



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2007**

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

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter troll fishery for chinook salmon began October 1, 2006 and will be open through April 30, 2007 or until 45,000 treaty chinook salmon are harvested, (the 2001–2005 average harvest is 41,241 fish). The fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. To date the catch is approximately 8,000 chinook salmon, or only about half of last year's catch and the 5-year average in spite of similar effort. This could be the result of very poor weather this season, a change in prey distribution, differences in water temperature and currents from prior seasons, or simply that fish may be feeding offshore and outside the winter boundary line.

Price is currently at a record high, with recent prices nearing \$9.00 per pound.

Catch rates are down and distribution is different from patterns seen in recent seasons, with a smaller percentage from the Sitka area and larger percentage taken from central and southern outside waters. Yakutat Bay again has the second highest percentage of the regional catch, which is similar to recent years.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 2)

The 2006/07 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened Tuesday, August 15, 2006 and will close at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ) and the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 5.7 million pounds is established for the golden king crab fishery. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W Longitude.

The eastern TAC of 3.0 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ 2,700,000

CDQ 300,000

The western TAC of 2.7 million pounds is apportioned as follows:

IFQ 2,430,000

ACA 270,000

Five vessels registered to participate in the eastern fishery and fully harvested (2.7 million pounds) the IFQ TAC in 32 deliveries. There are three vessels registered to participate in the west, and according to the NMFS website, the western IFQ TAC harvest has taken approximately 56 percent of their total (2.4 million pounds). There have been 19 deliveries in that fishery and fishing continues.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (FIGURE 3)

The fishery opened on October 15, 2006 and continued through January 15, 2007. The IFQ sector had a TAC of 13.97 million pounds, while the CDQ sector had a TAC of 1.55 million pounds.

There were 81 vessels registered to participate, and at the close of the IFQ season, approximately 99 percent (13.97 million pounds) of the TAC had been harvested.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 4)

The 2006/07 snow crab total allowable catch (TAC) is 32.9 million pounds for the IFQ fleet and about 3.66 million pounds for CDQ fishermen.

The 2006/07 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened October 15, 2006 and will remain open through May 15, 2007 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2007 in the Western Subdistrict. Currently there are 20 boats active in the snow crab fishery, snow crab catch per unit of effort (CPUE) is very high early in the season at about 258 per pot, and there have been 37 landings totaling about 4.77 million pounds. The fishery hit a snag when the *Stellar Sea*, a floating processor operating for several companies, had an engine room fire. The vessel, which was heading to the Pribilofs to process northern region crab, was towed back into Dutch Harbor for repairs. No northern region processing platform is available until the vessel is repaired. Most of the participating vessels were able to deliver the crab they had onboard to the southern region when the *Stellar Sea* was disabled. Since then, the department has heard from a handful of vessels constrained by the lack of processing in the northern region. Some of these vessels have since switched to directed Tanner fishing, others have chosen to wait in port until the *Stellar Sea* is repaired, and the remainder has chosen to work their gear and wait with crab onboard or move IFQ around within the co-op structure. Only one vessel contacted the department with a specific request for relief from our 14 day "gear attendance" regulation (see 5 AAC 39.675). The vessel was not given a waiver or extension, and is currently on the grounds operating gear and holding the crab until the *Stellar Sea* is operational. There have been no reports of anyone rail dumping crab or losing gear due to sea ice. Sea ice is currently approaching St Paul, but is not constraining anything at this time. The master of the vessel stated he thought the vessel would be heading back on the grounds on February 5, 2007.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab (FIGURE 5)

The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W Longitude, with a separate total allowable catch (TAC) for each area. The 2006/07 Bering Sea District Tanner crab TACs for the IFQ fleet were established at 1.69 million pounds east, and 0.98 million pounds west of 166° W Longitude. Fishermen targeting CDQ crab have TACs set at 0.19 million pounds east and 0.11 pounds west of 166° W Longitude. The fishery opened on October 15, 2006 and will remain open through March 31, 2007. Currently there are six vessels actively participating in the Tanner crab fishery. Approximately 15 percent (0.41 million pounds) of the total IFQ TAC has been harvested to date.

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound (FIGURE 6)

The 2007 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season will open seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL had been set at 910,730 pounds, which was calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC.

Cook Inlet (FIGURE 7)

The 2007 Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season will open 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL had been set at 3,131,088 pounds. That GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area.

Westward Region Pacific Cod

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

For the Kodiak area, the GHL is 10.43 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.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)

The Chignik area Pacific cod season will open by regulation on March 1, 2007. The GHL is 7.3 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.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 10)

The GHL is 14.8 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. This fishery opens 7 days after the closure of the federal fishery in the western Gulf.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 11)

There is little activity in Southeast for this reporting period. In the demersal shelf rockfish fishery there have been only two vessels making landings in December from Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI), therefore the catch is confidential. New allocations for 2007 winter season in NSEI and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) are 17 metric tons each. There have been no landings yet in 2007. A few vessels started directed fishing for Pacific cod in NSEI again in December, landing about 17,000 lbs. In January, only two boats have made landings so this catch also remains confidential. Effort should pick up and continue for the next several months.

Alaska Board of Fisheries (FIGURES 12 a-h)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries is meeting in Anchorage from February 6-11, 2007 to discuss Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island proposals. There are eight proposals on groundfish. They are as follows:

- Proposal 178 (FIGURE 12a) – establish set opening date for statewide Pacific cod season
- Proposal 179 (FIGURE 12b) – delay cod openings as needed for weather
- Proposal 180 (FIGURE 12c) – adopt reporting requirements
- Proposal 181 (FIGURE 12d) – Require season extension if 10 percent of the Pacific cod GHL is unharvested

- Proposal 182 (FIGURE 12e) – Increase the Pacific cod GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula
- Proposal 183 (FIGURE 12f) – Modify the GHL for Pacific cod in state waters
- Proposal 184 (FIGURE 12g) – Restrict simultaneous vessel registration
- Proposal 185 (FIGURE 12h) – Prohibit vessels greater than 58 feet in the parallel fishery

Copies of these proposals are found at the end of this report.

The Division of Commercial Fisheries will be working with the Division of Boards staff in coordinating the establishment of meeting dates that prevent simultaneous occurrences.

ALASKA PENINULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula area on March 15, or seven days following the closure of the directed federal cod season in the Federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, which ever comes later.

ISSUE: Establish a set starting date for the Area M state waters cod season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-039)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows:

The start of Area M state waters cod season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service 48-hour forecast, for Area M, contains gale force wind warnings for the opening date. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until weather forecast permits.

ISSUE: The area M state cod season start with nice weather.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local boats will continue to try and set gear in dangerous weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-041)

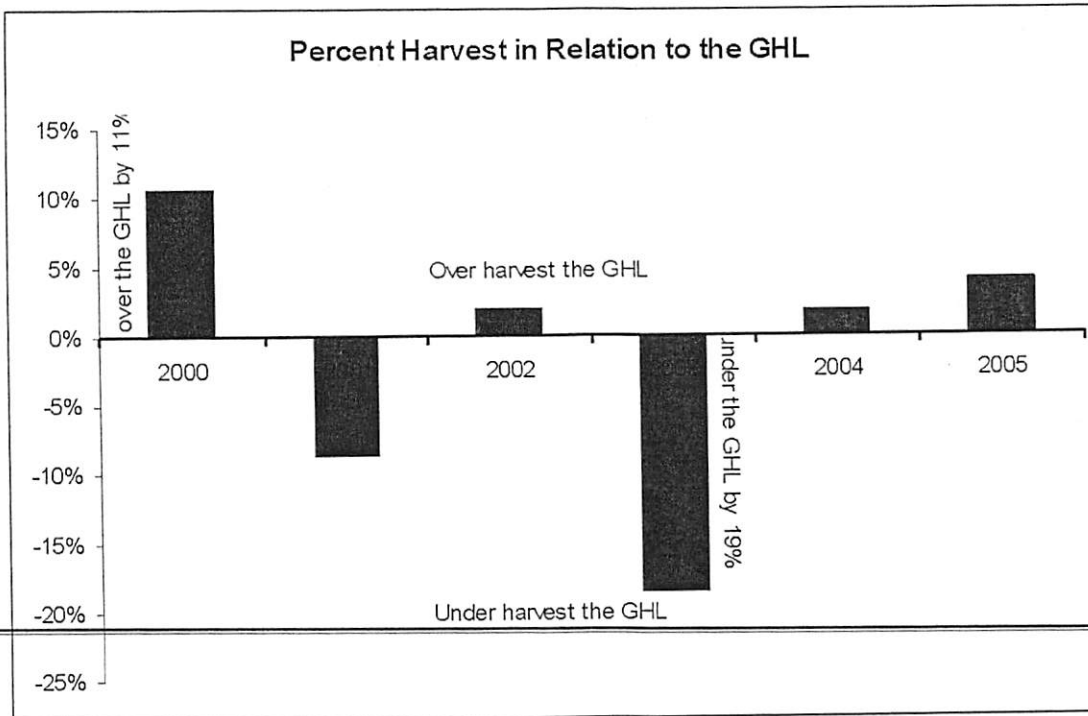
PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery.

In the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery, a validly registered vessel using pot gear must report each day to the department

- (1) the number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour reporting period;
- (2) the pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour reporting period; and
- (3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the registration.

PROBLEM: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of cod per day. However, the amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low compared to other similar Pacific cod fisheries. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the targeted guideline harvest level (GHL).



Because the Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. Thus, in years when the pot fleet over harvests the guideline, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When pot harvests are less than the GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their guideline harvest level.

With the development of better communication hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in other fisheries within the region. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed while vessels were

purchasing buoy tags. Participation in the voluntary program was low (approximately 10 percent); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments to increase communications with fishing fleets in the Westward Region. Last year, a fixed site satellite phone with Matrix service was installed in the Kodiak office and an additional satellite phone with Stratos service is currently being installed.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the Kodiak Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the Kodiak Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from fishing vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management precision will continue to be low, and the potential for under harvest or over harvest will continue to exist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both pot and jig gear participants

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen may need to purchase additional communication equipment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-138)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

If 10 percent or more of the GHL is not harvested, there will be a mandatory extension or reopening.

ISSUE: State-water Pacific cod are, at times, underharvested. There is no certainty that the department will extend the season or reopen if closed before the GHL is harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of economic opportunity for Pot fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot cod fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the department to decide whether to reopen or extend. Uncertainty.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

(SW-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

from 50% to 25 to 25

(e)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula area is 50 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area. 15

ISSUE: We would like more cod quota moved into the Area M state waters cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities to large outside crabbers, longliners and trawlers in the federal fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local small boat cod fishermen in Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

During a state waters season, the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 50 percent of the estimated allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska area 610.

ISSUE: Large vessels with crab rationalized quotas had higher harvest rates of Pacific cod during the 2006 federal and state parallel season in area 610. The probability of Pacific cod rationalization by NPMC in the Western Gulf area 610 will take Pacific cod stocks in state waters away from state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More vessels will fish Pacific cod in federal and state parallel season of area 610 before moving on to fish their crab rationalization quotas of the Bering Sea.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest and promote a cleaner harvest because of gear type allowed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small local vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. Although vessels have participated in two simultaneous groundfish fisheries within the same area, this proposal would clarify that a vessel fishing groundfish involved in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and other groundfish fisheries simultaneously in other management areas is not allowed. This proposal creates a new subsection as follows:

5 AAC 28.556 South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration:

(f) A vessel registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not simultaneously be registered to participate in a groundfish fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

ISSUE: Registration for the parallel groundfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area allows vessels to be simultaneously registered for the parallel groundfish fishery in the remainder of the Westward Region. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery registration is specific to the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to participate in both the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and simultaneously in the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same area. Recently the department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations allowing simultaneous participation in other groundfish fisheries may be ambiguous.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulations will be clear for the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that wish to participate simultaneously in multiple groundfish registration areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-06F-144)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of vessels larger than 58-feet is prohibited.

