

Agenda Item: "B-4"



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2005**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include salmon, crab and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The commercial troll fishery preseason Chinook salmon harvest target for 2005 was 311,916 fish, which was approximately 25,000 greater than the 2004 target. The Southeast Alaska all-gear quota was 416,400 treaty Chinook, up from last year by approximately 33,000 fish. The 2005 Winter Troll fishery harvested approximately 50,400 chinook salmon. The summer season for chinook salmon opened on July 1, 2005. The first troll period ran through July 17, 2005, and the catch was approximately 151,660 fish. The department then closed the fishery for chinook salmon through August 9, 2004, and for all salmon from August 10, 2005 through August 13, 2005 for coho management. The troll fishery reopened for chinook

salmon on August 14, 2005. On August 20, 2005 it once again closed to the retention of chinook salmon. The catch for this second opener was about 70,500 chinook salmon. After determining that catches fell approximately 12,000 fish short of the allocation, the department reopened the fishery on September 15, 2005 for six days. However, due to very bad weather the catch will likely come in significantly below the target. The summer season closed by regulation on September 20, 2005. Although data is still being compiled, the preliminary summer harvest of chinook salmon has been estimated at approximately 225,000 fish, or slightly less than the number harvested during the 2004 summer season. It is anticipated that the total treaty catch will be approximately 295,000 chinook salmon, or roughly 95 percent of the troll allocation. There were 981 unique troll permits fishing the summer season, which was slightly more than fished last year. The average price paid for summer chinook salmon was about 15 percent above the 2004 average, while the average weight for chinook salmon was down about 8 percent from that seen during the summer 2004 season.

Aleutian Islands Golden king crab (FIGURE 2)

The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened by regulation on August 15, 2005. This is the first fishery prosecuted under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Crab Rationalization program. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery is divided at 174° West longitude, with the eastern portion assigned a TAC of 3.0 million pounds (2.7 million to IFQ, 0.3 million to CDQ) while the western portion was assigned a TAC of 2.7 million pounds (2.43 million IFQ and 0.27 to the newly created Adak Community Allocation (ACA)). New regulations require proof of a valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fisheries Safety Decal before a vessel registration is issued. Participating vessels must also have an activated vessel monitoring system approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NFMS). The operator of a vessel participating in IFQ, CDQ, or Adak Community Allocation (ACA) crab fisheries must notify the USCG at least 24-hours prior to departing port when carrying crab pot gear. Catcher-only vessels are required to carry an observer for 50 percent of the total golden king crab harvest by

each vessel during each of three trimesters (August 15 to November 15, November 16 to February 15, and February 16 to May 15). Catcher-processor vessels are required to carry an observer for 100 percent of the harvest. Observer coverage is pay-as-you-go.

Vessels participating in IFQ, CDQ or ACA fisheries may form gear operation cooperatives. Each vessel must register those vessels authorized to operate the vessel's gear at the time of registration. When a vessel transports crab pot gear to the fishing grounds for another vessel, the vessel owning the crab pot gear must be active within seven days in the registration area whenever the crab pot gear is deployed.

Vessel operators shall notify the department within 72-hours of completing fishing operations in a registration area or when departing the registration area and gear is moved to long-term storage. The Alaska Board of Fisheries established a 14-day period when unbaited gear may be stored outside of designated storage areas after fishing is completed. Pots must be removed from the water or placed in long-term storage if left unattended in a registration area for more than a 14-day period. Additionally, a vessel's registration will be invalidated after 14-days of inactivity in a registration area.

There are currently eight vessels registered to fish in Area O. Six of those are currently fishing east of 174°W longitude. Last season there were approximately 20 vessels fishing this area at this time, but the use of cooperatives in the fishery has reduced the number of vessels currently on the water. Landings from Area O total approximately 1.2 million pounds at this time.

Bering Sea king and Tanner crab (FIGURES 3a, 3b, and 3c)

The department has announced the TACs for the Bering Sea king and Tanner crab fisheries for the 2005/06 season. Staff reviewed fishery management thresholds and harvest strategies, stock status and fishery performance through 2004, and stock status data for 2005 and TAC calculations for the 2005/06 season. The Pribilof king crab stock (combined red and blue king crab), and the St. Matthew blue king crab stock were determined to not meet the requirements necessary to open those fisheries. However, the Bristol Bay red king crab stock, and the Bering Sea snow and Tanner crab stocks were determined to be above thresholds for considering a fishery opening under present harvest strategies. The Bristol Bay red king crab TAC was set at 18.329 million, or approximately 16.496 million pounds for the IFQ fishery. This is approximately 17 percent greater than their harvest last season. The Bering Sea snow crab TAC was set at 37.184, which would be 33.466 million pounds for the IFQ fishery. This is approximately 46 percent greater than the harvest taken in 2005. The Bering Sea Tanner crab stock is above the minimum mature female biomass threshold of 21.0 million pounds. Mature female biomass increased 140% from the 2004 estimate to 31.7 million pounds. In addition to the mature female biomass threshold, the harvest strategy includes a 4.0 million pound minimum TAC for that portion of the Bering Sea District east of 166° West longitude. The calculated 2005/06 TAC for the area east of 166° West longitude is 1.02 million pounds, which is below the minimum TAC. Hence the fishery east of 166° West longitude may not be opened under current regulations. The minimum 4.0 million pound TAC for the area east of 166° West longitude was

