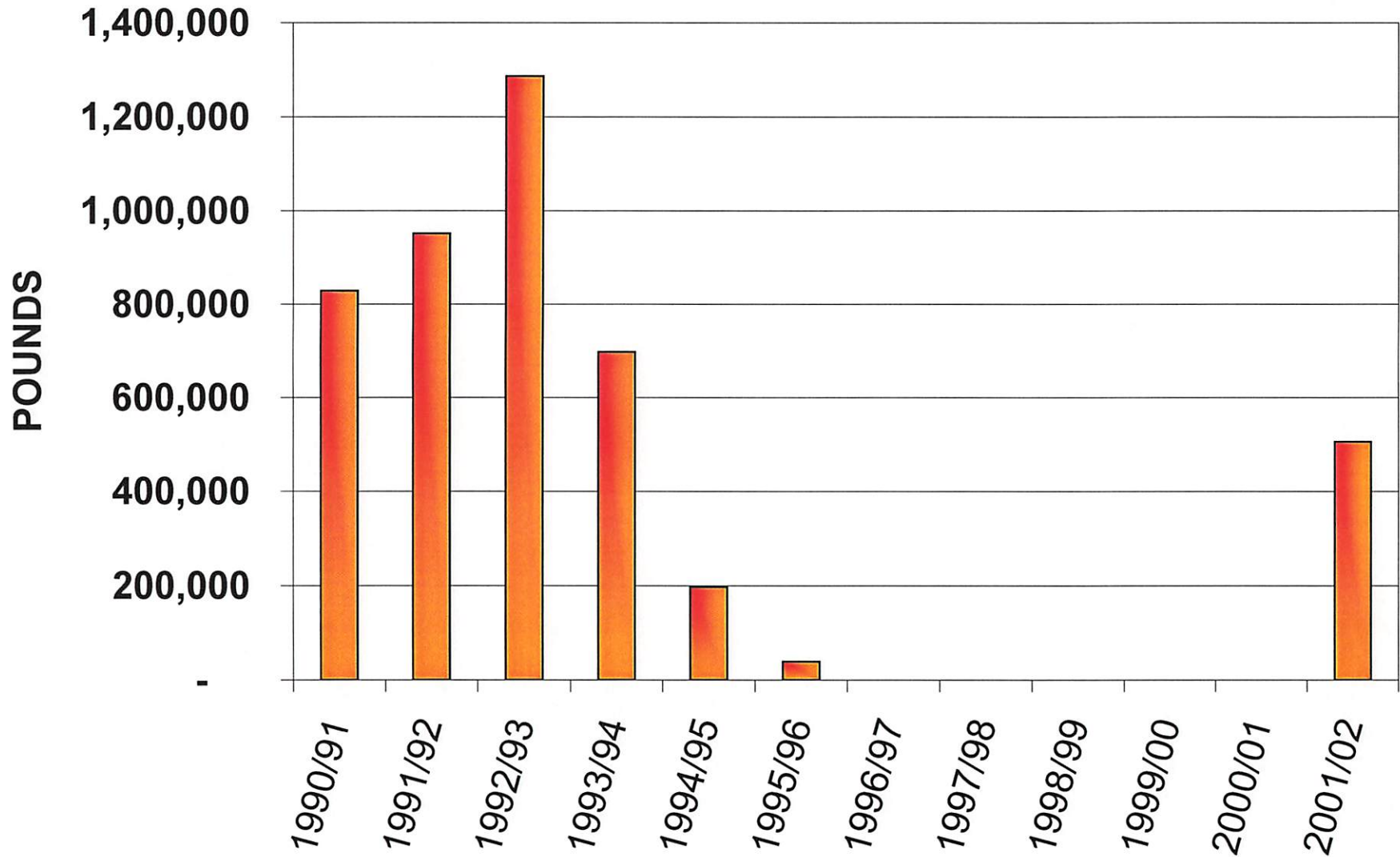




Figure 3.

## Aleutian Islands Red King Crab Commercial Harvest Data



East of 171° W Long. Closed

West of 171° W Long.