ISSUE: Bering Sea crab rationalization has allowed large vessels to delay the harvest of crab in January-February, until after they have cleaned up the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season quota of Western Gulf area 610. These vessels fish pots and harvest high 90s of state waters Pacific cod which they need no LLP's for.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More large crab pot vessels will fish the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season of Western Gulf area 610 before moving on to Opilio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 58-foot vessels and local communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large pot vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-06F-002)

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Report to the NPFMC
Agenda Item B - 5**



February 2007

2007 Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Fishery Update

18-Jan

Data for December 31-January 6

WK 531

Troll Year	Permits Fished	Landings	Number of Chinook	Catch/Landing	Average Price	Average Wt (lbs)	Catch through WK 531
2007	40	82	251	31	\$8.32	144	7,870
2006	70	122	812	67	\$7.43	127	14,419
5-year ave	40	35	404	11.5	\$5.44	128	15,778

2007	Week	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds	Ave Price	Ave Wt
	41	122	146	1,049	12,683	\$5.29	121
	42	142	200	2,416	30,690	\$5.68	127
	43	71	94	571	7,461	\$6.39	131
	44	107	138	1,276	15,811	\$6.54	124
	45	52	62	367	4,637	\$6.60	127
	46	51	69	406	5,128	\$6.72	126
	47	39	58	250	3,149	\$7.15	126
	48	32	56	225	2,790	\$7.76	124
	49	47	77	312	4,080	\$7.52	131
	50	66	108	537	7,001	\$7.60	130
	51	16	18	83	1,065	\$8.39	128
	52	39	52	127	1,812	\$8.24	143
	53	14	14	23	320	\$8.71	139
	1	33	68	228	3,284	\$8.32	144
	2	25	30	109	1,486	\$8.13	136
Regional Totals:	302	1,192	7,997	101,597	\$6.43	127	

SE Winter Troll Chinook Harvest 2006/07

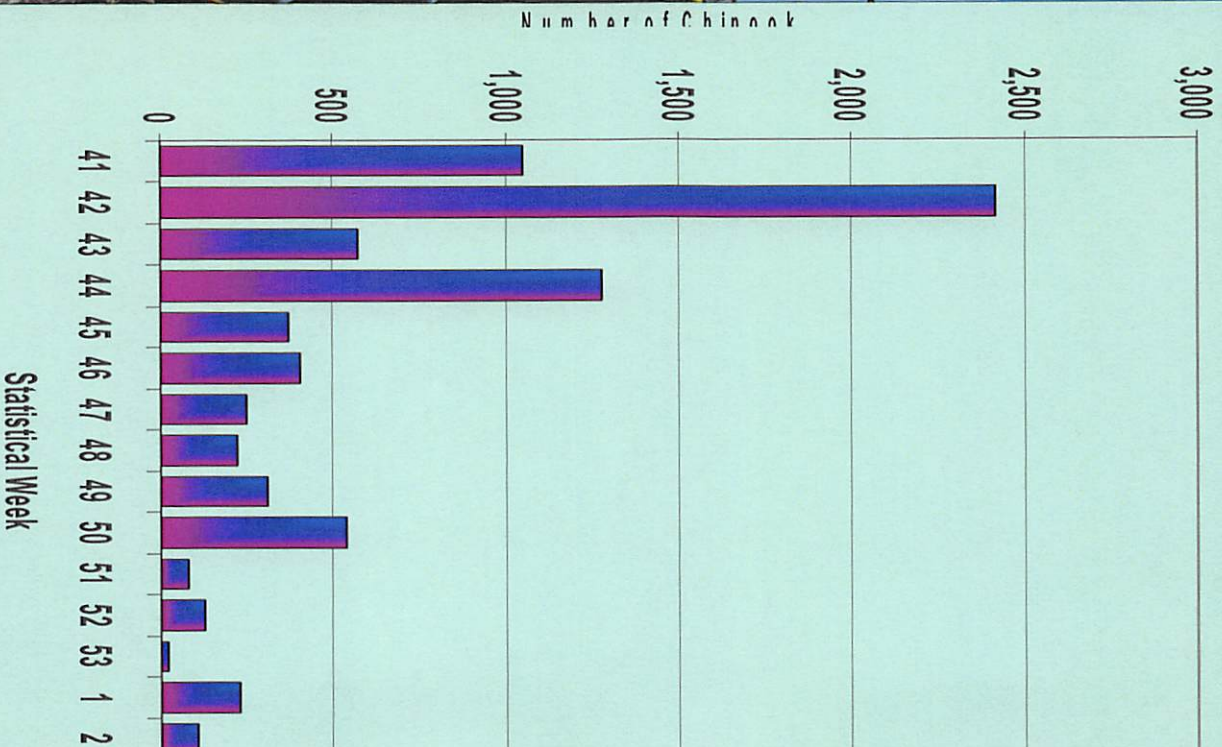


Figure 2.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Harvest

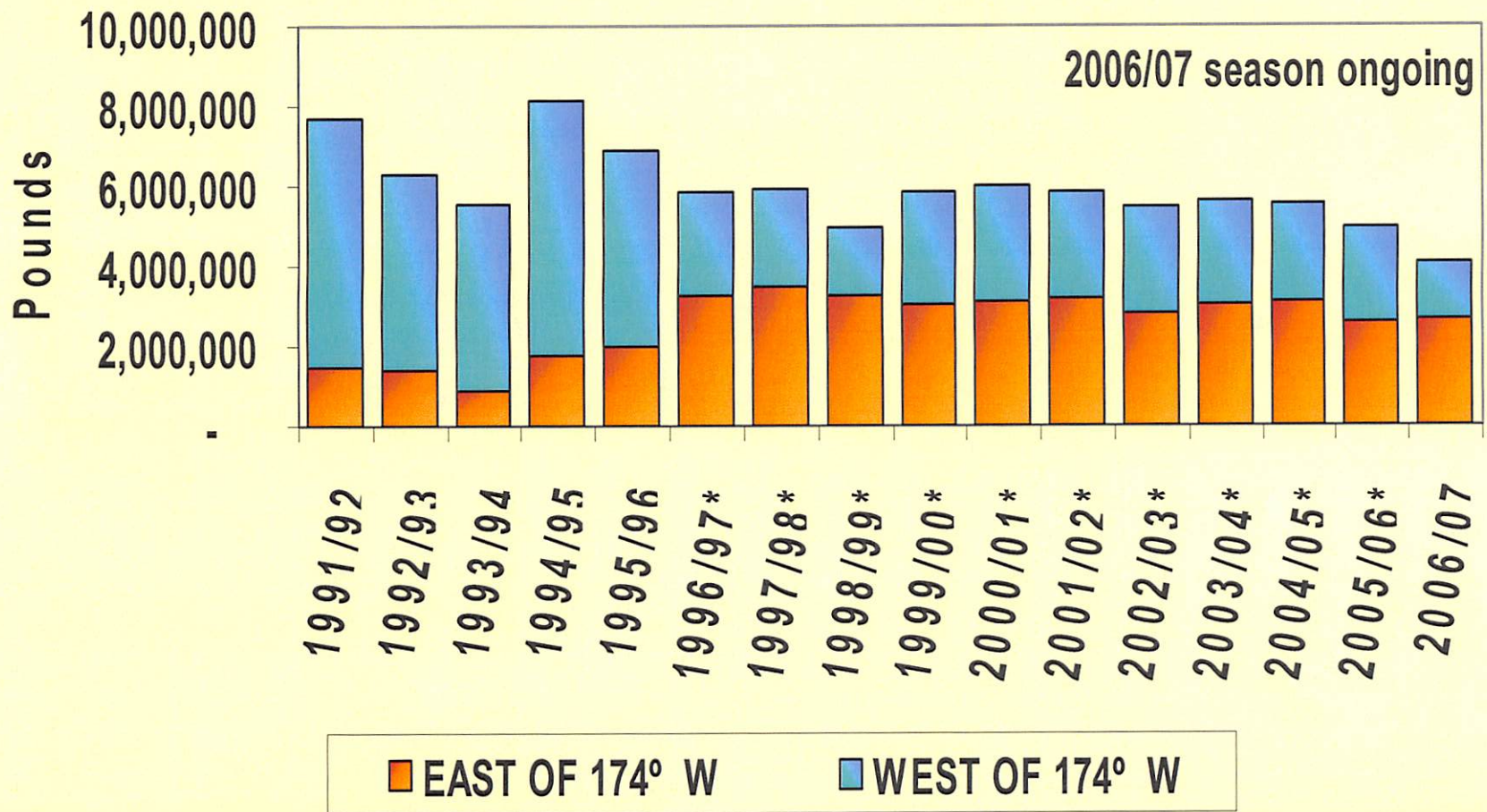


Figure 3.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab Catch

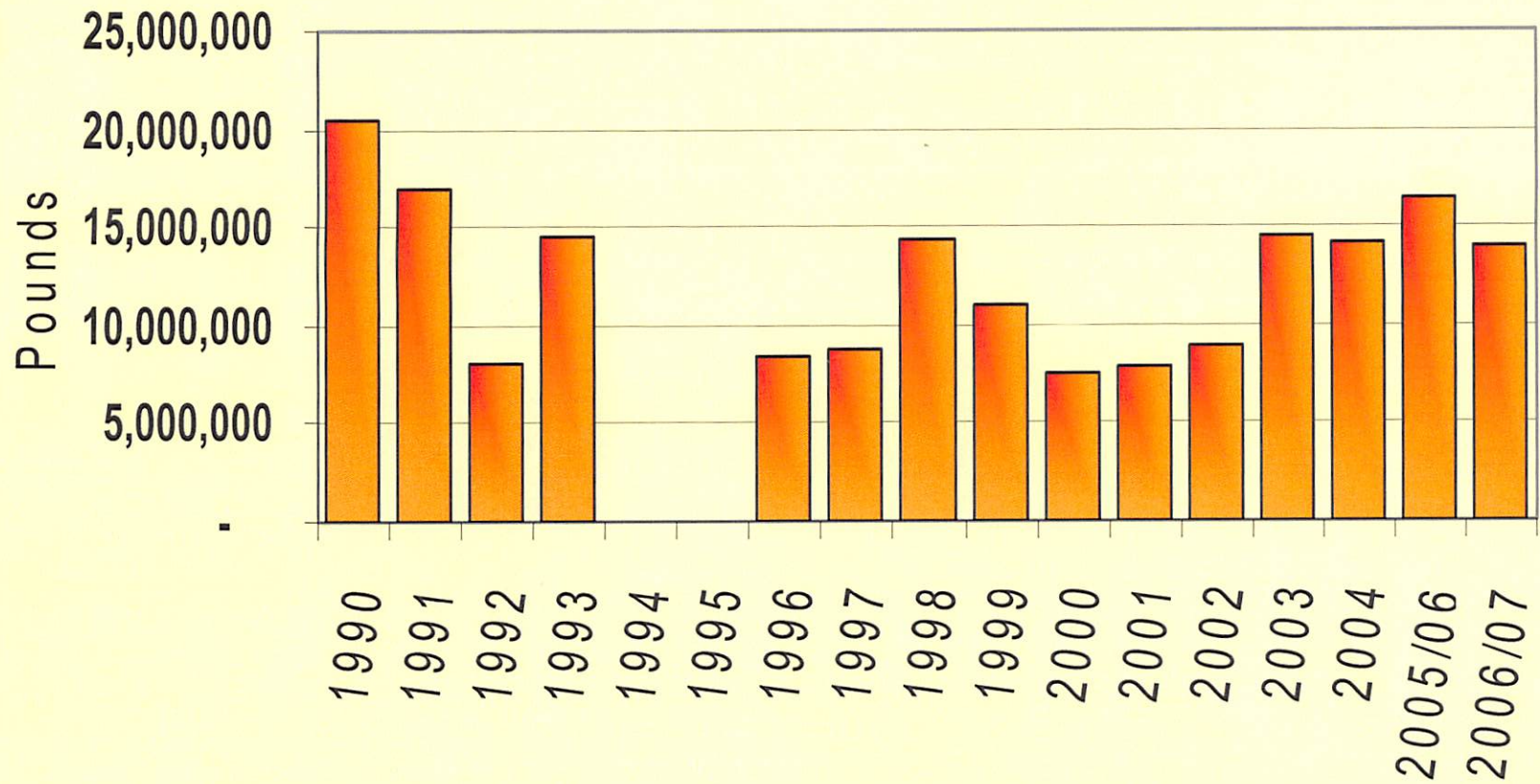


Figure 4.

Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvests (General Fishery Only)

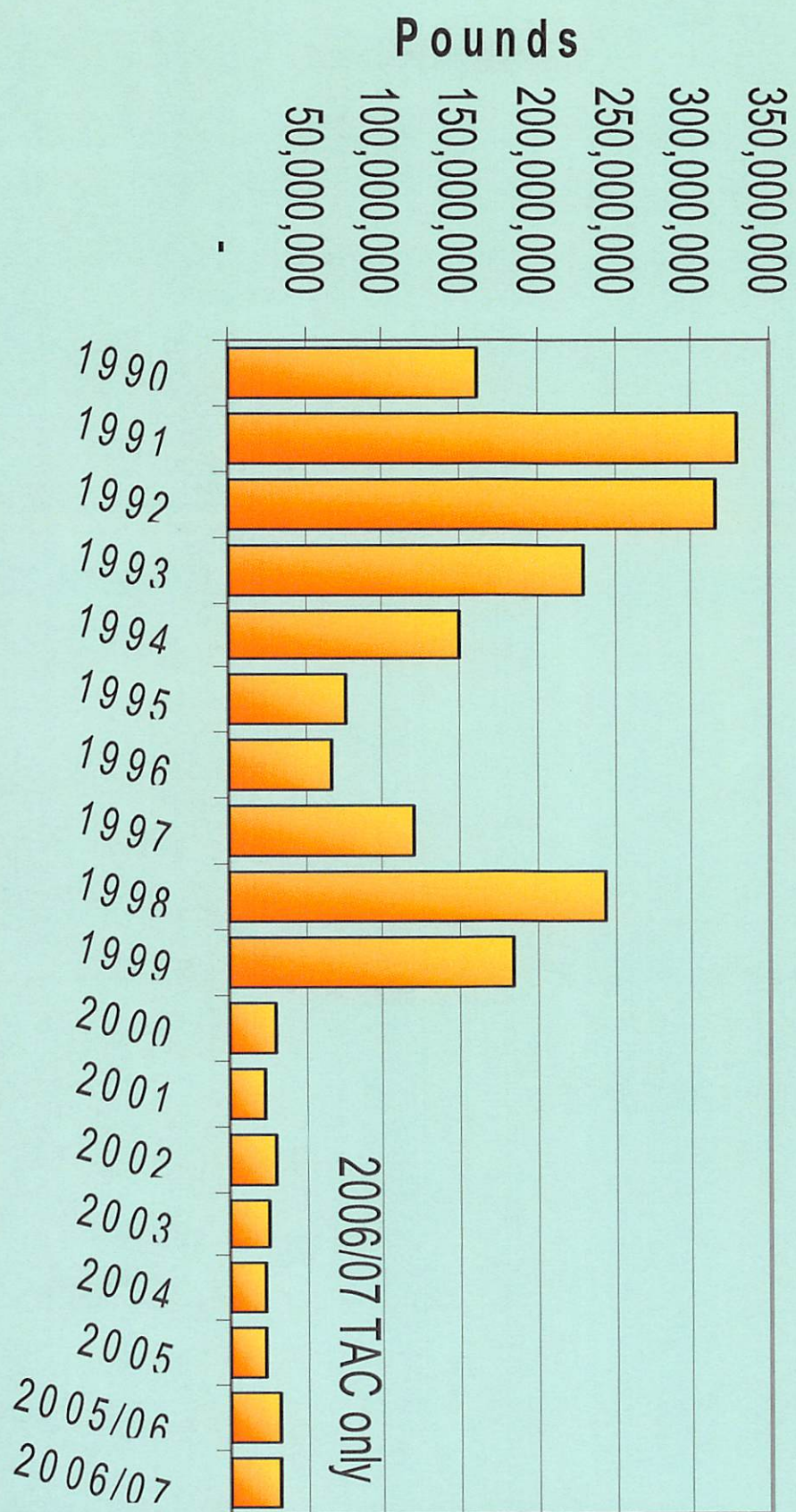
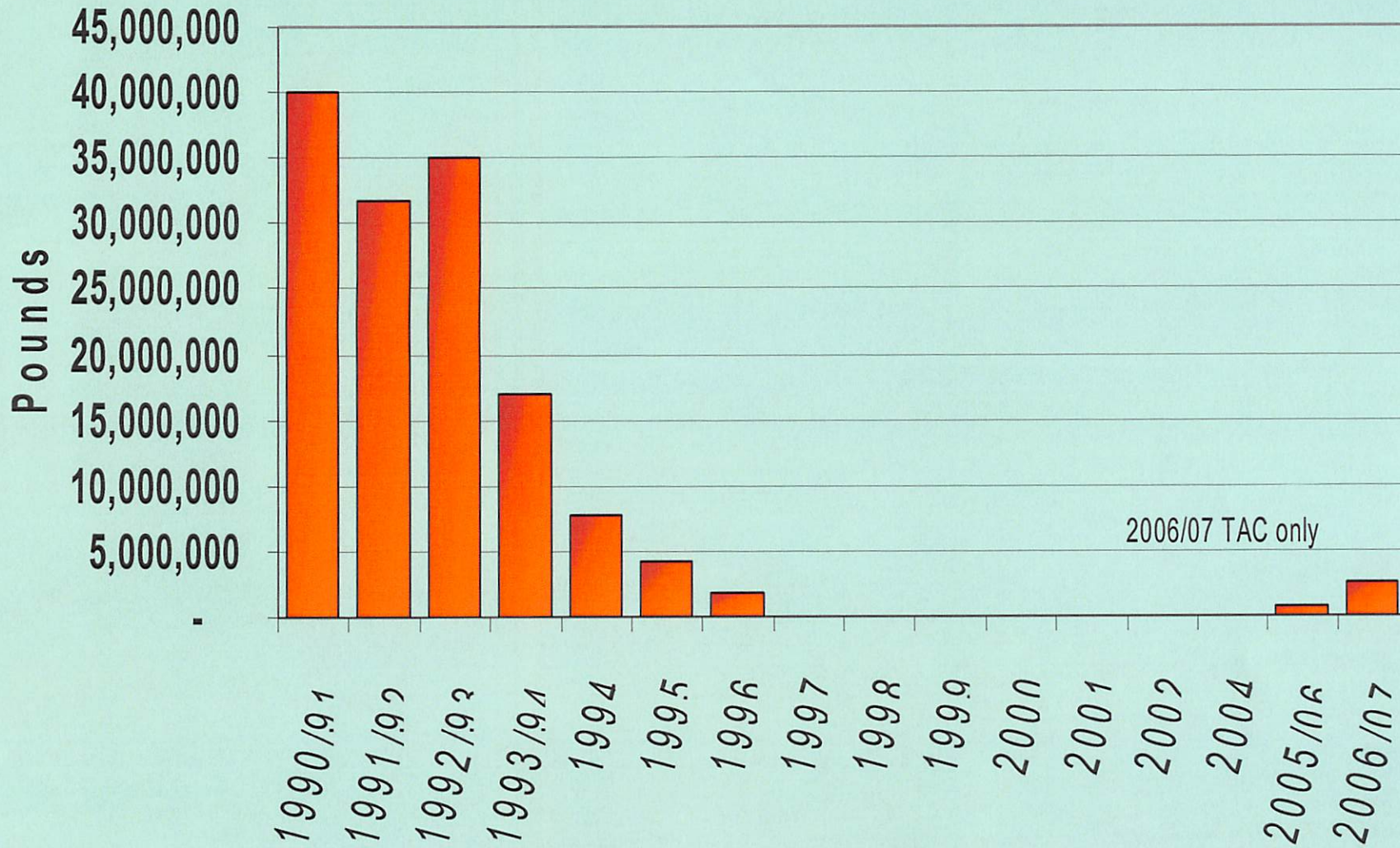


Figure 5.

Bering Sea *C. bairdi* Harvests



2006/07 TAC only

Figure 6.