originally established to provide for inseason management. The concerns for inseason management in the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery remain for the 2005/06 season. Current federal regulations provide for a single Bering Sea Tanner crab individual fishing quota (IFQ) rather than two separate IFQs split east and west of 166° West longitude. Given the single IFQ, the department would be required to conduct concurrent fisheries for Tanner crab east and west of 166° West longitude using inseason management to stay within the TAC in each sub area. Given that the Tanner crab stock is considered overfished and is still rebuilding, and anticipating inseason management with a Tanner crab fleet size of approximately 100 vessels, the department would only open the fishery east of 166° West longitude if the TAC exceeded 4.0 million pounds.

In the Bering Sea District west of 166° West longitude, there is no minimum TAC and the 2005/06 TAC was determined to support an IFQ fishery of 1.458 million pounds, from an overall TAC of about 1.62 million pounds. Finally, in the area west of 166° West longitude, ADF&G statistical area 695700 (which lies between 169° West longitude and 170° West longitude and 57° North latitude and 57° 30' North latitude) will be closed to commercial fishing for Tanner crab to protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock. All juvenile and the majority of mature blue king crabs captured during the 2005 survey were found in this area. Approximately 27 percent of the exploitable legal male Tanner crabs west of 166° West longitude were found in this statistical area and the Tanner crab TAC was set using abundance estimates that did not include the closed area. For additional information on these fisheries in

the Bering Sea, please see our website at

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/shellfish/shelhom4.php#openings>.

For each open crab fishery mentioned above, the CDQ harvest will be set at 10% of the overall TAC.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Prince William Sound

The 2005 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 2, 2004, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL has been set at 896,620 pounds, which is calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. Effort to date has been by two pot fishermen, so landings data remain confidential.

Cook Inlet

In Cook Inlet, the state waters fishery opened January 27, 2004, which was twenty-four hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL for the 2005 state waters season is 2.74 million pounds. That GHL was calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. To date, 23 vessels have made approximately 209 landings totaling approximately 2.2 million pounds. The season closed to pot gear on March 26, 2005, with total catches at just more than 2.1 million pounds. Since the jig fleet did not harvest their allocation by September 1, 2005, by regulation the fishery reopened to pot gear at that time. Both fisheries remain open.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

The Kodiak fishery opened on February 2, 2005. The GHL is 9.13 million pounds, which is 12.5 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 4.56

million pounds each. In anticipation of reaching their quota, the fishery closed to the use of pot gear at 2 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2005. Fifty-three pot fishermen made 162 landings in twelve days, totaling approximately 4 million pounds of Pacific cod. After receiving the last fish tickets, it was determined that there were approximately 500,000 pounds remaining on the pot gear allocation. The department announced that we would reopen the pot gear state water fishery once the federal 'B' season closed. The federal 'B' season opened on September 1, 2005 and is expected to close sometime in November. It is anticipated that the department will be opening state-waters for pot gear at that time. The season closed to fishermen using jig gear on April 21, 2005, when it was determined that they had reached their allocation.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)

The Chignik area Pacific cod season opened by regulation on March 1, 2005. The GHL is 6.39 million pounds, which is calculated as 8.75 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is split to allow pot fishermen 90 percent of the quota. Sixteen pot fishermen made 222 landings, catching approximately 5.65 million pounds of cod. That season closed on May 10, 2005. Nine jig fishermen continued to fish, with a catch of about 131,000 pounds from 43 landings to date. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan allows Pacific cod remaining on the 2005 jig-gear guideline harvest level (GHL) to be taken on or after August 15 by either pot or jig gear. Through August 15, 2005 there were 602,000 pounds remaining on the 2005 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL.

Effective August 15, 2005 both pot and jig gear may register and take Pacific cod until the total Chignik Area GHL is achieved or until the fishery closes on December 31, 2005. Harvest allocations between gear types will not be in effect for the remainder of the 2005 state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessel operators are reminded that the Chignik Area is superexclusive registration. Vessel size is limited

to no more than 58 feet overall length. Operators in the Chignik Area will continue to be limited to no more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines per vessel.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

The Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula opened on March 3, 2005, which was seven days after the closure of the federal fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska. The GHL is 11.53 million pounds, which is 25 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC. The harvest is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. There were 42 pot fishermen registered for the fishery and they made 286 landings totaling approximately 10.2 million pounds. As that exceeded their allocation, the fishery closed to the use of pot gear on March 24, 2005. The jig sector, with 47 fishermen registered to date, has harvested approximately 1.2 million pounds through 264 landings. The jig season had not closed prior to September 1, 2005. Under normal circumstances, the open state water season would pre-empt the federal season; however, there had not been any effort for several months, the amount remaining for harvest was small, and the opened federal season would not restrict jig fishing. The department therefore closed the state waters jig season to allow the federal parallel season to open within state waters. Fishing has been slow.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 9)

In the Southeast District, between June 15 and September 15, 2005, there was activity in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) longline sablefish fisheries, the directed Pacific cod fishery and the directed lingcod fishery.

