

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



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

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab** (FIGURES 1 & 2)

The Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2012. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 6.29 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.979 million pounds and the CDQ TAC is 331,000 pounds. Fishing is now complete in the Eastern Aleutian Islands; three vessels have fully harvested both the IFQ and CDQ TACs. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was again at a historical high this year, with an average of 34 crabs per pot.

The Western Aleutian Island IFQ TAC is 2.682 million pounds and the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) is 298,000 pounds. To date, three vessels have harvested 2.03 million pounds (76%) of the combined IFQ and ACA allocation; CPUE is similar to past years at 22 crabs per pot. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2013.

**Bristol Bay Red King Crab** (FIGURE 3)

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2012. The TAC for this fishery was set at 7.853 million pounds, a <1% increase from the 2011/12 season, and was apportioned 7.068 million pounds to the IFQ fishery and 785,300 pounds to the CDQ fishery. A majority of the fishing effort was completed by November 9, 2012. Sixty-four vessels participated in the IFQ fishery and 9 vessels harvested CDQ TAC. The CPUE was again high this year averaging 31 crabs per pot and average crab weight was high at 6.8 pounds per crab.

**St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab** (FIGURE 4)

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2012 with a TAC of 1.63 million pounds, a 31% decrease from the 2011/12 season. 1.467 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 163,000 pounds is apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Seventeen vessels participated this season and harvested 1.453 million pounds of the IFQ (99%) and all of the CDQ TAC. The CPUE averaged 11 crabs per pot throughout most of the season.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab** (FIGURE 5)

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2012 and will remain open through May 15, 2013 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2013 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2012/13 snow crab TAC is 66.35 million pounds, a 25% decrease over the 2011/12 season TAC. 59.715 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 6.635 million pounds is apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Fifty-eight vessels have registered for the season and have harvested 19.2 million pounds (32%) of IFQ and 1.32 million pounds (20%) of CDQ TAC. Catch rates are high and average CPUE is 269 crabs per pot.

### **Central Region Pacific Cod**

#### **Prince William Sound (FIGURE 6)**

The state-waters jig and pot seasons open 24 hours after the closure of their respective CGOA federal A-season jig and pot sector fisheries. The state-waters longline season will open seven days after the closure of the CGOA <50'HAL sector or concurrent with the IFQ Halibut season opening date, whichever occurs later. The GHL increased slightly from last year to 1.78 million pounds (808 mt) and is calculated as 25 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. The Prince William Sound state-waters season has an exclusive registration designation.

#### **Cook Inlet (FIGURE 7)**

The state-waters jig and pot seasons open 24 hours after the closure of their respective CGOA federal A-season jig and pot sector fisheries. The GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the ABC for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area and is allocated 75% to pot gear and 25% to jig gear. ~~Pot vessels larger than 58 feet are limited to 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1. The~~ 2013 GHL is 4.07 million pounds (1,850 mt), a 15% decrease from last year. In addition to the directed fishery, Pacific cod may be retained in state waters as bycatch to other directed groundfish and halibut fisheries at a maximum of 20%. Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

### **Westward Region Pacific Cod**

#### **Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)**

State-waters pot fishery in the Kodiak area will open 7 days after the CGOA Federal A-season pot fishery close. State-waters jig fishery will open 48 hours after the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery closes or on/after March 15, based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining federal Pacific cod quota. The 2013 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 13.58 million pounds (6,160 mt) and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 6.79 million pounds (3,080 mt) each. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25% of the GHL before September 1. The Kodiak Area is designated exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

#### **Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)**

State-waters jig fishery in Chignik will open on March 15. The state-waters pot season opens seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closes or on March 7, whichever is later. The 2013 GHL is 9.5 million pounds (4,300 mt), with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount. The area is designated superexclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

#### **South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 10)**

The state-waters pot season opens seven days after the closure of the WGOA federal A-season pot fishery or March 7, whichever is later. State-waters jig fishery opens 48 hours after the WGOA federal A-season jig fishery closes or on/after March 15, based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining federal Pacific cod quota. The 2013 GHL is 15.586 million pounds (7,070 mt), with 85 percent targeted by pot gear. A 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the area has an exclusive registration designation.

**Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod (FIGURE 11)**

The 2013 GHL for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 20.3 million pounds (9,200 mt). The A season opened January 1, between 175° W long. and 178° W long. to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Beginning noon March 4, the state-waters A season will expanded to include all state waters west of 170° W long. and will open to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet OAL or less using trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

**Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish, February 26 – March 3, 2012, Anchorage**

- 162 – Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.
- 163 – Modify state-waters sablefish season to coincide with federal sablefish season.
- 169 – Close state-waters surrounding Caton and Sanak Islands to nonpelgaic trawl gear.