PWS State Managed Pcod Harvest

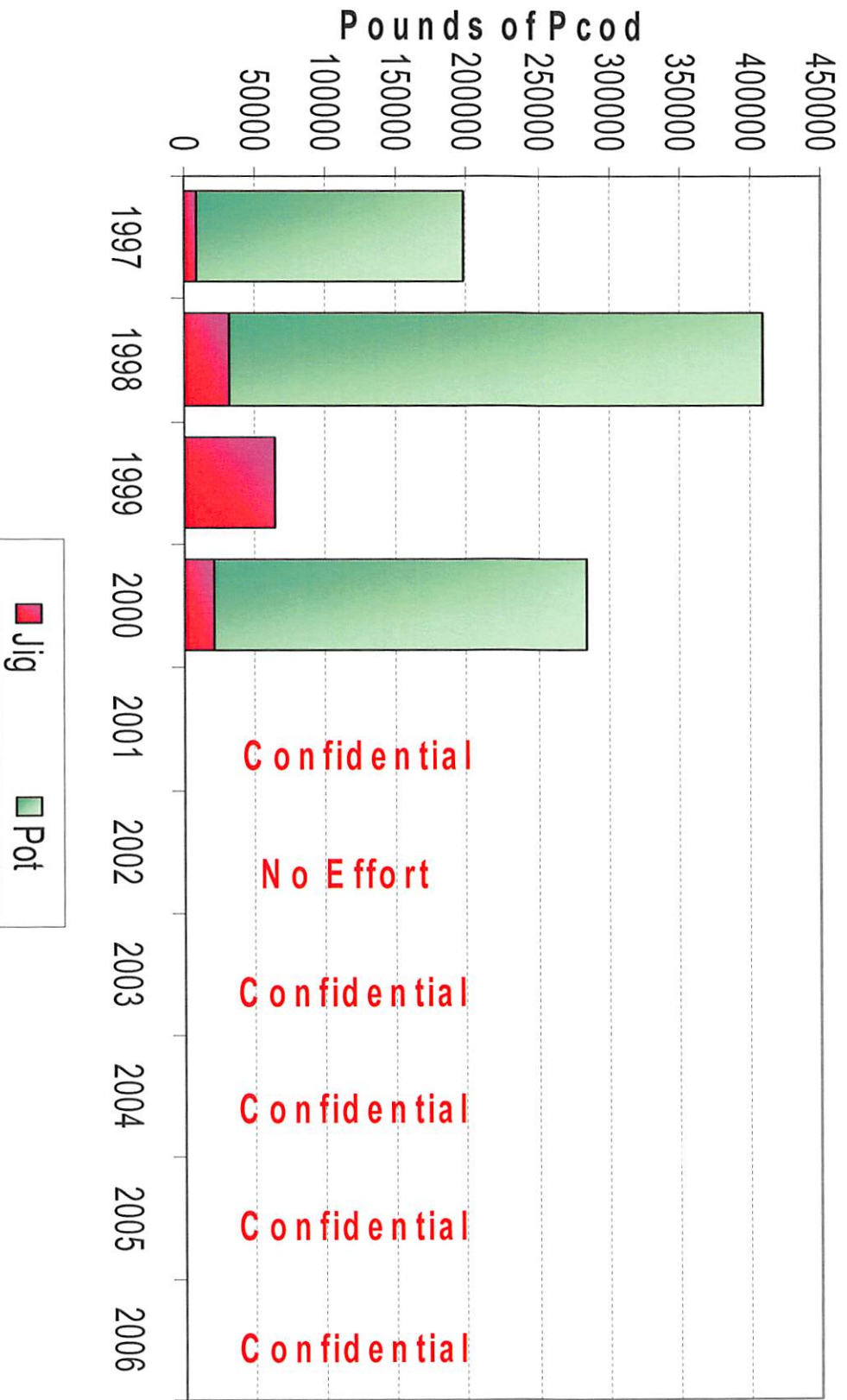


Figure 7.

Cook Inlet State Managed Pcod Harvest

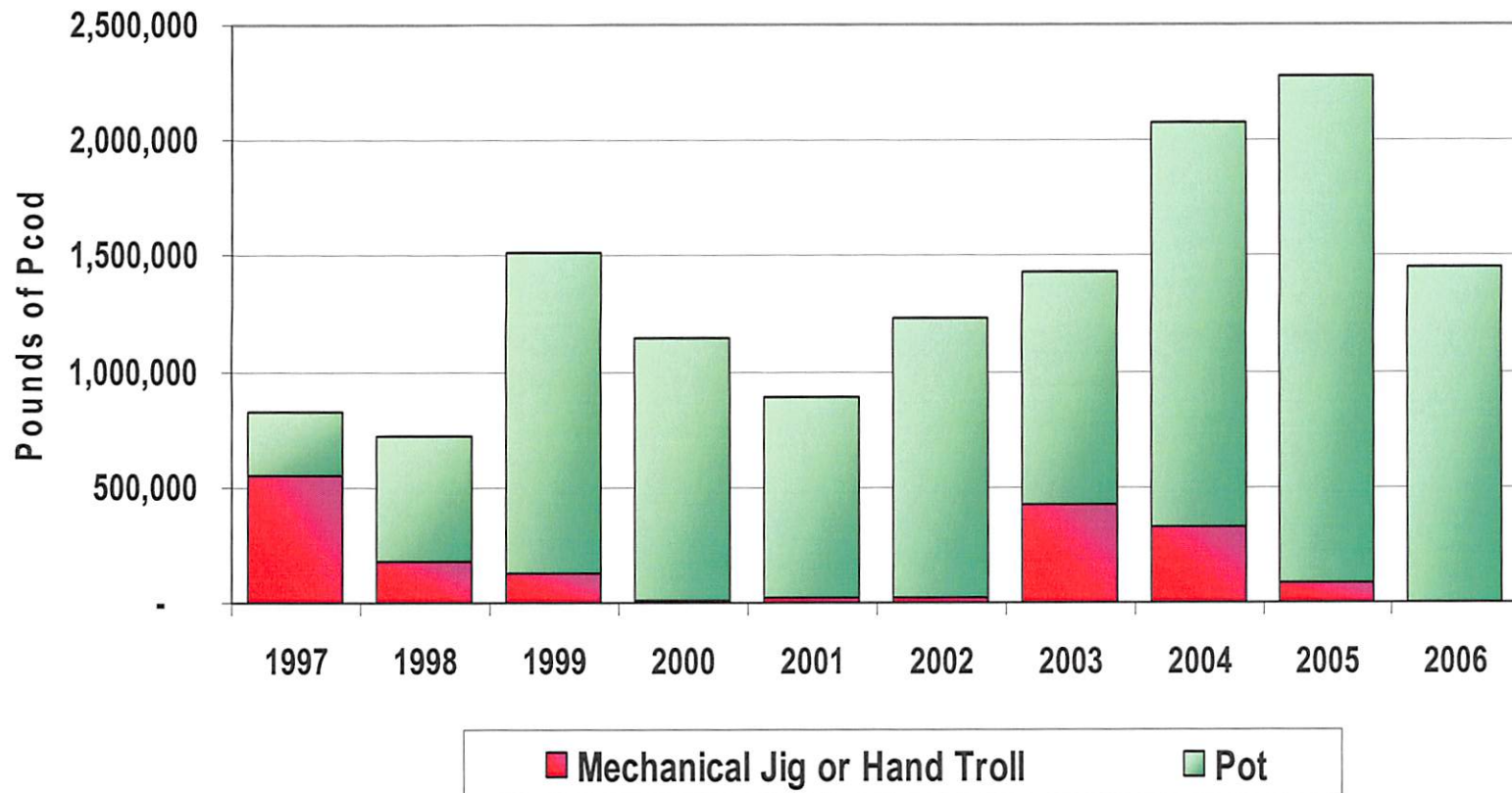


Figure 8.

Kodiak State Managed Pcod Harvest

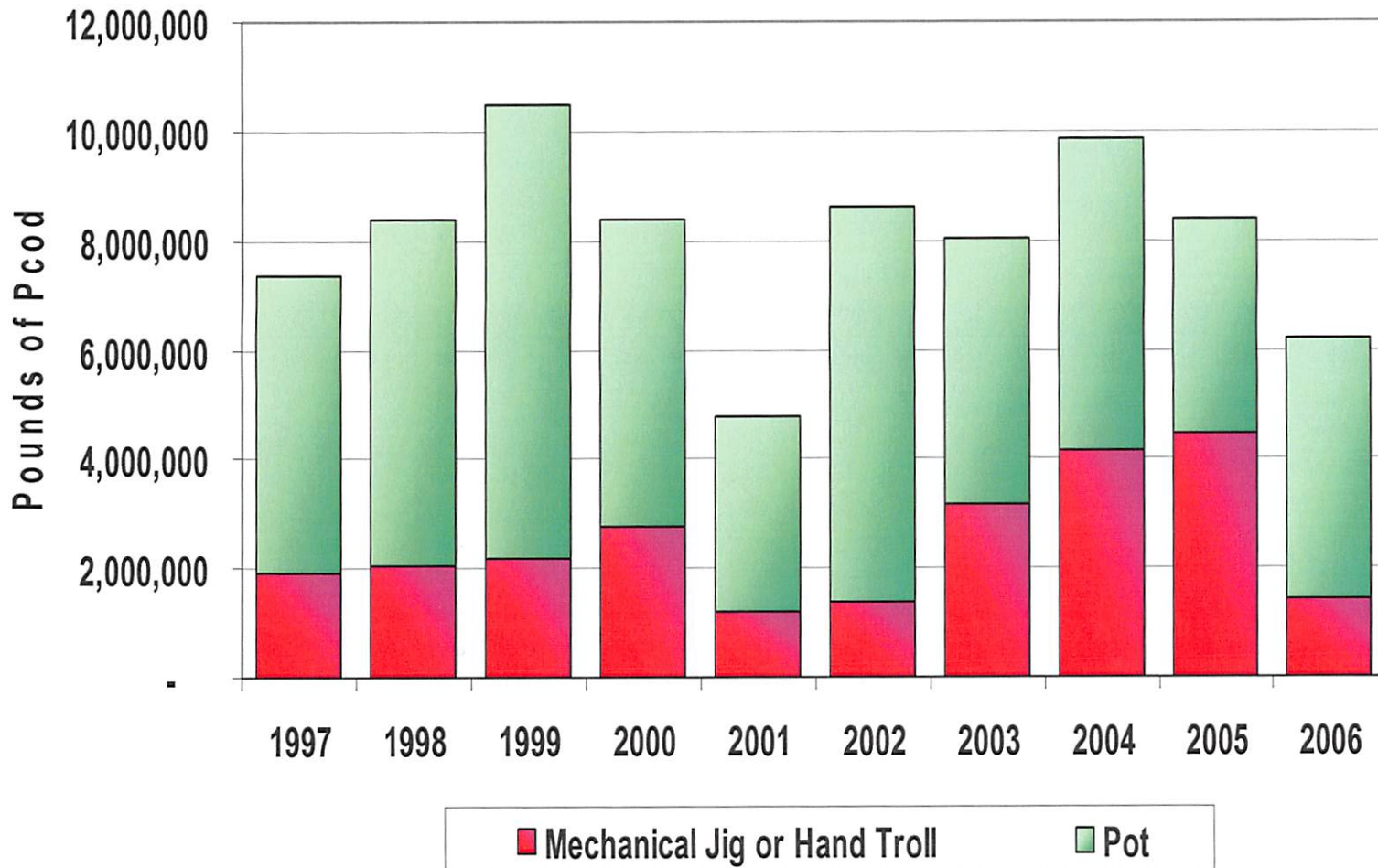


Figure 9.