In the NSEI sablefish fishery, during this reporting period, 860,871 round pounds of sablefish have been landed. In the SSEI fishery, 298,437 round pounds of sablefish have been landed.

The inside waters Pacific cod fishery opened January 1, 2005 with an annual quota of 1,000,000 round pounds, and to date the directed fishery has landed approximately 455,400 round pounds. There has been very little activity in this fishery since the last report

Figure 1.

SE AK Troll - Chinook Summer Season

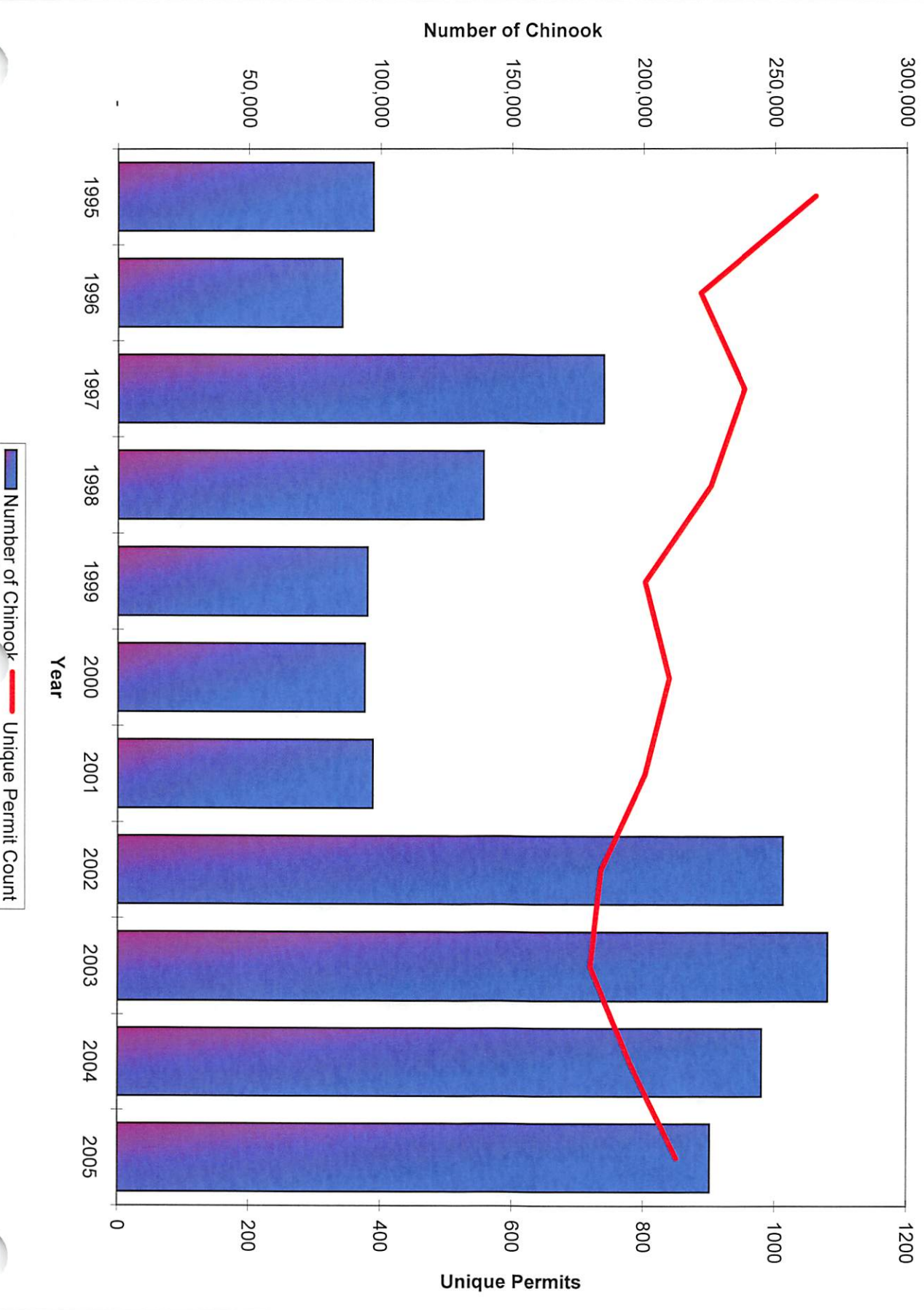
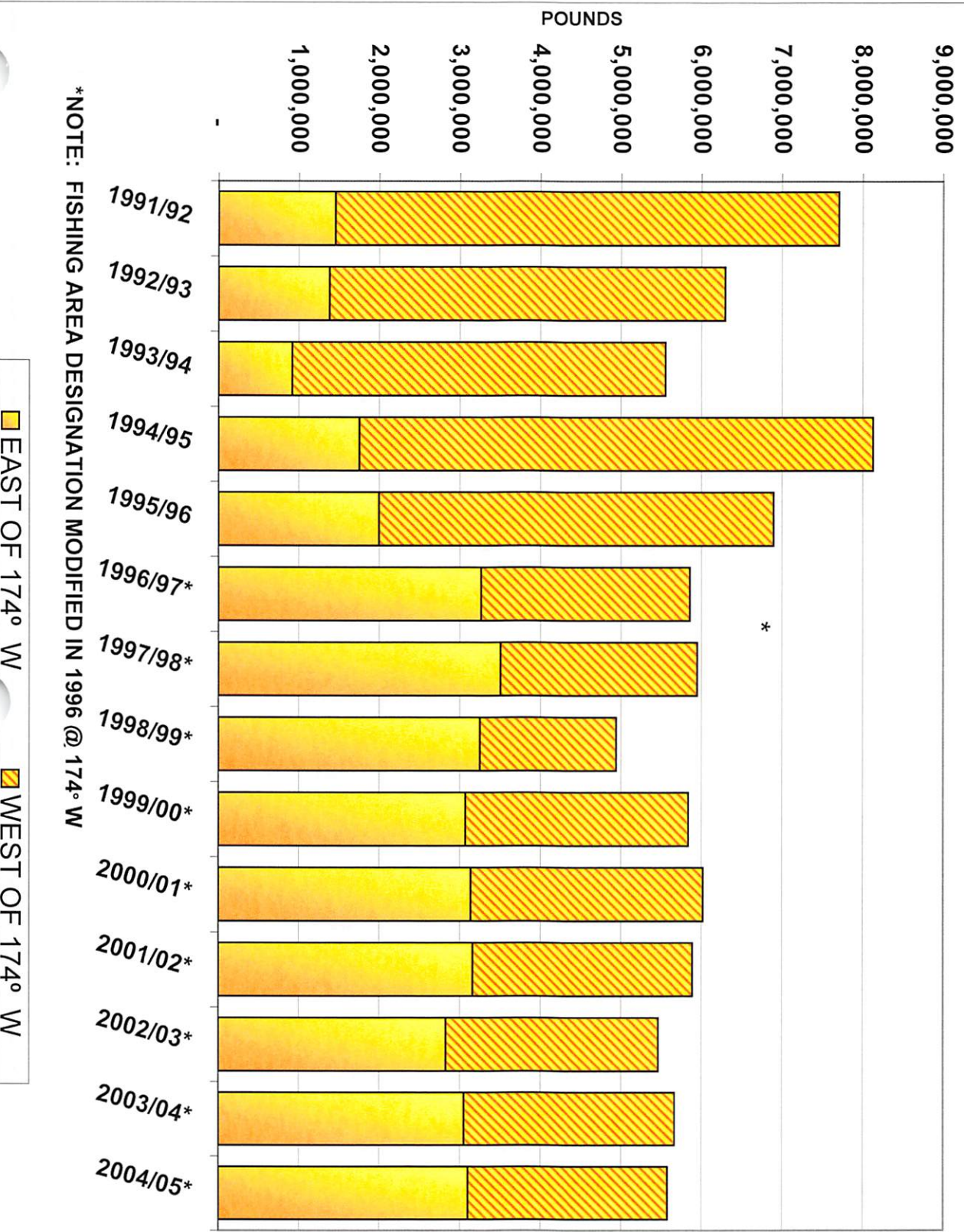