**Statewide finfish, March 19 – 24, 2013, Anchorage**

- 245 – Change the vessel size limit for the Registration Area O (Aleutian Islands Area) red king crab fishery, in state waters from 172° W. long. to 179° W. long., from 90 feet or less in overall length to less than 60 feet in overall length.
- 246 – Establish a pot limit of 10 pots per vessel fishing for red king crab near Adak Island in Registration Area O (Aleutian Islands Area).

**Recent Publications**

*ADF&G Chinook Salmon Research Team. 2013. Chinook salmon stock assessment and research plan, 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 13-01, Anchorage.*

Figure 1

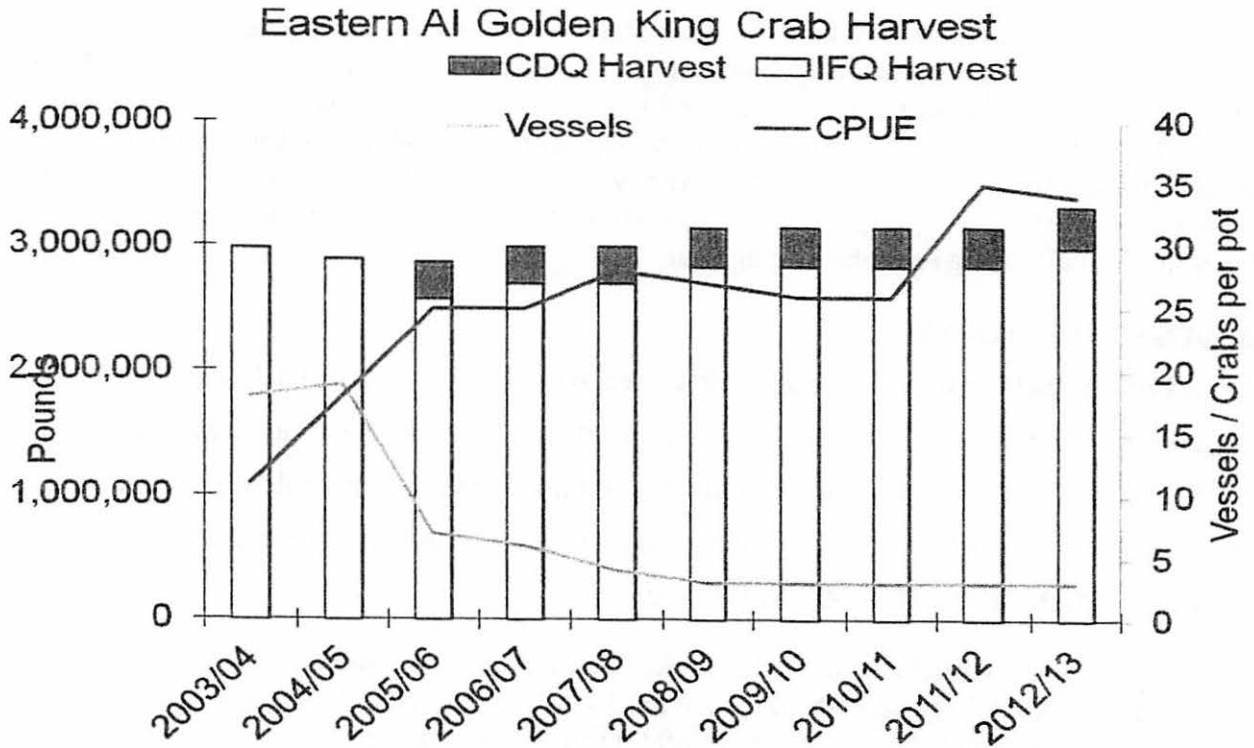


Figure 2

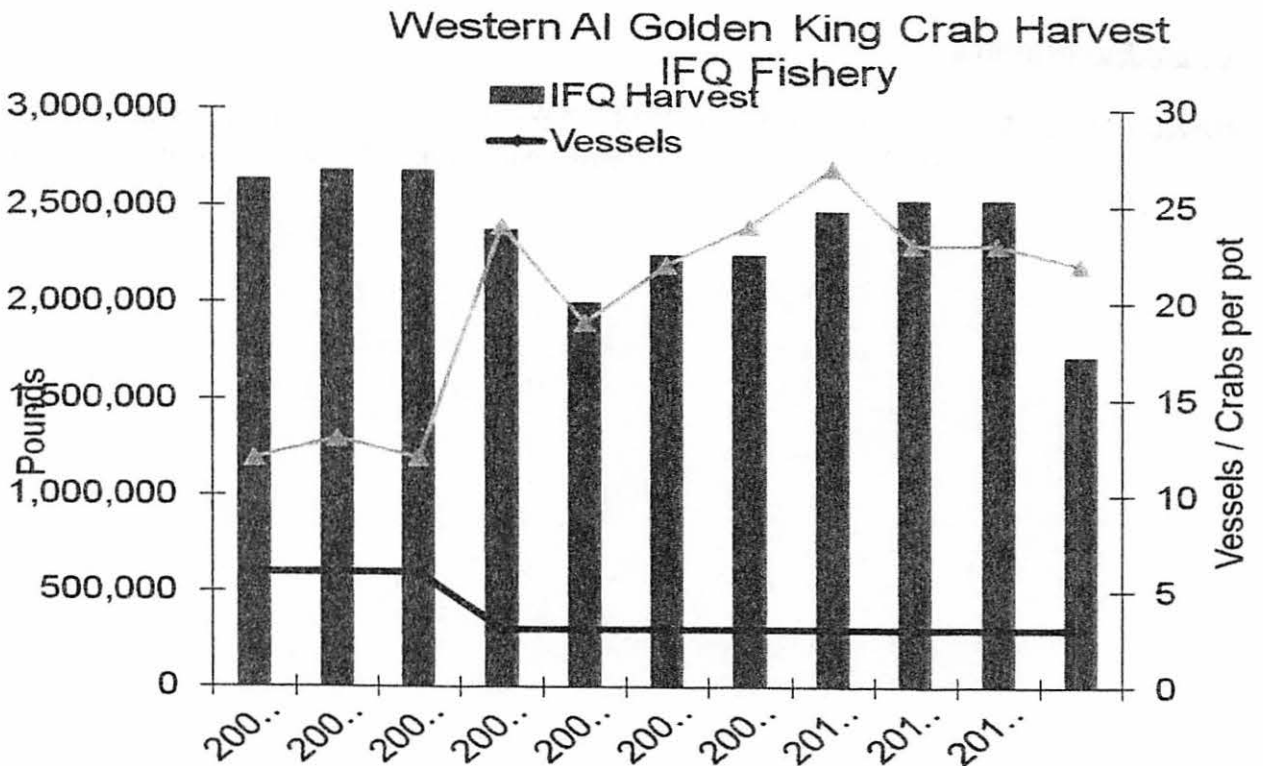


Figure 3

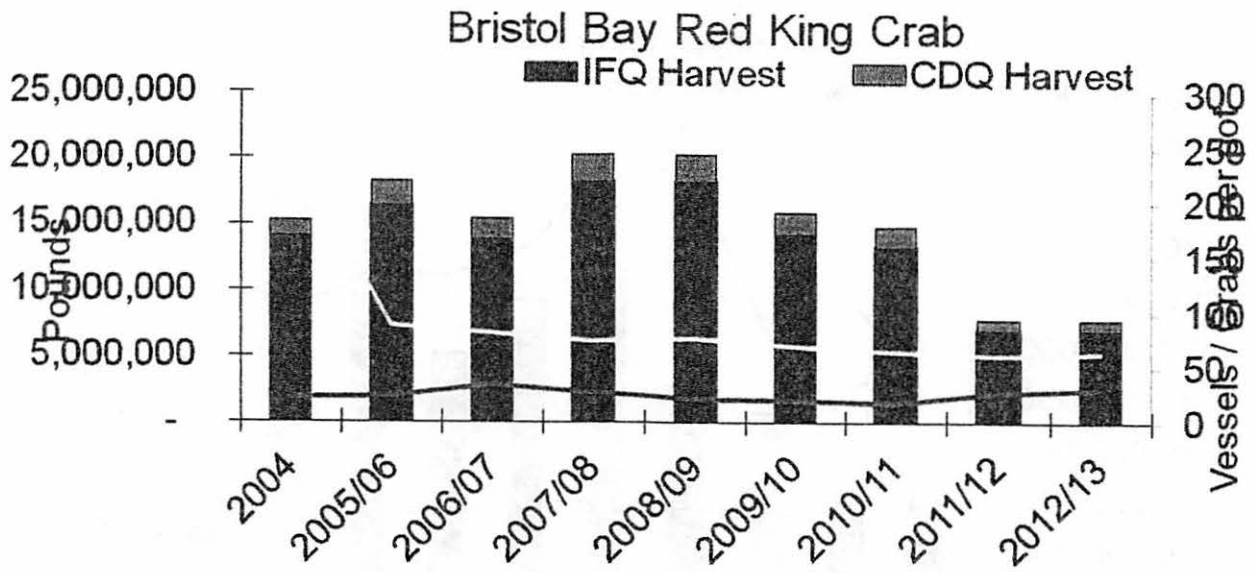


