

Agenda Item: B-3



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
JANUARY, 2003**

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. With a harvest of approximately 19,000 fish to date, this is the largest winter troll catch since 1994.

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 (GHL) 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 GHL of 3.0 million pounds would be reached by that time. Actual harvest was approximately 2.82 million pounds from 44 landings. That portion of Area O west of 174° W long., where the catch is now approximately 1.7 million pounds from 47 landings, will remain open until further notice.

Bering Sea Snow (C. opilio) crab fishery

(FIGURE 3) The 2003 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened at noon on January 15, 2003 with a general fishery GHL of 23.69 million pounds. The post-season community development quota is 1.92 million pounds. The Bering Sea District snow crab fishery was managed using inseason catch reports from fishers.

2002
There were 190 vessels participating in the fishery. Initial reports indicated very good catch per unit of effort, at times more than doubling those seen during the 2003 fishery. Through 6:00 AM January 23, 2003, the total projected harvest was approximately 18.8 million pounds. At that current harvest rate, the 23.69 million pound general fishery guideline harvest level was projected to be reached by 6:00 AM on January 25, 2003, and a closure was announced. The northerly extent of sea ice during the 2003 season allowed fishermen to operate in locations requiring greater than 24 hours of travel time to the Pribilof Islands. Landing requirements for the Pribilof Islands were extended an additional 24 hours (i.e., 48 hours total), thereby allowing fishermen the opportunity to utilize all available fishing time.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Cook Inlet

The state waters Pacific cod fisheries closed for the year on December 31, 2002. In Cook Inlet, the fishery opened on March 10, 2002, twenty-four hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The 1.57 million pound GHl was allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear. The GHl was calculated as 2.25% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. For the season, 17 vessels made 317 landings for a total harvest of approximately 1.3 million pounds of Pacific cod.

Prince William Sound

The 2002 Prince William Sound 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 was calculated as 25% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. No vessels elected to participate in the fishery.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Kodiak

(FIGURE 6) The 2002 Kodiak Area GHl for the state-waters Pacific cod season was 8.7 million pounds. This was 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was split equally between pot and jig gear. No more than 25% of the guideline could be taken with pot gear by vessels over 58 feet 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. Final catch for the season was approximately 8.5 million pounds, taken by 100 vessels making 529 landings.

Chignik

(FIGURE 7) The 2002 Chignik area GHL was 4.9 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This was 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The season opened on March 1, 2002. A total of 30 vessels made 139 landings totaling approximately 4.1 million pounds.

South Alaska Peninsula

(FIGURE 8) The 2002 South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL was 12.4 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This was 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The fishery opened March 5, 2002 seven days after the closure of the Western GOA to cod fishing. The final catch was 12.8 million pounds from both gear types. There were 115 vessels registered to fish in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