**Figure 4. 2002 Central Region Harvest Guideline, Effort, and Catch Reported for State Water Fisheries through 15 Nov 2002.**

*This summary censured for confidential reports or records.*

**Pacific Cod**

**PARALLEL SEASON\* - STATE WATERS**

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	1	censured	censured	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	2	censured	censured
Longline (61)	54	111	580,102	20	45	16,873
Pots (91)	7	107	307,937	0	0	0
Totals	62	218	888,039	22	45	16,873
Status	Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 9			Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 9		

\*Parallel season concurrent with federal waters of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

Totals include Pacific Cod bycatch to other directed fisheries e.g. halibut & sablefish.

**Pacific Cod**

**STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS\***

GHL (lb)	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
		1.57 mil.			1.9 mil.	
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	7	15	18,163	0	0	0
Pots (91)	10	198	977,904	0	0	0
Totals	17	213	996,067	0	0	0
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status	Opened - Closed noon 3/10 - Open			Opened - Closed noon 3/16 - Open		
State seasons: Pots (91) Status	Opened - Closed noon Mar 10 - noon 5/1 June 15 - noon August 5 Sept 1 - Open			Opened - Closed noon 3/16 - Open		

\*The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive area registration 24 hours after the Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS.

Includes only directed fishery harvest.

Gear exclusive area registrations removed effective October 31.



**Figure 5. 2002 STATE MANAGED GADFISH  
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK**

UPDATED: 11/25/02



VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	KODIAK			CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA		
	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig
	96	32	64	30	14	16	114	49	64

<b>2002 GHL:</b>	<b>8.7 million pounds</b>	<b>4.9 million pounds</b>	<b>12.4 million pounds</b>
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<b>ALLOCATIONS:</b>	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1. Jigs = 4.35 million, Pots = 4.35 million, >58' pots 2.17 before Sept. 1.	85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 4.2 million Jigs = 630,000	85% Pots Pots limited to 10.5 million pounds
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DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
	3/3 to 3/9	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	46	1,084,237	Confidential
3/10 to 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	76	2,552,722	5	13,047
3/17 to 3/23	19	309,586	7	8,882	8	486,382	0	0	148	7,030,163	Confidential	Confidential
3/24 to 3/30	20	501,690	6	2,127	5	278,233	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	18	97,096
3/31 to 4/6	15	613,718	11	19,460	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	16	46,528
4/7 to 4/13	18	737,769	14	46,400	9	356,335	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	76	482,977
4/14 to 4/20	15	693,777	8	26,548	18	299,710	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	69	442,712
4/21 to 4/27	24	670,045	23	69,343	15	398,392	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	139	1,006,496
4/28 to 5/4	21	453,630	25	98,700	17	400,375	18	90,141	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/5 to 5/11	fishery closed	fishery closed	34	225,771	19	476,307	17	101,983	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/12 to 5/18	fishery closed	fishery closed	31	166,946	21	615,310	15	87,515	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/19 to 5/25	fishery closed	fishery closed	35	150,378	18	415,108	5	29,922	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/26 to 6/1	fishery closed	fishery closed	13	98,543	4	77,508	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/2 to 6/8	fishery closed	fishery closed	26	141,146	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/9 to 6/15	fishery closed	fishery closed	11	25,307	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/16 to 6/22	fishery closed	fishery closed	7	18,718	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/23 to 6/29	fishery closed	fishery closed	6	23,387	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/30 to 7/6	fishery closed	fishery closed	8	12,387	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/7 to 7/13	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/14 to 7/20	fishery closed	fishery closed	5	13,897	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/21 to 7/27	fishery closed	fishery closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/28 to 8/3	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/4 to 8/10	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/11 to 8/17	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/18 to 8/24	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/25 to 8/31	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/1 to 9/7	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/8 to 9/14	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/15 to 9/21	6	85,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/22 to 9/28	3	31,402	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/29 to 10/5	5	194,226	13	41,076	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
10/6 to 10/12	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
10/13 to 10/19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
10/20 to 10/26	6	214,248	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
10/27 to 11/02	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
11/03 to 11/09	6	295,439	7	25,273	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
11/10 to 11/16	9	415,965	5	22,007	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
11/17 to 11/23	7	234,420	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
<b>ACCUMULATIVE</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>5,450,984</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>1,236,296</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>3,803,660</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>309,561</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>10,667,122</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>2,088,856</b>
<b>CATCH</b>	<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>6,687,280</b>		<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>4,113,221</b>		<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>12,755,978</b>	

Censured where fewer than 4 fishermen participating. Totals may not include censured catches.