Chignik State Managed Pcod Harvets

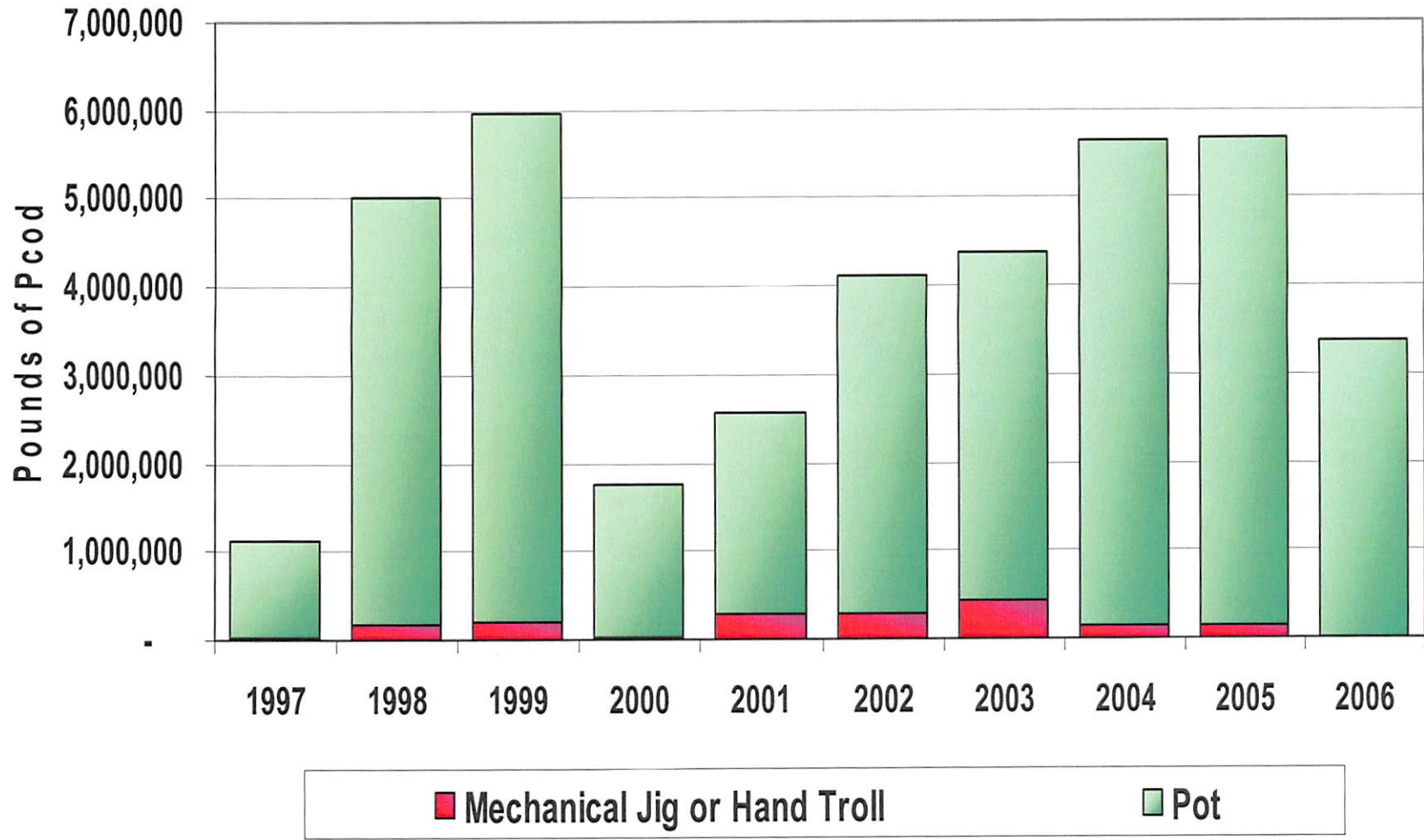
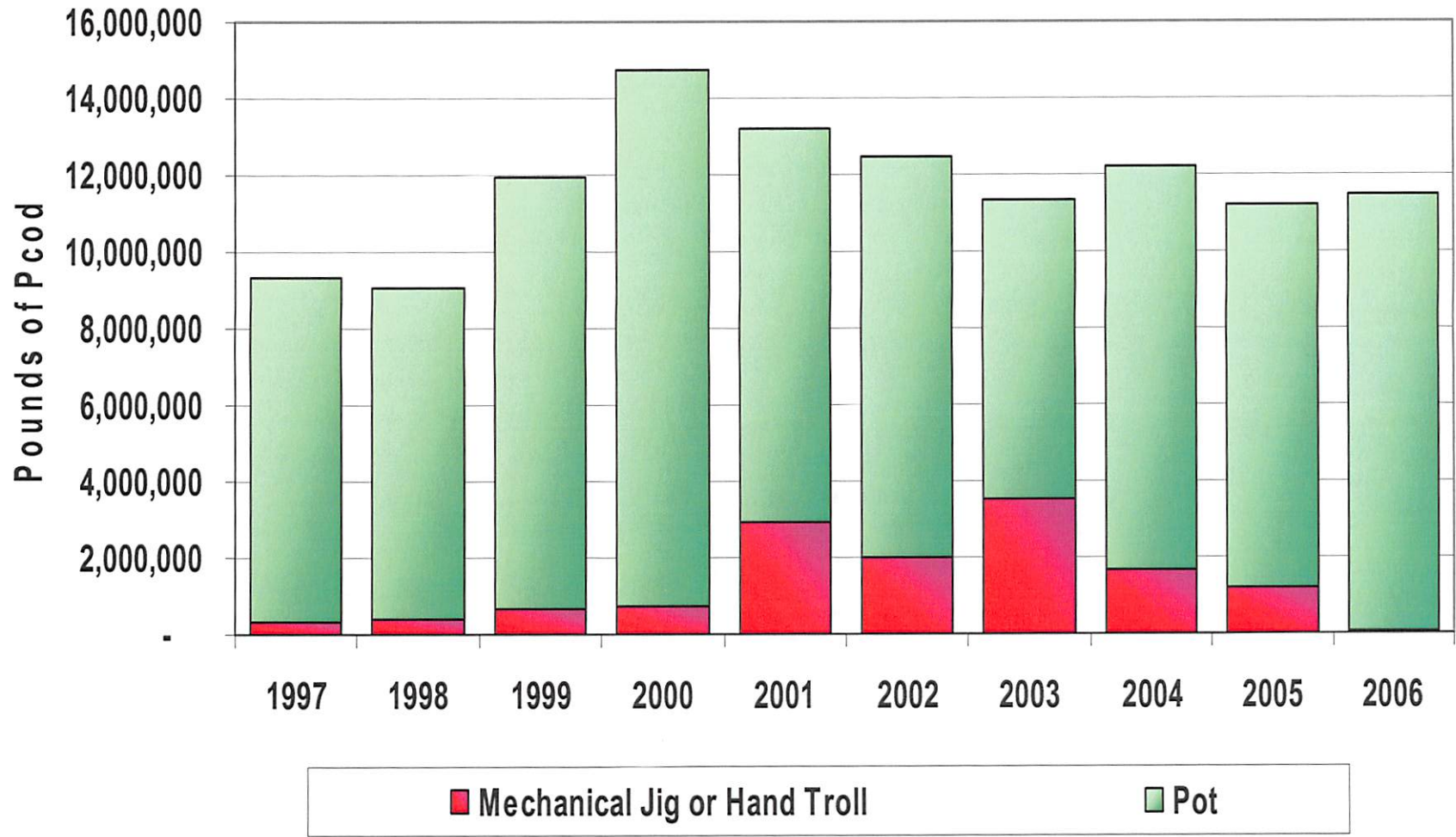


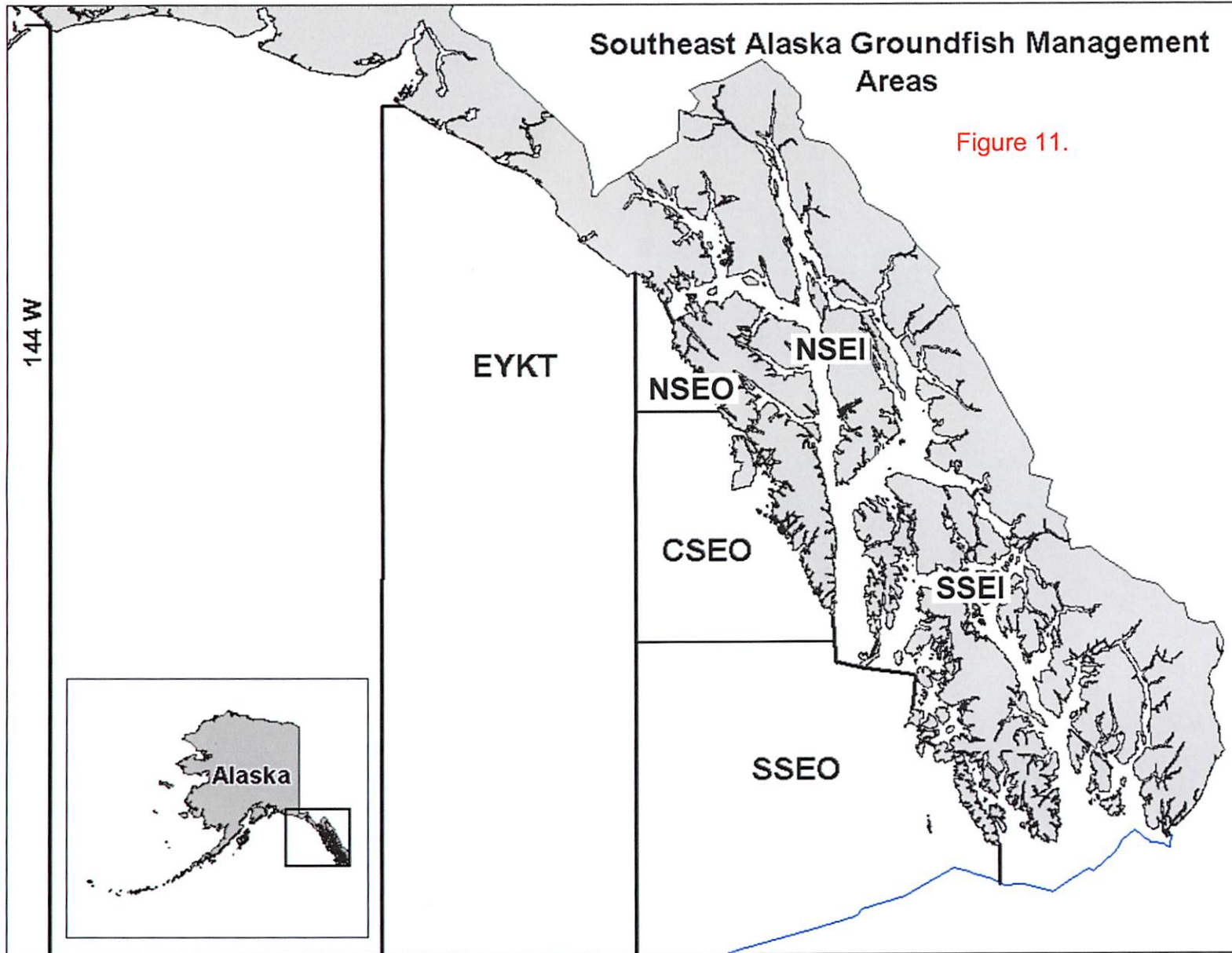
Figure 10.

S AK Peninsula State Managed Pcod Harvest



Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 11.



PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula area on March 15, or seven days following the closure of the directed federal cod season in the Federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, which ever comes later.

ISSUE: Establish a set starting date for the Area M state waters cod season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-06F-039)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows.

Figure 12b

The start of Area M state waters cod season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service 48-hour forecast, for Area M, contains gale force wind warnings for the opening date. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until weather forecast permits.

ISSUE: The area M state cod season start with nice weather.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local boats will continue to try and set gear in dangerous weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

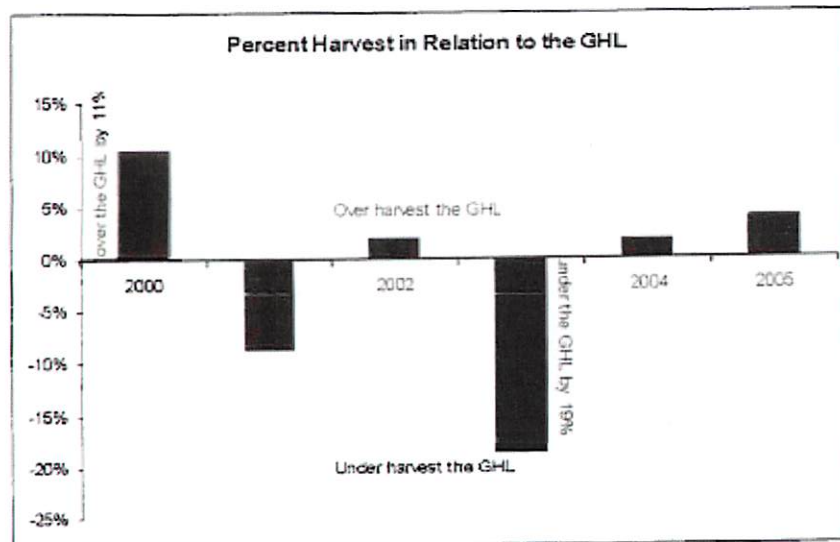
(HQ-06F-041)

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. In the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery, a validly registered vessel using pot gear must report each day to the department

- (1) the number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour reporting period;
- (2) the pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour reporting period; and
- (3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the registration.