Southeast Groundfish

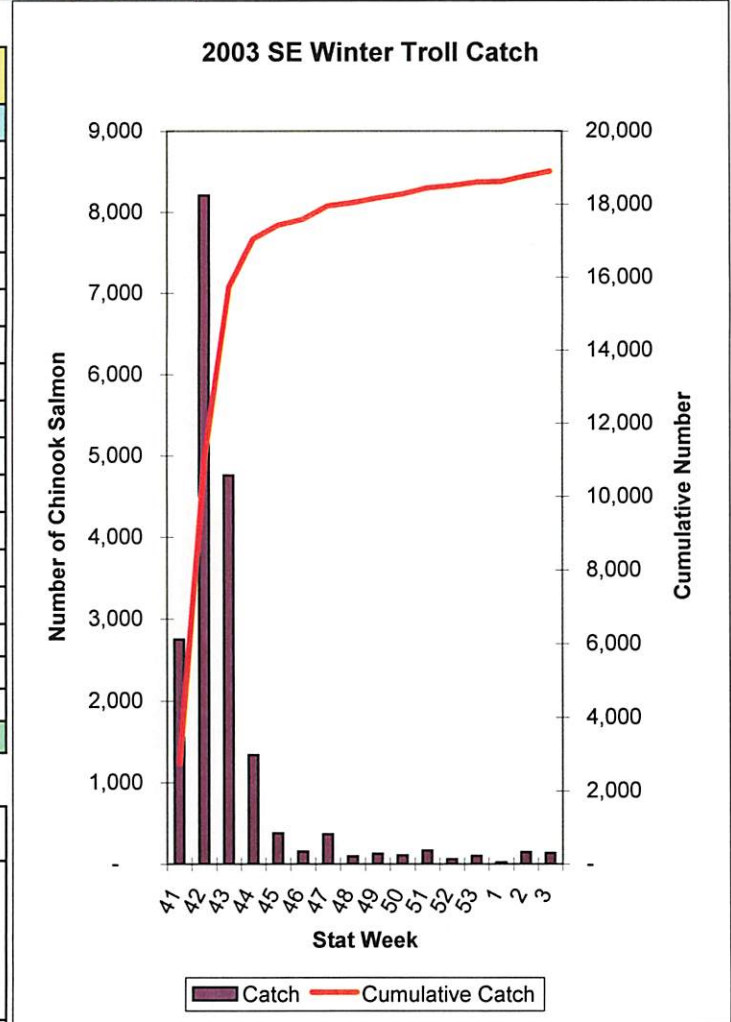
(FIGURE 9) The directed demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery in the Southeast District occurred between November 2002 and January 2003. The fall DSR fishery opened on November 15, and 42 vessels participating in the fishery landed a total of 171,627 round pounds of DSR. Seasons in the Southeast District were short, with closures on November 17, 2002 for waters of the Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), November 24, 2002 for the Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO), and December 7, 2002 for the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) area. The winter DSR fishery opened on January 1, 2003, and as of January 13, 2003, 32 vessels participating in the winter fishery had landed a total of 153,000 round pounds of DSR from the CSEO and SSEO management areas. Seasons in these areas are expected to be short in the winter fishery, with closures on January 3, 2003 for CSEO, and January 11, 2003 for SSEO. Seasons in other areas are expected to close for DSR approximately the same dates as the 2002 season. There was no directed fishery in the East Yakutat (EYKT) or Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) areas.

2003 ALASKA COMMERCIAL WINTER TROLL CHINOOK FISHERY



Troll Year	Total Catch to Date	Statistics for January 12 - January 18			Week 3		Average Price/lb (from fish tickets)
		Week 3 Catch (number)	Permits Fished	Landings	Average Catch/Landing	Average Weight (lbs.)	
2003	18,917	132	12	17	7.8	13.7	\$4.77
2002	17,907	363	45	63	5.8	14.5	\$4.06
5-year average 1998-2002	14,956	331	27	41	7.6	15.4	\$3.63

Troll Year 2003	Weekly Chinook Salmon Catch and Effort Data					
Week	Catch	Permits	Landings	Pounds	Ave. Price	Ave. Wt.
41	2,750	31	32	38,130	\$2.20	13.9
42	8,204	130	212	110,252	\$2.07	13.5
43	4,756	98	132	57,197	\$1.69	12.1
44	1,334	69	88	17,420	\$1.73	13.1
45	378	29	33	4,723	\$2.60	12.5
46	152	20	24	2,092	\$2.91	13.9
47	365	28	34	4,784	\$3.09	13.9
48	94	15	21	1,288	\$3.62	13.1
49	127	20	24	1,621	\$3.80	13.7
50	107	20	27	1,677	\$3.94	12.8
51	166	29	50	2,406	\$4.24	15.7
52	59	10	17	843	\$4.08	13.7
53	99	15	25	1,336	\$3.75	14.3
1	20	7	7	292	\$4.93	13.5
2	144	17	24	2,156	\$4.91	14.6
3	132	12	17	1,803	\$4.77	15.0
Totals	18,907	198	769	248,429	\$2.14	13.2



NOTES:

Data for troll year 2003 is preliminary. Totals include catch information through January 20, though data cannot be listed individually for Statistical Week 4 due to confidentiality concerns.