FIGURE 2

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVESTS



* NOTE: FISHING AREA DESIGNATION MODIFIED IN 1996 @ 174° W

■ EAST OF 174° W ▨ WEST OF 174° W

Figure 3a.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab General Fishery Catches, with 2005/05 IFQ TAC

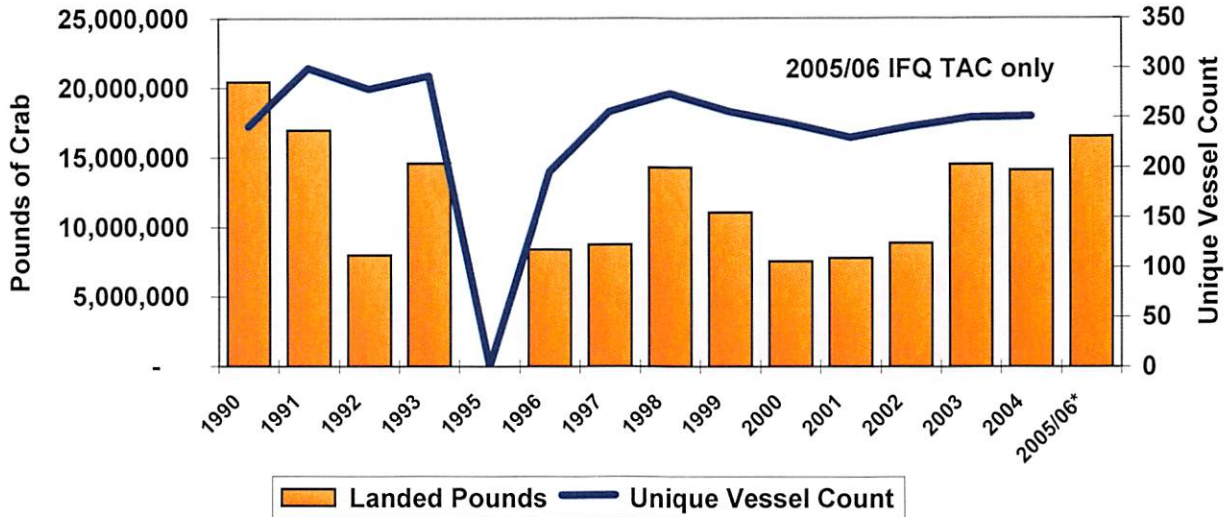


Figure 3b.