PROBLEM: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of cod per day. However, the amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low compared to other similar Pacific cod fisheries. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the targeted guideline harvest level (GHL).



Because the Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. Thus, in years when the pot fleet over harvests the guideline, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When pot harvests are less than the GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their guideline harvest level.

With the development of better communication hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in other fisheries within the region. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed while vessels were

Figure 12c

purchasing buoy tags. Participation in the voluntary program was low (approximately 10 percent); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments to increase communications with fishing fleets in the Westward Region. Last year, a fixed site satellite phone with Matrix service was installed in the Kodiak office and an additional satellite phone with Stratos service is currently being installed.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the Kodiak Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the Kodiak Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from fishing vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management precision will continue to be low, and the potential for under harvest or over harvest will continue to exist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both pot and jig gear participants

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen may need to purchase additional communication equipment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-138)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577, South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Figure 12d

If 10 percent or more of the GHL is not harvested, there will be a mandatory extension or reopening.

ISSUE: State-water Pacific cod are, at times, underharvested. There is no certainty that the department will extend the season or reopen if closed before the GHL is harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of economic opportunity for Pot fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot cod fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the department to decide whether to reopen or extend. Uncertainty.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

(SW-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Figure 12e

(e)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula area is 50 [15] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

ISSUE: We would like more cod quota moved into the Area M state waters cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities to large outside crabbers, longliners and trawlers in the federal fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local small boat cod fishermen in Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Figure 12f

During a state waters season, the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 50 percent of the estimated allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska area 610.

ISSUE: Large vessels with crab rationalized quotas had higher harvest rates of Pacific cod during the 2006 federal and state parallel season in area 610. The probability of Pacific cod rationalization by NPMC in the Western Gulf area 610 will take Pacific cod stocks in state waters away from state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More vessels will fish Pacific cod in federal and state parallel season of area 610 before moving on to fish their crab rationalization quotas of the Bering Sea.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest and promote a cleaner harvest because of gear type allowed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small local vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. Although vessels have participated in two simultaneous groundfish fisheries within the same area, this proposal would clarify that a vessel fishing groundfish involved in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and other groundfish fisheries simultaneously in other management areas is not allowed. This proposal creates a new subsection as follows:

Figure 12g

5 AAC 28.556 South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration:

(f) A vessel registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not simultaneously be registered to participate in a groundfish fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

ISSUE: Registration for the parallel groundfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area allows vessels to be simultaneously registered for the parallel groundfish fishery in the remainder of the Westward Region. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery registration is specific to the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to participate in both the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and simultaneously in the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same area. Recently the department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations allowing simultaneous participation in other groundfish fisheries may be ambiguous.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulations will be clear for the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that wish to participate simultaneously in multiple groundfish registration areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-06F-144)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of vessels larger than 58-feet is prohibited.

ISSUE: Bering Sea crab rationalization has allowed large vessels to delay the harvest of crab in January-February, until after they have cleaned up the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season quota of Western Gulf area 610. These vessels fish pots and harvest high 90s of state waters Pacific cod which they need no LLP's for.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More large crab pot vessels will fish the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season of Western Gulf area 610 before moving on to Opilio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 58-foot vessels and local communities.

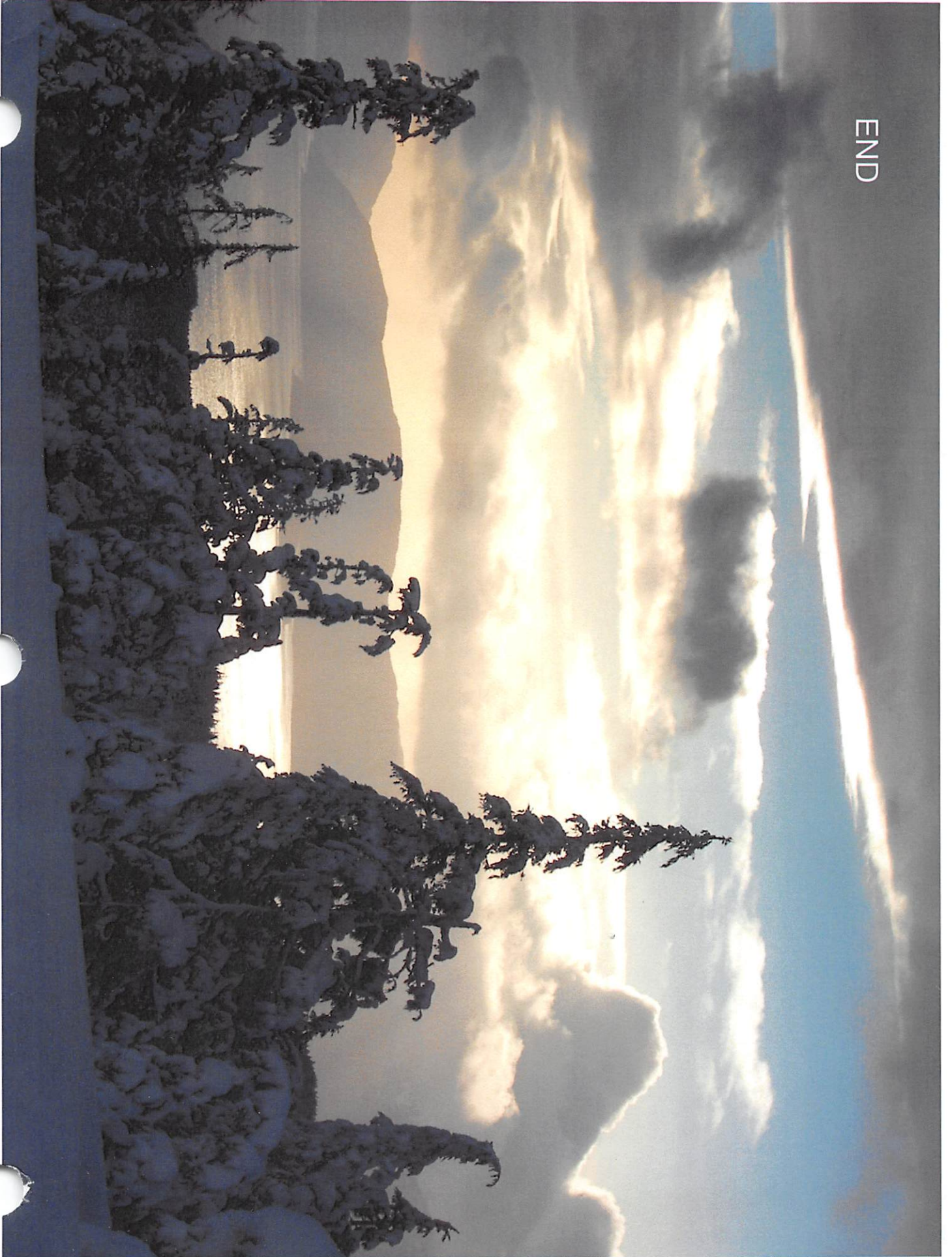
WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large pot vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-002)

END



BOF

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

NEUTRAL

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the existing starting date for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season from seven days after the closure of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA) to March 15 or seven days after the closure of the federal WGOA, which ever comes later.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area seven days following the closure of the directed federal Pacific cod season in the WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig fisheries would open on March 15 or seven days following the closure of the WGOA federal fishery, which ever comes later. Over the past 10 years, the average number of days between the close of the WGOA fishery and the opening of the state-waters fishery would have increased from 7-days to 14.8 days (Table 1).

BACKGROUND: The South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan states that the state-waters season will open seven days following the closure of the directed federal season in the WGOA. Since 1997, the earliest start date for the state-waters season was in 2003, when the season opened on February 24. The latest the state-waters fishery has opened is April 4, in 1997, the first year of the state-waters fishery. In eight of the last ten years, the state-waters season opened between March 1 and March 15.

Table 1. WGOA Pacific cod closure date, state-waters opening date, effect of Proposal 178 and number of days between WGOA closure and state-waters opening if Proposal 178 were in effect, 1997-2006.

Year	Date		Effect of Proposal 178 on Opening	Days between WGOA closure & State-waters opening ^a
	WGOA Closure	State-waters Opening		
1997	March 28	April 4	April 4	7
1998	March 3	March 10	March 15	12
1999	March 8	March 15	March 15	7
2000	March 4	March 11	March 15	11
2001	February 27	March 6	March 15	16
2002	February 26	March 5	March 15	17
2003	February 17	February 24	March 15	26
2004	February 23	March 2	March 15	20
2005	February 24	March 3	March 15	19
2006	March 2	March 9	March 15	13
Average	March 2	March 9	March 17	14.8

^a if Proposal 178 were adopted.

Pacific cod form spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Alaska between January and April. This is when the fish are most concentrated and harvest rates are greatest. The

percentage of Pacific cod that had spawned in samples of commercial landings reached 50% by early April in 2003 and late March in 2004 and 2005, data analysis for 2006 has not been completed (Figure 1). After spawning, Pacific cod tend to disperse from the spawning aggregations and harvest rates tend to decrease.

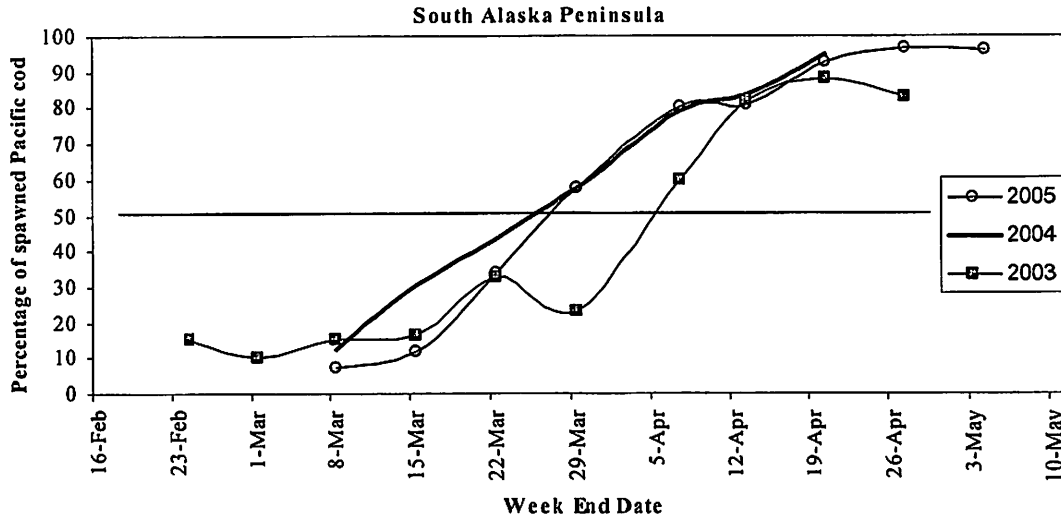


Figure 1. Percentage of spawned Pacific cod from the South Alaska Peninsula pot and jig fisheries, 2003-2005.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department could manage the state-waters Pacific cod season opening on March 15 or seven days after the close of the WGOA federal fishery. However, if this proposal is accepted, the pot storage requirements (5 AAC 28.571) would need to be modified. Currently groundfish pots can be stored at depths greater than 25 fathoms, with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open for no more than seven days following the closure of the parallel season. If the state-waters season did not open seven days after the parallel-season closure, vessel operators would have to move their pots to shallow water storage within that seven day time period. If this proposal had been in effect during the last ten years, the fishery would have opened on March 15 in nine of those ten years, with the time between the federal closure and the state-waters season opening ranging from seven to 26 days.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. There may be increased costs associated with moving and storage of pots between the closure of the parallel season and the opening of the state-waters season.