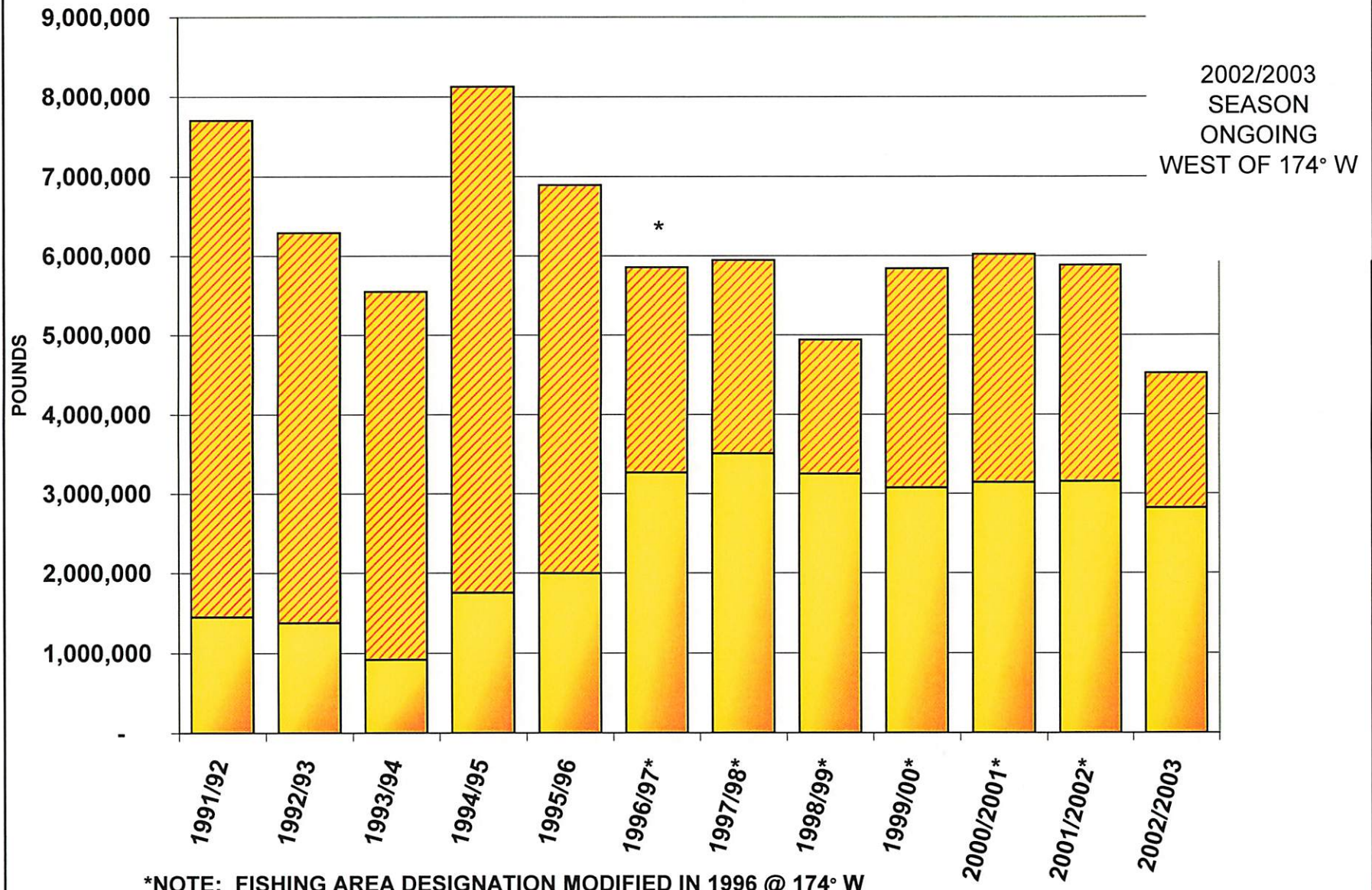
The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter troll fishery for chinook salmon began October 11, 2002 and will be open through April 14, 2003 or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested.

The fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. Please refer to the 2003 Winter Troll Management Plan and Regulatory Guide for more details. The "winter boundary line" is defined in 5 AAC 29.020(b), which can be found on page 58 in the 2002-2003 S.E. Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations.

This table was updated January 20, 2003. Numbers above are listed by Troll Year, which begins with the winter fishery in October and ends with the summer fishery in September.