Bering Sea C. opilio General Fishery Catches, with 2005/05 TAC

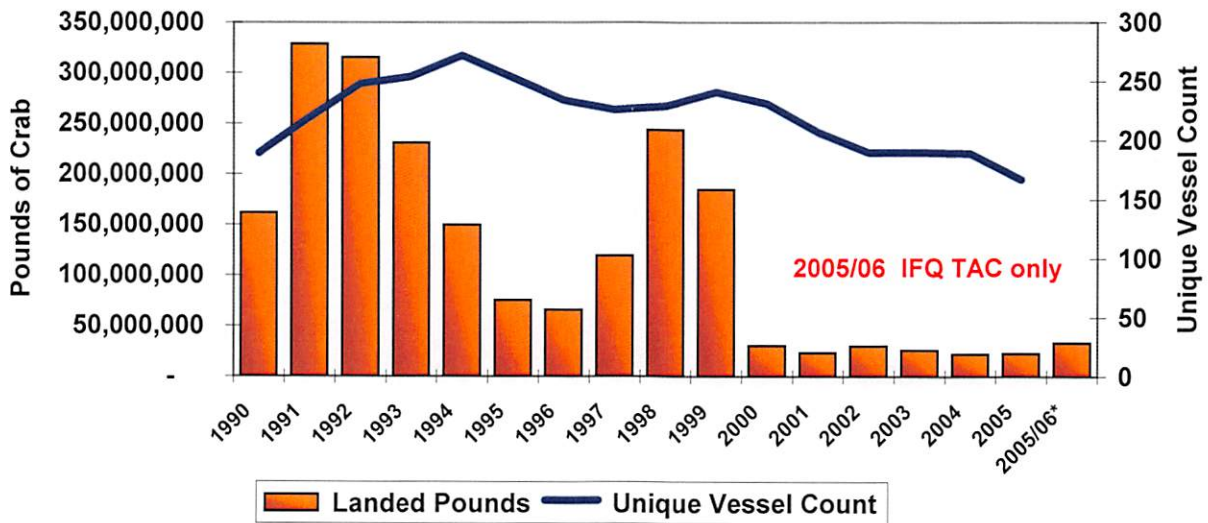


Figure 3c.

Bering Sea C. bairdi General Fishery Catches, with 2005/05 IFQ TAC

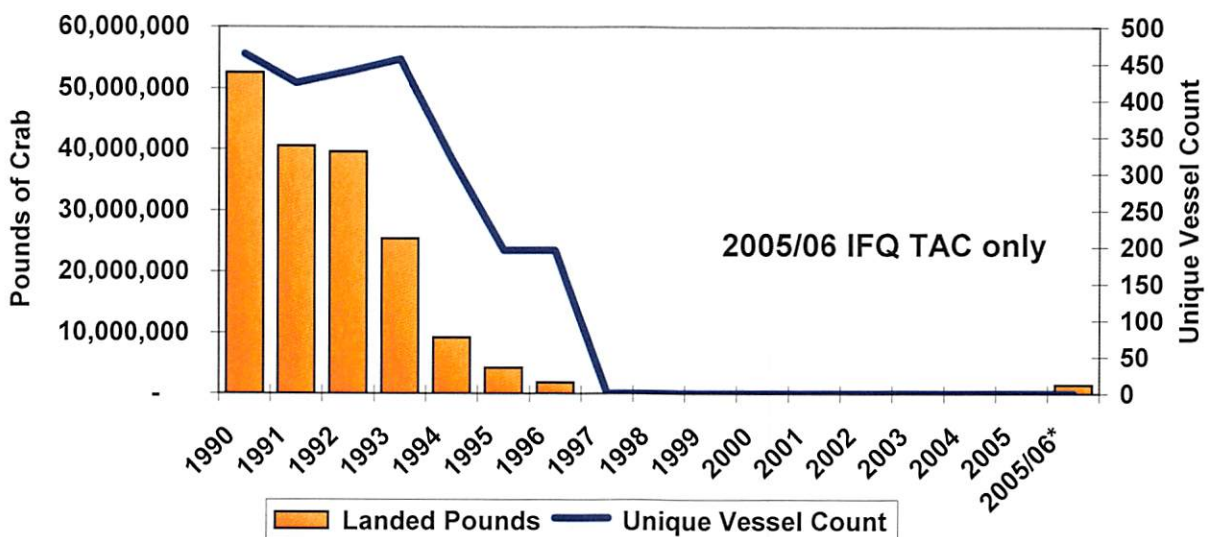


Figure 4. 2005 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water Pacific cod fisheries through Sept 15, 2005.