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows: **NEUTRAL**

The start of the Area M state-waters Pacific cod season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service 48-hour forecast, for Area M, contains gale force wind warnings for the opening date. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until weather forecast permits.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would provide marine weather criteria for delaying the start of the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The season opens seven days after the closure of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, regardless of the weather forecast.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The Board of Fisheries would establish criteria for a weather-related delay of the fishery opening, based on the National Weather Service (NWS) 48-hour forecast.

The opening of the state-waters fishery could be delayed if, on the morning of the scheduled fishery opening, the 4 a.m. NWS 48-hour forecast contained gale force or stronger wind warnings from any direction for the marine forecast zone applicable to Area M. Staff would issue a news release delaying the fishery opening for 24-hours. This process would be repeated until the 48-hour forecast did not contain gale force or stronger wind warnings.

BACKGROUND: Weather at the beginning of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery can hinder the ability of vessels to participate. Vessel length during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery is restricted to vessels less than or equal to 58-feet (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery by size and gear type 2004-2006.

Vessel length	2004		2005		2006	
	pot	jig	pot	jig	pot	jig
< 32'	0	1	0	2	0	1
32-39'	0	23	0	19	1	12
40-49'	10	23	8	17	10	9
50-58'	24	3	27	2	32	1
Total	34	50	35	40	43	23

The National Weather Service area 155 best approximates the majority of Pacific cod fishing areas, but does not cover the entire Area M. Currently there is a weather delay regulation for the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery (5 AAC 35.510 (a)(2)), that has the

rolling 24 hour delay for up to 10 days if gale force winds are forecasted for the season opening.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Currently there is a regulation (5 AAC 28.571 (b)(2)) that allow vessels to store pots, with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open, deeper than 25 fathoms for up to seven days following the closure of the parallel Pacific cod season. If the state-waters season start were delayed by weather, the above regulation would need to be modified.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. There may be increased costs associated with moving and storage of pots.

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state waters Pacific cod fishery.

SUPPORT

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This regulation would require pot gear participants in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery to contact the department on a daily basis with catch information, to enable the department to more accurately manage the fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no current reporting requirement regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted, fishery participants would be required to contact the department daily to report catch information.

Proposed regulatory language as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

In the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, a validly registered vessel using pot gear must report each day to the department

- (1) the number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour reporting period;
- (2) the pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous reporting period; and
- (3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the registration.

BACKGROUND: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During the last week of March in 2006 (last week of the fishery), there were 43 vessels participating. Based on landing data staff projected the average harvest rate to be 26,000 pounds/vessel/day. Based on this information the entire fleet had the capability to harvest 1.1 million pounds during one 24-hour period. In 2005, the last week of March (last week of the fishery), there were 39 vessels fishing with an estimated average harvest rate of 21,000 pounds/per vessel/day. The fleet had a harvest potential of 0.82 million pounds in a 24-hour time period. Harvest rates and vessel participation during the 2004 fishery were similar to 2005.

The amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is insufficient to accurately manage for the pot fleet guideline harvest level (GHL) cap. A large portion of the fleet delivers to tenders, and this delivery information is provided to the department as a hail weight. The tender hail estimates do not allow for determining the time of day the offload occurred, and if there was any additional harvest by a vessel

on the day of the offload. These factors result in a lack of precision in the data the department has to manage for the GHL.

Because the Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. Thus, in years when the pot fleet over-harvests the pot GHL, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When inseason management results in pot harvests that are less than the pot GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their GHL cap of 85% of the total GHL.

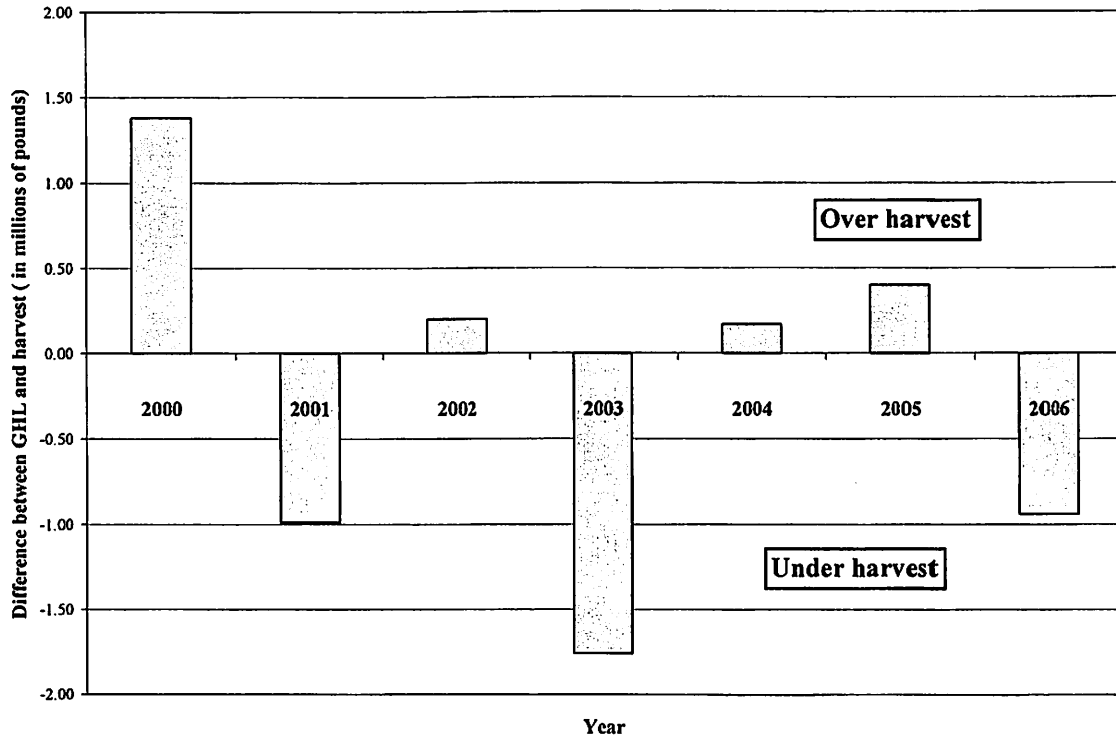


Figure 1. Difference between pot gear GHL and harvest (in millions of pounds), 2000-2006.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the 2006 Kodiak District Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the 2006 Kodiak Area Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from participants. The board has previously adopted regulation for inseason reporting, 5 AAC 35.558 Reporting Requirements For Registration Area J.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed during registration and buoy tag sales, along with an explanation of the information requested and the use of that information. Participation in the voluntary reporting program was low (approximately 10%); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments in equipment to increase communications with the fishing fleets in the Westward Region, including two satellite dispatch (tag phone) systems compatible with the two service providers, Matrix and Stratos, which the majority of the fleet uses. For those vessels that do not have dispatch systems, the department issues code sheets so that vessel operators can report using the single-side band radio or VHF radio, and still maintain confidentiality of the catch reports.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. With the development of better communications hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in fisheries. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery by requiring the purchase or upgrade of communication equipment.

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

OPPOSED

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the department to reopen the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot fishery if 10% or more of the pot fishing guideline harvest level (GHL) remained after the closure.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters season for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, for pots, when 85 percent of the total GHL has been taken by pots or on December 31, which ever comes first.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The department would be required to reopen the state-waters Pacific cod pot season if 10 percent or more of the pot GHL remains.

BACKGROUND: Because the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on 25% of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. No jig allocation exists for the South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod fishery, but the pot fleet is capped at 85% of the area GHL, so the jig fleet has an expectation of access to at least 15% of the GHL. In years when the pot fleet over-harvests the GHL, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. Had this proposal been in affect from 2000-2006, the state-waters fishery would have reopened in 2003, when pot gear harvest was 82 % of the pot cap (Table1).

Table 1. Allocation (GHL) and harvest in millions of pounds by gear type and year, 2000-2006.

YEAR	Pot Gear			Pot GHL difference	Jig Gear		
	Vessels	GHL ^a	Harvest ^b		Vessels	GHL ^a	Harvest
2000	67	12.90	<i>14.28</i>	1.38	28	2.28	0.76
2001	55	11.39	10.40	-0.99	69	2.01	<i>3.00</i>
2002	50	10.50	<i>10.70</i>	0.20	65	1.86	<i>2.05</i>
2003	41	9.69	7.93	-1.76	65	1.80	<i>3.63</i>
2004	45	10.60	<i>10.77</i>	0.17	51	1.90	1.67
2005	36	9.80	<i>10.20</i>	0.40	39	1.73	1.23
2006 ^c	43	12.58	11.64	-0.94	11	2.22	0.08

^a Pot gear is capped at 85% of the annual GHL, jig gear has no specified GHL cap in regulation.

^b Bold/italics indicate harvest exceeding the GHL

^c Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006.

The amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low and harvest capacity is high. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the GHL.

As an example, in 2006, the pot season was closed on March 29, 2006 at 6:00 PM based on harvest projections. Processor reports following the closure indicated that the pot fleet had harvested approximately 10.2 million pounds, roughly 2.5 million pounds (19 %) under the pot fleet allocative cap. The fleet and processors requested that ADF&G reopen the season. The season was reopened on April 4, extended due to weather, and closed on April 8, 2006. Total harvest, after the reopening, was 11.8 million pounds. This was 0.78 million pounds (6%) under the pot cap.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The pot fleet cap is based on a percentage of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC. It is possible that during years of low Pacific cod abundance, the pot fleet cap could be small, and a reopening based on 10% of a small GHF could be an unmanageable level. Fishermen using pot gear in the South Alaska Peninsula Area have high fishing power and the amount of timely information the department receives to manage the fishery is low. In some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of Pacific cod per day. This harvest capacity makes managing a small GHF difficult, with a high likelihood of exceeding the pot gear GHF allocative cap.

Decisions to close fishing with pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season are based on the best available information. With limited information the department recognizes and acknowledges that management precision will be low. However, this proposal does not correct that problem. The department prefers that the BOF adopt tools to allow the department to more accurately manage the pot harvest, such as those suggested in Proposal 180.

If the board adopts this proposal staff would request guidance on reopening criteria such as time frame for reopening, weather criteria, etc.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

NEUTRAL

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area from 25 to 50 percent of the federal acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the guideline harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 25 percent of the estimated ABC of Pacific cod from the federal WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery would increase from 25 to 50 percent of the federal WGOA ABC. Participants in the federal and parallel seasons would have decreased harvest opportunity for Pacific cod.

BACKGROUND: In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans for fisheries in five management areas including the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The initial harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area was set at 15% of the WGOA ABC. The percentage allocated from the WGOA ABC to the South Alaska Peninsula Area was designed to increase over time. If the 15% GHL was reached in any calendar year, the GHL would increase beginning the next calendar year to 20% of the WGOA ABC. If the 20% GHL was reached in any calendar year after it had been implemented, the GHL would be increased beginning the next calendar year to the maximum 25% of the WGOA ABC. The South Alaska Peninsula Area fishery achieved the final GHL step-up increment in 2000 and has remained at that level.