FIGURE 2

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST, 2002/2003 SEASON



■ EAST OF 174° W

■ WEST OF 174° W

FIGURE 3

Bering Sea *C. opilio* Crab Catches, (open access fishery only)

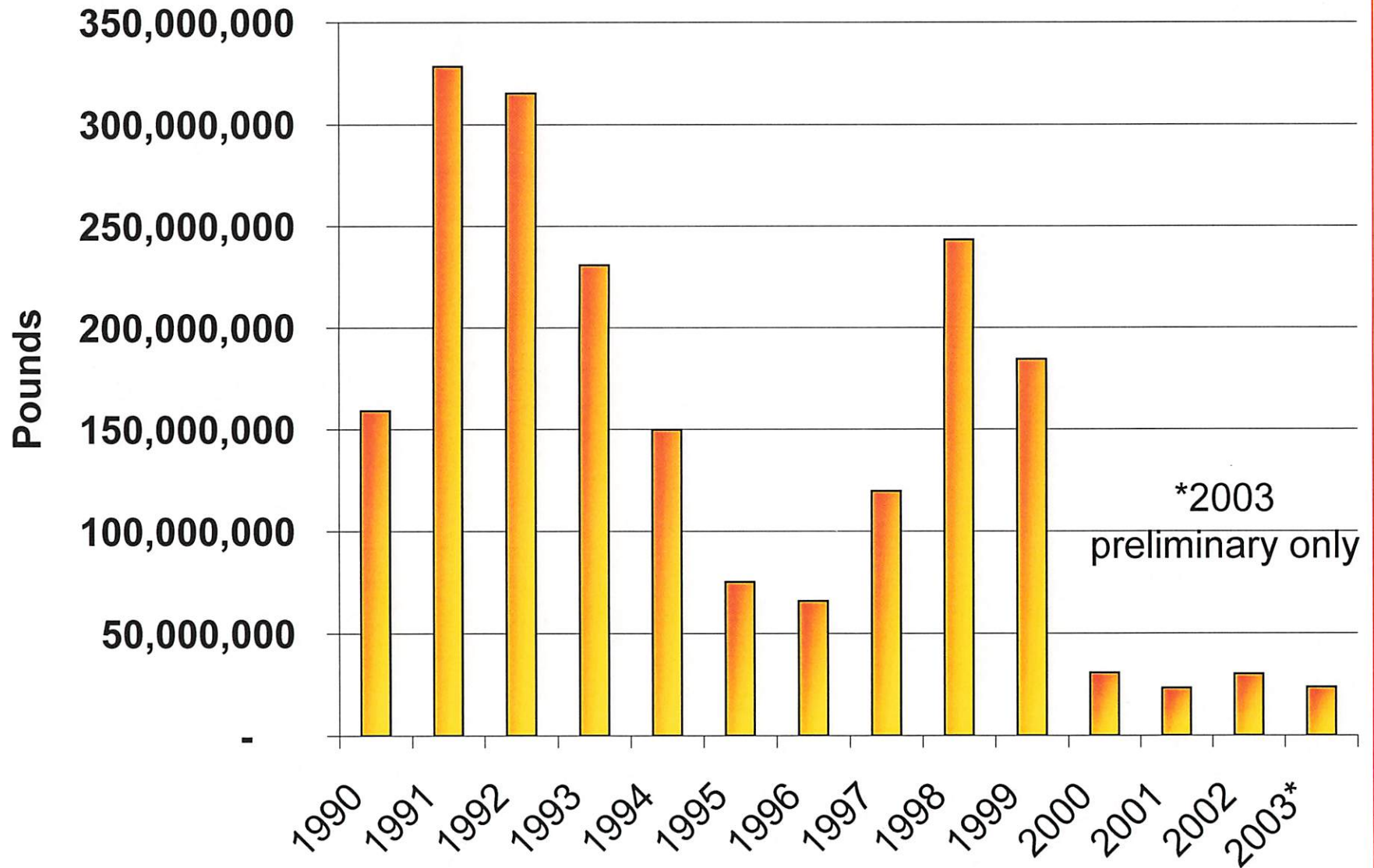


FIGURE 4. 2002 Harvest Guideline, Effort, and Catch Reported for State Water Pacific Cod through 31 Dec. 2002.

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	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	2	confidential	confidential
Longline (61)	58	116	581,016	21	47	17,699
Pots (91)	7	107	307,937	0	0	0
Totals	66	223	888,953	23	47	17,699
Status		Closed			Closed	
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)	Opened - Closed noon Mar 10 - noon 5/1 June 15 - noon August 5 Sept 1 -			Opened - Closed noon 3/16 -		
Status	Open			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 and exclusive area registrations removed effective October 31.