This summary censored 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)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	3	<i>confidential</i>	<i>confidential</i>
Longline (61)	32	69	22,240	20	34	10,221
Pots (91)	7	38	167,320	0	0	0
Totals	39	107	189,560	23	34	10,221
Status	Closed			Closed		
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 26			Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 26		

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)	Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
		Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
			2,740,000			896,620	
	Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	
684,473	Jigs (26)	12	28	90,734	0	0	
2,053,420	Pots (91)	11	181	2,110,928	2	<i>confidential</i>	
	Totals	23	209	2,201,662	2	<i>confidential</i>	
	State seasons: Jigs (26)	Opened - Closed noon Jan 27 -			Opened - Closed noon Feb 2 -		
	Status	Open			Open		
	State seasons: Pots (91)	Opened - Closed noon Jan 27 - noon March 16 noon March 16 - 3 PM March 26 Sept 1 -			Opened - Closed noon Feb 2 -		
	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.



Figure 5. 2005 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH

UPDATED: 8/16/2005

PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK



		KODIAK			CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA					
Vessel Registration		Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig			
Current		0	0	0	9	0	9	47	0	47			
Overall		196	53	143	25	16	9	89	42	47			
2005 GHJL		9.13 Million Pounds			6.39 Million Pounds			11.53 Million Pounds					
ALLOCATIONS:		50% Jigs, 50% Pots			90% Pots, 10% Jigs			85% Pots, 15% Jigs					
Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHJL before Sept. 1.					Pots = 5.75 million			Pots = 9.80 million					
Jigs = 4.56 million, Pots = 4.56 million, >58' pots 2.28 before Sept. 1.					Jigs = .63 million			Jigs = 1.73 million					
Fishery opened 2/2		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
DATES:		Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
2/2 to 2/5		42	998,831	26	105,197	Fishery Opens 3/1/05 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/6 to 2/12		78	1,966,597	25	62,537	Fishery Opens 3/1/05 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/13 to 2/19		42	1,012,408	44	203,824	Fishery Opens 3/1/05 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/20 to 2/26		Closed 2/13		51	212,386	Fishery Opened 3/1/05 at 12:01am				Fishery Opened 3/3/05 at Noon			
2/27 to 3/5		Closed 2/13		65	283,483	7	223,205	0	0	19	378,654	Confidential	
3/6 to 3/12		Closed 2/13		8	41,792	14	383,642	0	0	64	1,603,059	4	20,215
3/13 to 3/19		Closed 2/13		88	545,450	19	500,316	0	0	101	3,651,553	30	160,567
3/20 to 3/26		Closed 2/13		109	625,020	21	634,046	0	0	93	4,056,265	59	359,480
3/27 to 4/2		Closed 2/13		82	388,934	22	534,866	0	0	9	516,342	24	78,315
4/3 to 4/9		Closed 2/13		114	664,102	22	461,062	6	19,201	Closed 3/24		53	267,507
4/10 to 4/16		Closed 2/13		127	773,548	22	609,634	4	8,923	Closed 3/24		30	106,607
4/17 to 4/23		Closed 2/13		138	662,510	28	696,152	6	23,398	Closed 3/24		27	117,662
4/24 to 4/30		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		26	643,696	6	24,605	Closed 3/24		22	75,605
5/1 to 5/7		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		24	586,167	5	31,258	Closed 3/24		11	39,074
5/8 to 5/14		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		17	377,797	Confidential		Closed 3/24		Confidential	
5/15 to 5/21		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Closed 5/10		4	10,127	Closed 3/24		4	14,537
5/22 to 5/28		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Closed 5/10		12	13,954	Closed 3/24		No Effort	
5/29 to 6/4		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Closed 5/10		Confidential		Closed 3/24		No Effort	
6/5 to 6/11		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Closed 5/10		Confidential		Closed 3/24		No Effort	
6/12 to 6/18		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Closed 5/10		No Effort		Closed 3/24		No Effort	
6/19 to 8/13		Closed 2/13		Closed 4/21		Open 8/15		No Effort		Closed 3/24		No Effort	
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH		162	3,977,836	877	4,568,783	222	5,650,583	43	131,466	286	10,205,873	264	1,239,569
(Total combined)		8,546,619			(Total combined)			5,782,049		(Total combined)			

CONFIDENTIAL = less than 4 data combined with following week

Figure 6.