Prior to the creation of the state-waters fishery in 1997 less than 27% of the WGOA Pacific cod ABC was harvested from state waters annually. Allowable gear types in the federal/parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. During the 1997-2000 seasons, the average annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters, during the state-waters and parallel fisheries, was 33%. The annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters from 2000 to 2005 ranged from 43% to 61%. In 2006, through September, the percentage from state waters was near 70%.

Table 1. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod harvest, in pounds, from federal and state waters, 1997-2006.

Year	Federal/Parallel fishery		State-waters fishery	Total from state waters	% of total harvest from state-waters
	federal waters	state waters			
1997	53,748,347	9,850,571	9,524,706	19,375,277	26%
1998	44,784,981	8,596,111	8,630,512	17,226,623	28%
1999	39,664,603	8,643,758	11,821,979	20,465,737	34%
2000	33,961,964	12,641,670	15,044,104	27,685,774	45%
2001	23,017,093	6,090,637	13,455,619	19,546,256	46%
2002	26,176,698	7,242,899	12,746,106	19,989,005	43%
2003	17,538,284	13,429,949	11,560,663	24,990,612	59%
2004	17,008,135	14,271,554	12,442,442	26,713,996	61%
2005	16,030,828	9,753,948	11,436,172	21,190,120	57%
2006 ^a	10,254,385	13,323,190	11,715,820	25,039,010	71%

^a Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006

Pacific cod occur from shore to 500 m and tagging studies have demonstrated movement between state and federal waters. Literature suggest that Pacific cod form spawning aggregations inshore during winter and early spring months, then disperse offshore during summer and fall months.

The highest densities of Pacific cod are typically found between 25 and 150 fathoms which, in many areas, straddle the boundary between state and federal waters. Distribution may vary depending on the location of the stock and the time of the year. Known migrations occur in late winter around spawning events. These migrations are controlled by temperature and food availability. Therefore, the year to year distribution of Pacific cod in state waters may vary widely dependent on a number of factors that are not easily quantified.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department has concerns for potential localized overharvest that could result from concentrating harvest effort on spawning aggregations, within state waters. Removals from state-waters fisheries are in addition to removals during parallel fisheries. Therefore the board should consider the impact of total Pacific cod harvest from state waters, and coordinate harvests with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Harvest of Pacific cod from state waters should be proportionate to the size of spawning aggregations that occur inshore in the late winter and early spring. Pacific cod removals from state waters have recently been increasing. The department does not know the impact of these increasing removals.

This proposal would also effectively restrict 50% of the ABC to vessels under 58-feet in length, and to pot and jig gear only, as current regulations have those restrictions for state-waters fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

NEUTRAL

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area from 25 to 50 percent of the federal acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the guideline harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 25 percent of the estimated ABC of Pacific cod from the federal WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery would increase from 25 to 50 percent of the federal WGOA ABC. Participants in the federal and parallel seasons would have decreased harvest opportunity for Pacific cod.

BACKGROUND: In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans for fisheries in five management areas including the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The initial harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area was set at 15% of the WGOA ABC. The percentage allocated from the WGOA ABC to the South Alaska Peninsula Area was designed to increase over time. If the 15% GHL was reached in any calendar year, the GHL would increase beginning the next calendar year to 20% of the WGOA ABC. If the 20% GHL was reached in any calendar year after it had been implemented, the GHL would be increased beginning the next calendar year to the maximum 25% of the WGOA ABC. The South Alaska Peninsula Area fishery achieved the final GHL step-up increment in 2000 and has remained at that level.

Prior to the creation of the state-waters fishery in 1997 less than 27% of the WGOA Pacific cod ABC was harvested from state waters annually. Allowable gear types in the federal/parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. During the 1997-2000 seasons, the average annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters, during the state-waters and parallel fisheries, was 33%. The annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters from 2000 to 2005 ranged from 43% to 61%. In 2006, through September, the percentage from state waters was near 70%.

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Pacific cod occur from shore to 500 m and tagging studies have demonstrated movement between state and federal waters. Literature suggest that Pacific cod form spawning aggregations inshore during winter and early spring months, then disperse offshore during summer and fall months.

The highest densities of Pacific cod are typically found between 25 and 150 fathoms which, in many areas, straddle the boundary between state and federal waters. Distribution may vary depending on the location of the stock and the time of the year. Known migrations occur in late winter around spawning events. These migrations are controlled by temperature and food availability. Therefore, the year to year distribution of Pacific cod in state waters may vary widely dependent on a number of factors that are not easily quantified.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department has concerns for potential localized overharvest that could result from concentrating harvest effort on spawning aggregations, within state waters. Removals from state-waters fisheries are in addition to removals during parallel fisheries. Therefore the board should consider the impact of total Pacific cod harvest from state waters, and coordinate harvests with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Harvest of Pacific cod from state waters should be proportionate to the size of spawning aggregations that occur inshore in the late winter and early spring. Pacific cod removals from state waters have recently been increasing. The department does not know the impact of these increasing removals.

This proposal would also effectively restrict 50% of the ABC to vessels under 58-feet in length, and to pot and jig gear only, as current regulations have those restrictions for state-waters fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

SUPPORT

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit a vessel operator's ability to register and fish in other groundfish registration areas while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations state that a vessel cannot be registered for more than one groundfish registration area at a time, 5 AAC 28.020(b)(1). However, the existing parallel groundfish fishery registration regulation, 5 AAC 28.556 (b), states that a vessel that is registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area under 5 AAC 28.020 for a groundfish fishery, other than a state-waters season for Pacific cod shall also be considered registered for that fishery in the Kodiak, Chignik, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and Chukchi-Beaufort Areas.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Vessels would not be allowed to participate simultaneously in other groundfish registration areas.

Proposed regulatory language as follows:

5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. (f) A vessel registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not simultaneously be registered to participate in a groundfish fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

BACKGROUND: Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to simultaneously participate in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the parallel walleye pollock fishery, which is managed in a slightly larger area (federal area 610; Figure 1) than the South Alaska Peninsula Area. Federal Area 610 extends into the Chignik Management Area.

The department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the federal area 610 while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery. This proposal would only allow groundfish fishing in one fishery management area at a time, however it would continue to allow simultaneous participation in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same management area.

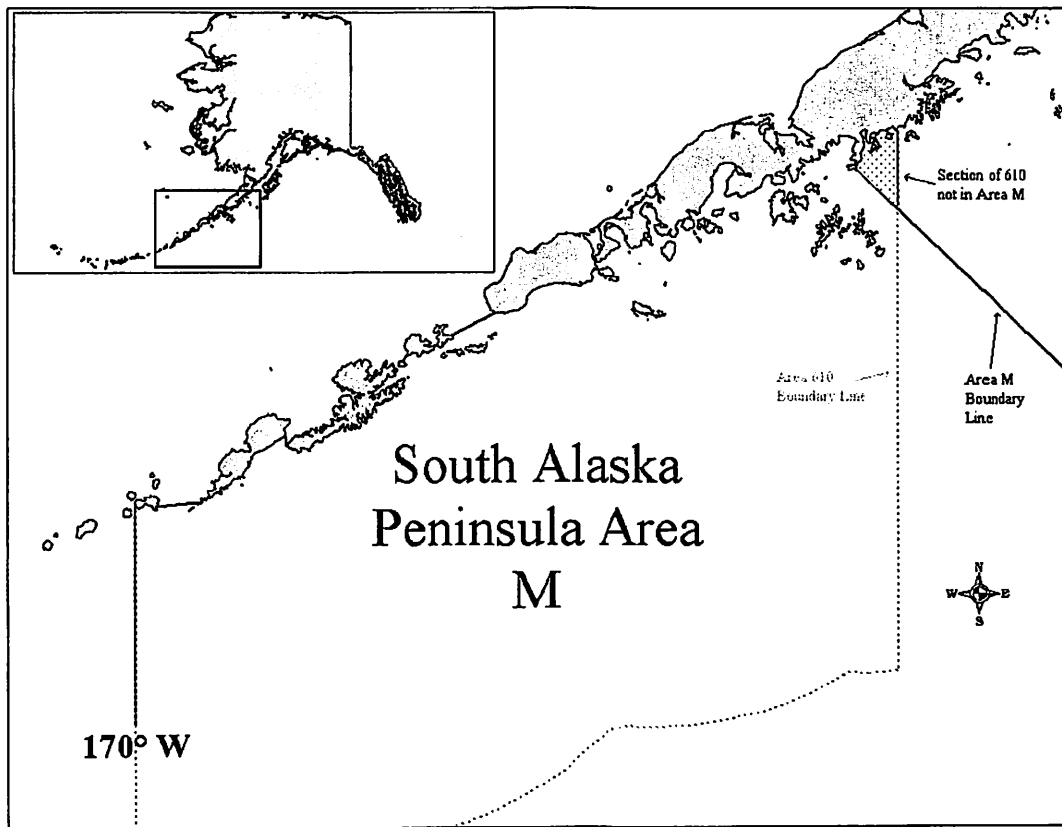


Figure 1. Map of the South Alaska Peninsula Area M and Federal Area 610.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

NEUTRAL ✓

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit participation in the parallel Pacific cod fishery to vessels 58-feet in length and smaller.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently there is no vessel size restriction for vessels participating in the parallel fishery in state waters. Allowable gear types during the parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. There is a 58-foot vessel size limit in place for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig gear fisheries (5 AAC 28.577 (e)(3)(D)) and the South Peninsula District Tanner crab fishery (5 AAC 35.590 (b)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Vessels greater than 58-feet in length would be prohibited from fishing in state waters during the parallel Pacific cod fishery. This could potentially increase the length of the fishery, due to limiting harvest by larger vessels.

BACKGROUND: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering rationalization of groundfish in federal waters in the Gulf of Alaska.

The federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska is fully utilized in most years. Harvest of Pacific cod is primarily by pot gear (58% in 2006) and trawl gear (41%) with limited harvest by longline and jig gears. Up to 20 percent bycatch of Pacific cod must be retained in other fisheries throughout the year. Pacific cod harvests from the Western Gulf of Alaska, excluding the state-waters fishery harvest, have averaged 30.6 million pounds the last four years (2002-2005) with 37% from the parallel fishery. The percentage of harvest by vessels greater than 58-feet in state waters during the parallel fishery has increased from 6% in 2002 to 25% in 2005 (Table 1). Harvest in 2006 by vessels greater than 58-feet, based on fish ticket data received by the department through October 1, 2006, increased to 41%.

Table 1. 2002-2006 Pacific cod harvest, parallel season, Federal Fisheries Area 610 (in whole pounds).

Year	Total Pounds	Vessels 58' and under			Vessels over 58'		
		Pounds	Percentage	Number	Pounds	Percentage	Number
2002	7,313,754	6,889,327	94%	153	424,427	6%	14
2003	13,515,217	11,235,062	83%	124	2,280,155	17%	31
2004	14,333,283	9,994,637	70%	127	4,338,646	30%	33
2005	9,834,508	7,345,539	75%	122	2,488,970	25%	27
2006 ^a	15,347,618	9,055,095	59%	78	6,292,523	41%	33
Average	12,068,876	8,903,932	76%	121	3,850,074	24%	28

^a Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that adoption of this proposal would result in additional direct cost for a private person to participate.