FIGURE 5. 2002 STATE MANAGED GROUND PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVI FISHERY WEEK

FINAL 2002 FISHERY 1/3/03



KODIAK					CHIGNIK					SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA					
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig
	100	34	66		30	14	16		115	49	65		12.4 million pounds		
2002 GHL:	8.7 million pounds				4.9 million pounds				12.4 million pounds						
ALLOCATIONS:	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						
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		Confidential	Confidential	0	0	46	1,084,237	Confidential	Confidential			
3/10 to 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	8	216,367	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			
11/24 to 11/30	7	340,832	7	21,888	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
12/1 to 12/7	13	542,339	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
12/8 to 12/14	9	500,433	5	15,157	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
12/15 to 12/21	8	250,348	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
12/22 to 12/28	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
12/28 to 12/31	4	135,403	5	21,148	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed			
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	217	7,222,458	312	1,294,489	134	3,803,660	55	309,561	270	10,667,122	323	2,088,856			
	(Total combined)		8,516,947		(Total combined)		4,113,221		(Total combined)		12,755,978				

CONFIDENTIAL = less than 4 boats; data combined with following week

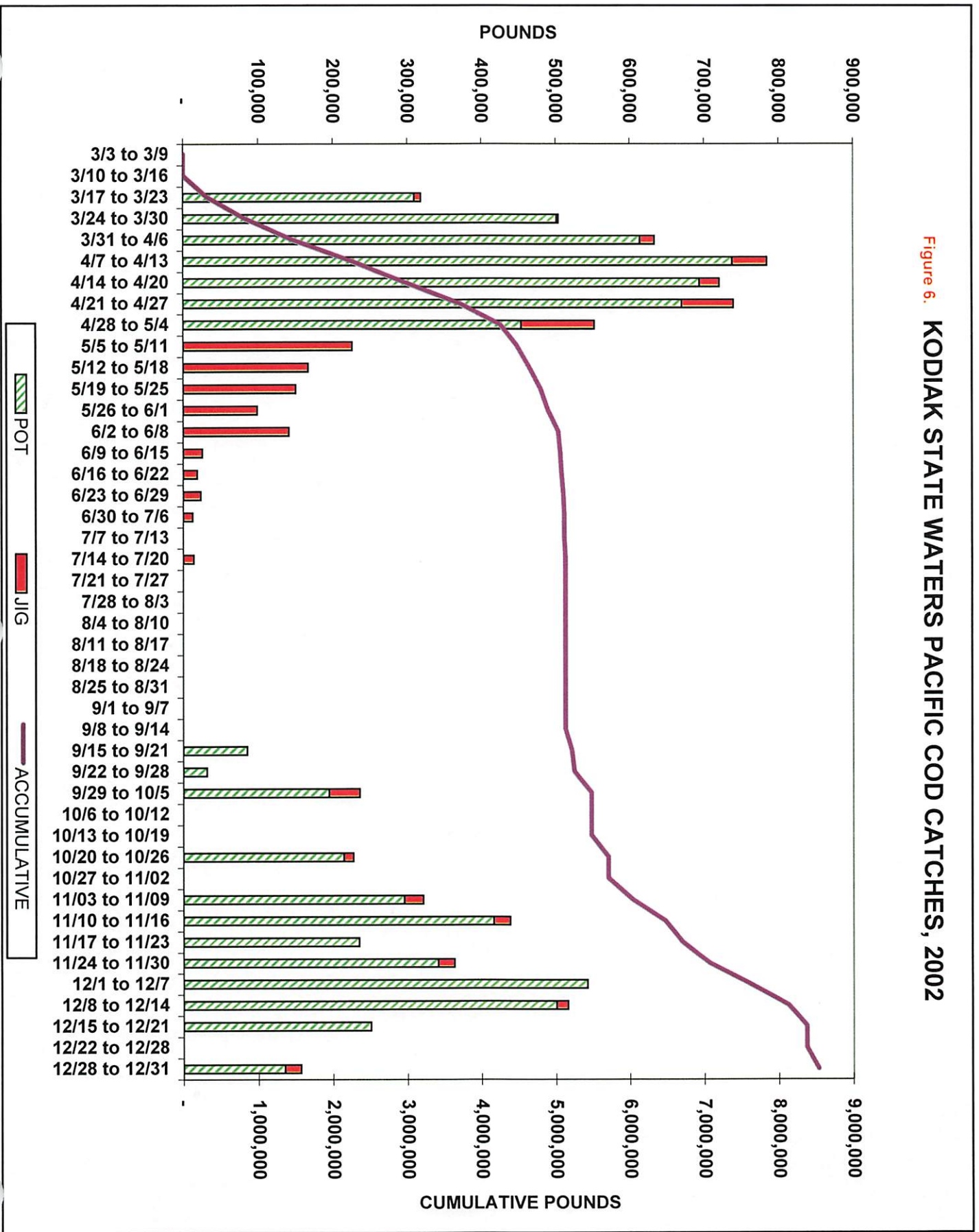


Figure 7. CHIGNIK STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

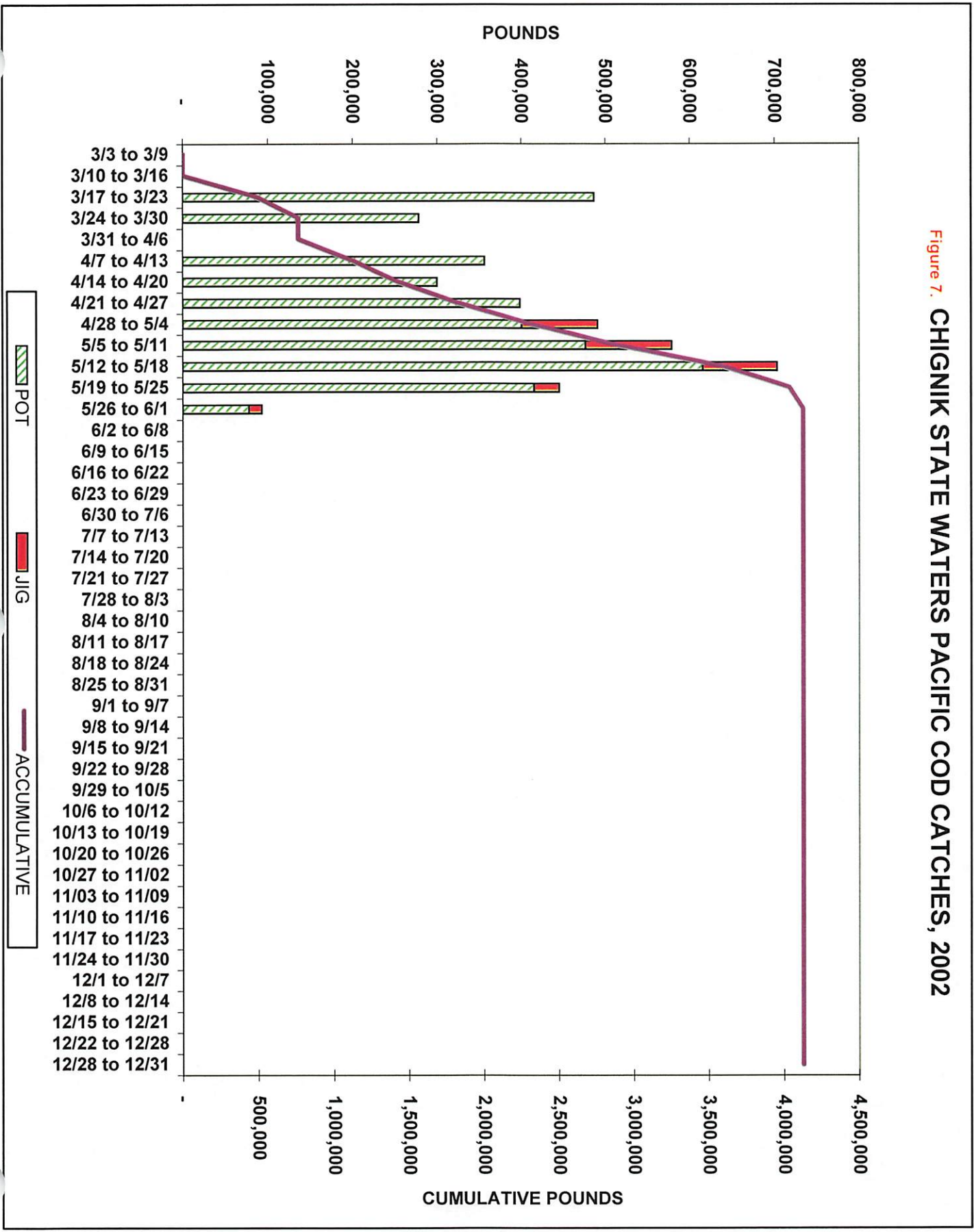


Figure 8. SOUTH AK PENINSULA STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