Figure 6. KODIAK STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

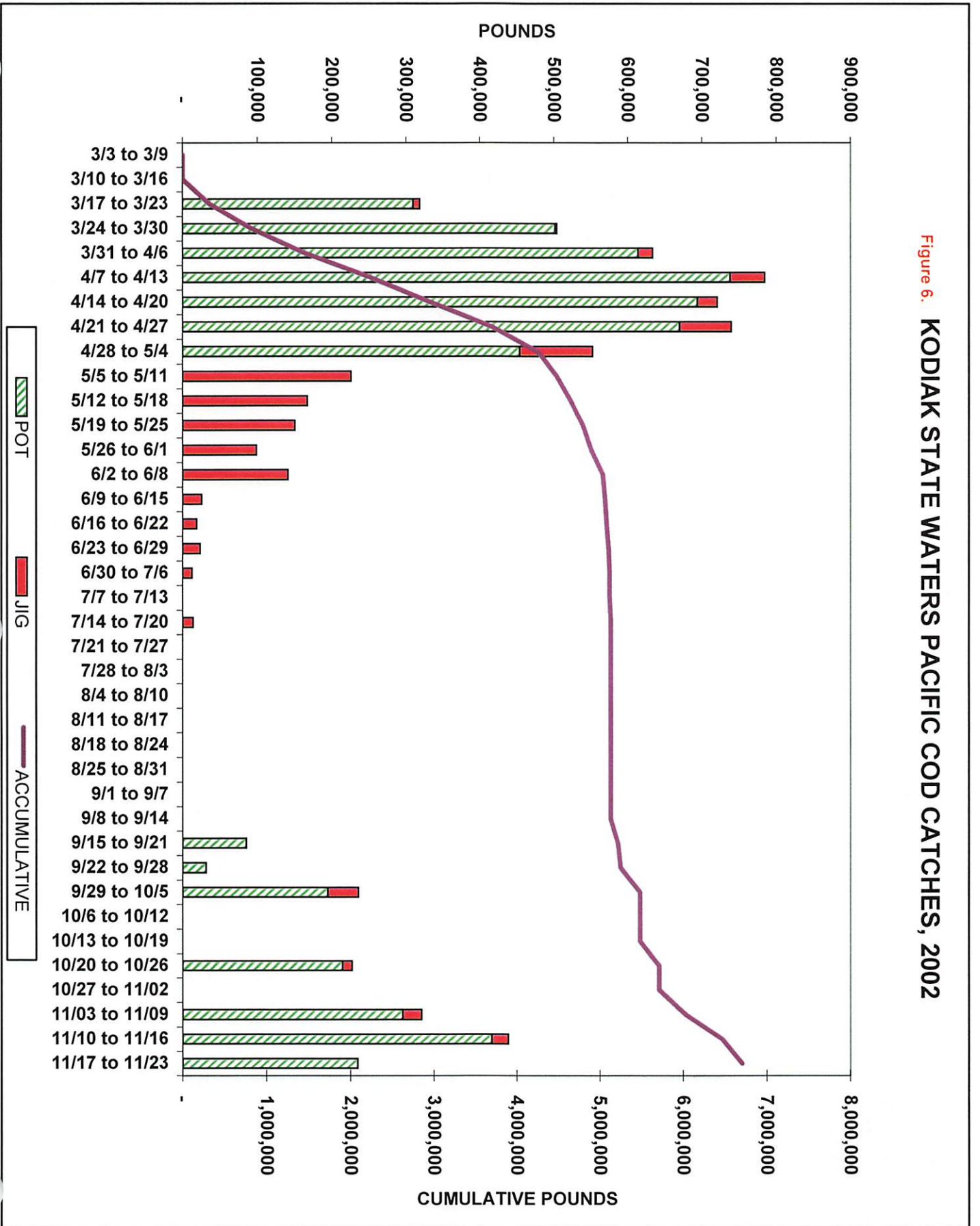


Figure 7. CHIGNIK STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

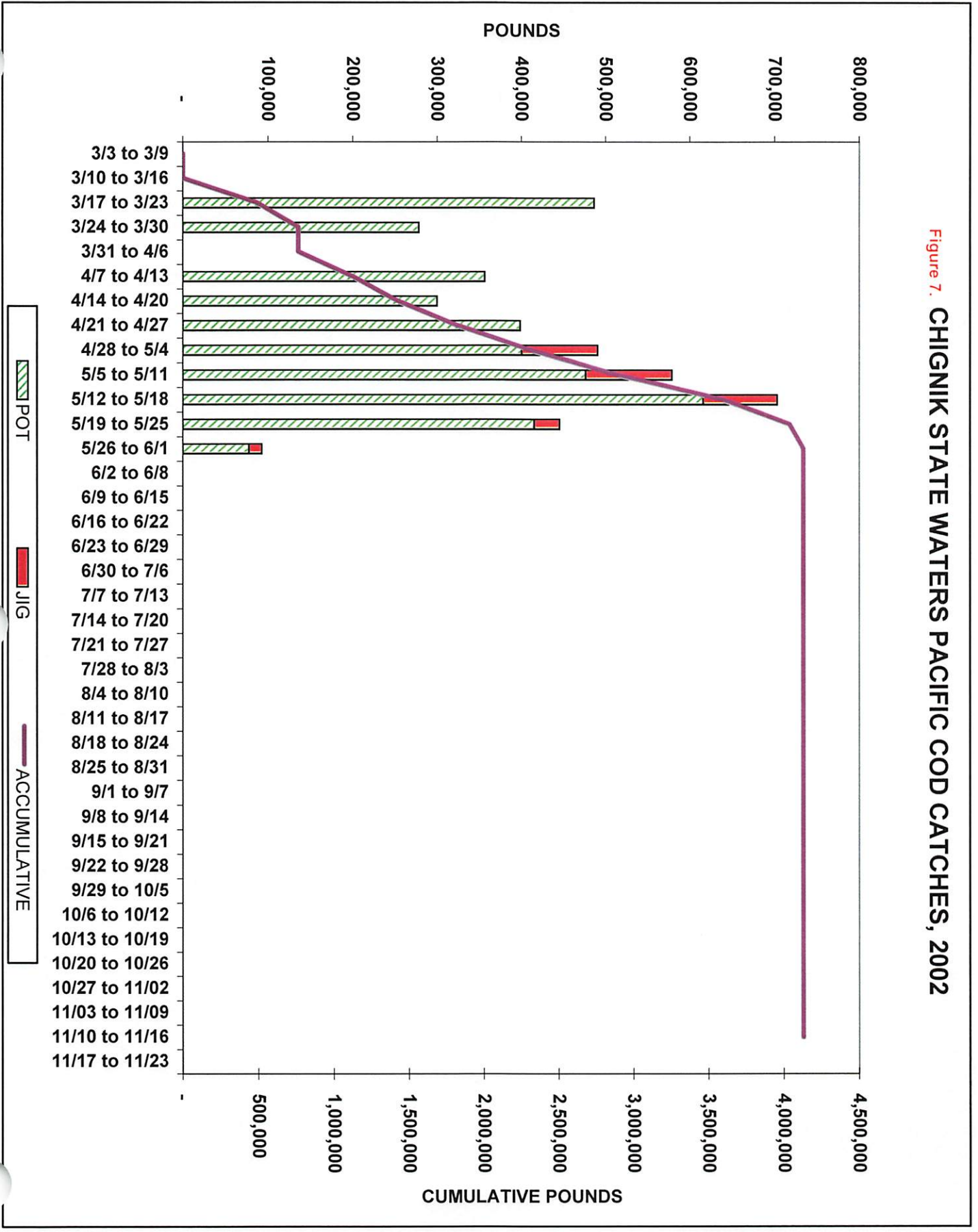
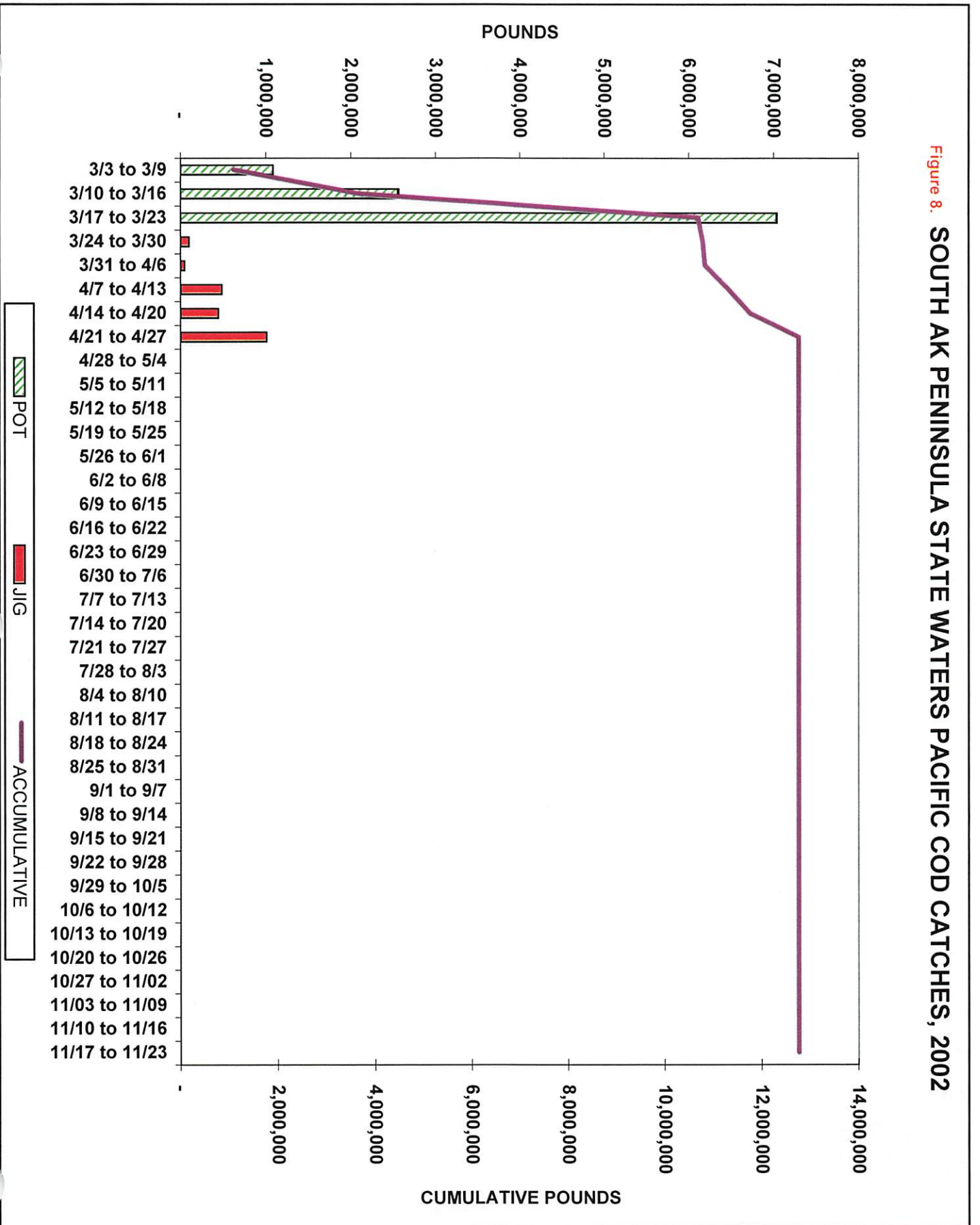


Figure 8. SOUTH AK PENINSULA STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002



**Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas**

Figure 9.