Kodiak State Managed Pacific Cod Catches, 2005

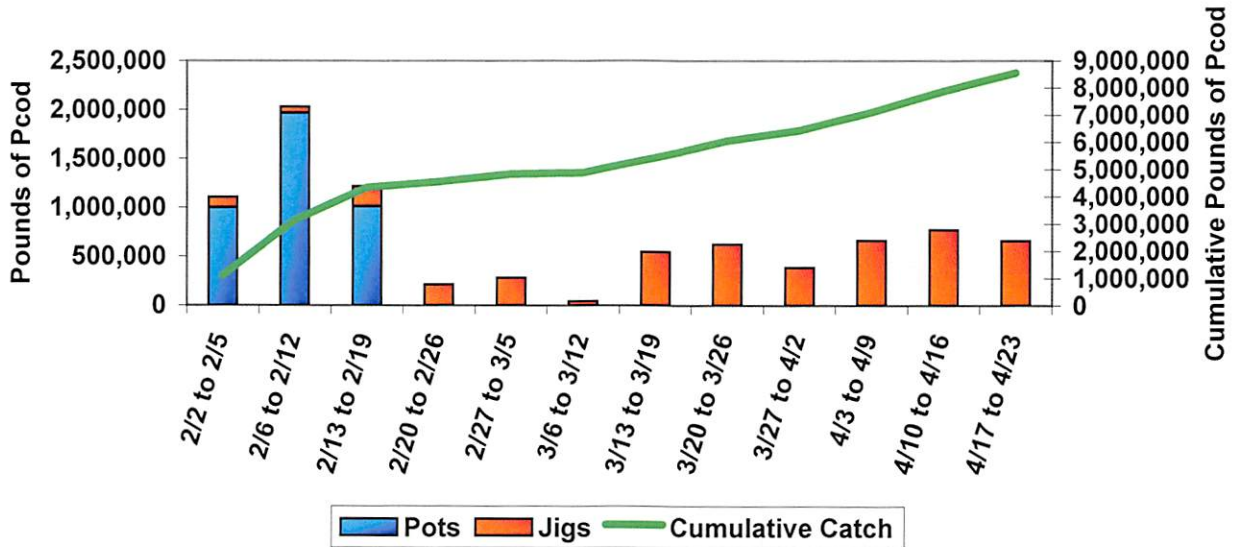


Figure 7.

Chignik State Managed Pacific Cod Catches, 2005

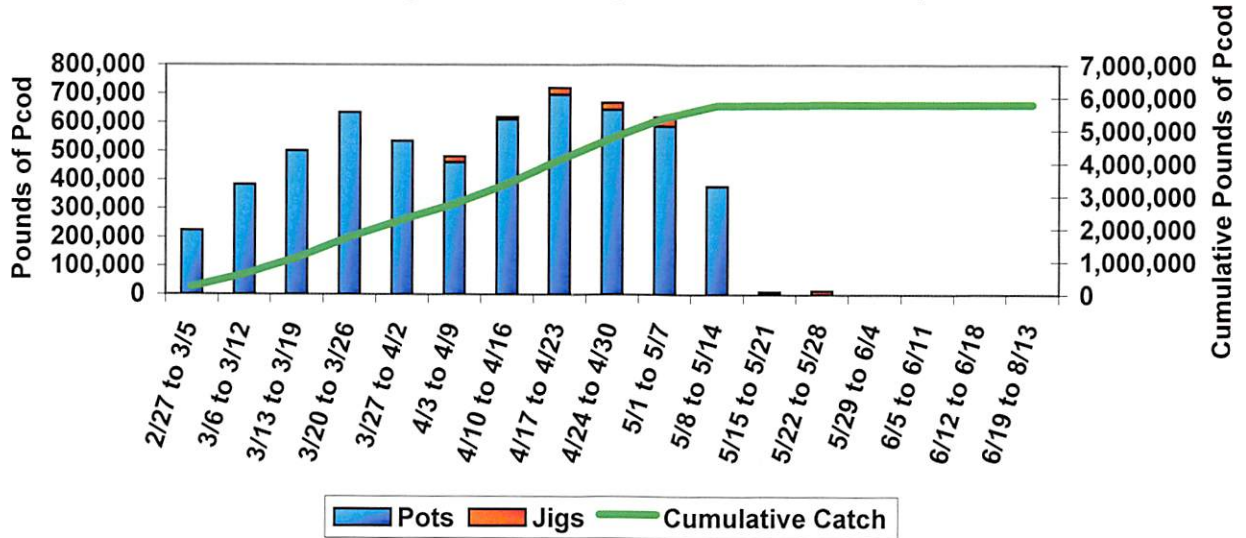
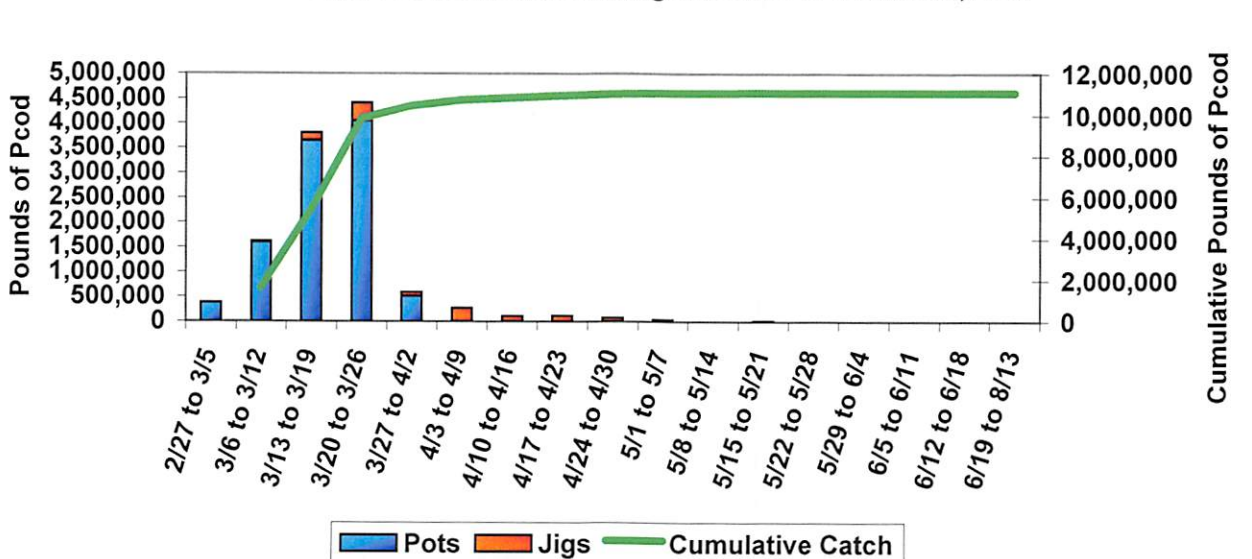
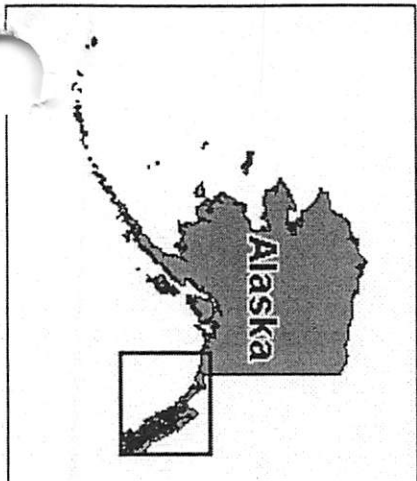


Figure 8.

S Ak Peninsula State Managed Pacific Cod Catches, 2005





Southwest Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

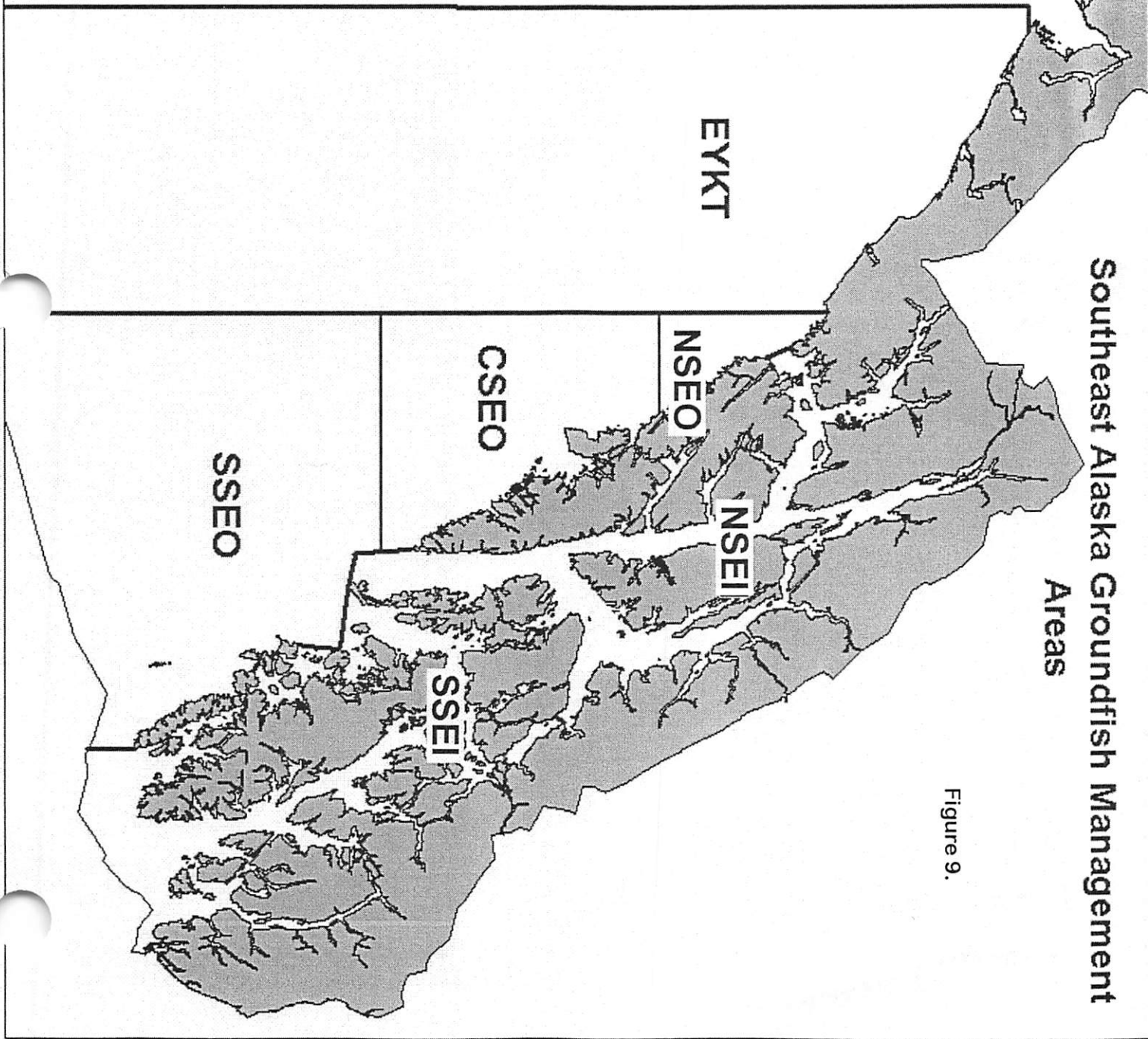


Figure 9.