Figure 4

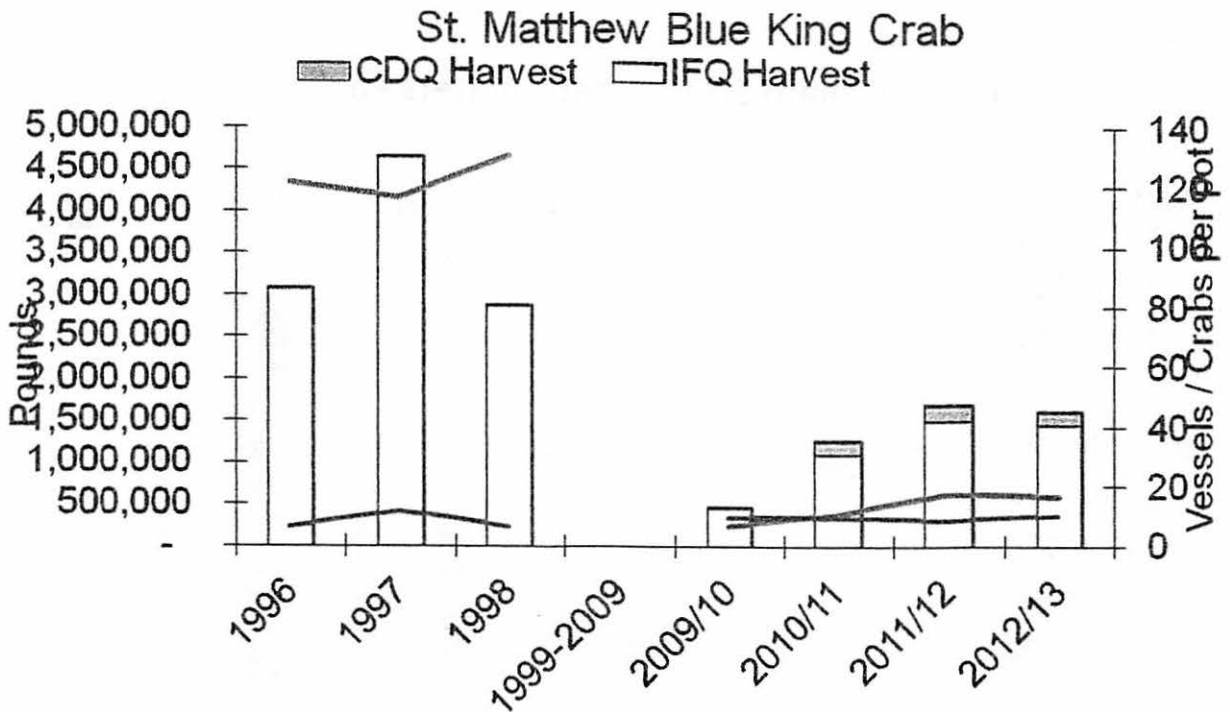


Figure 5

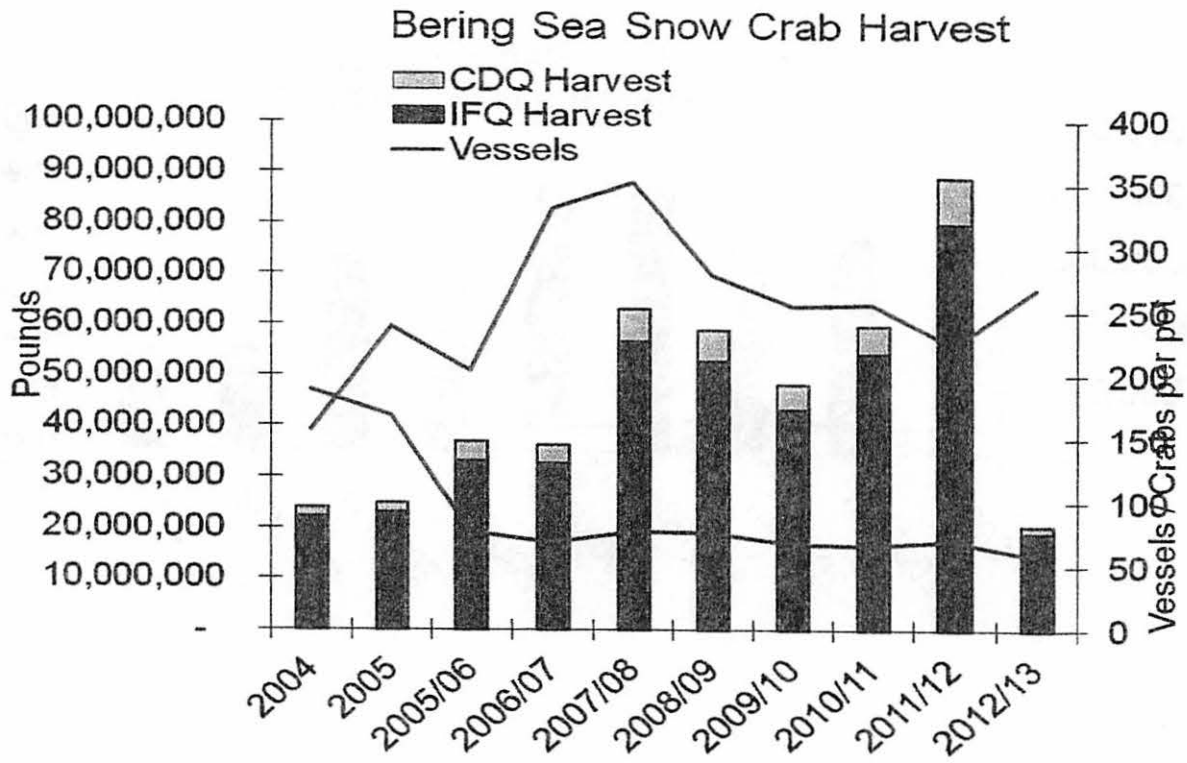


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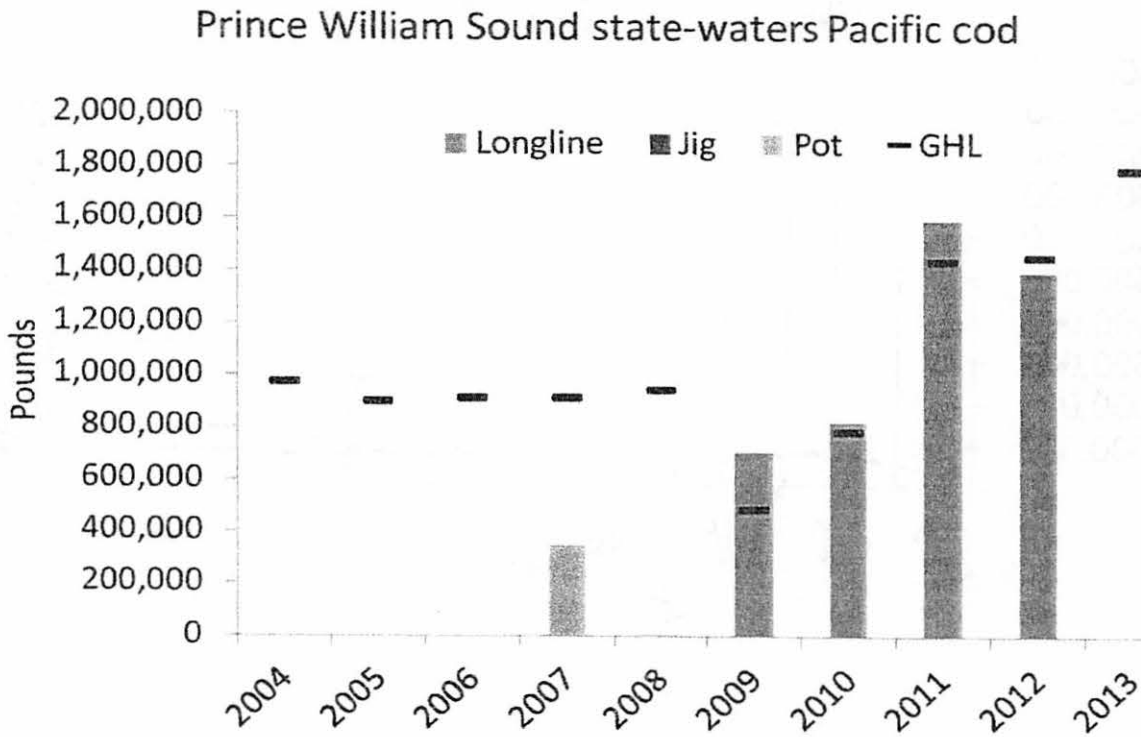


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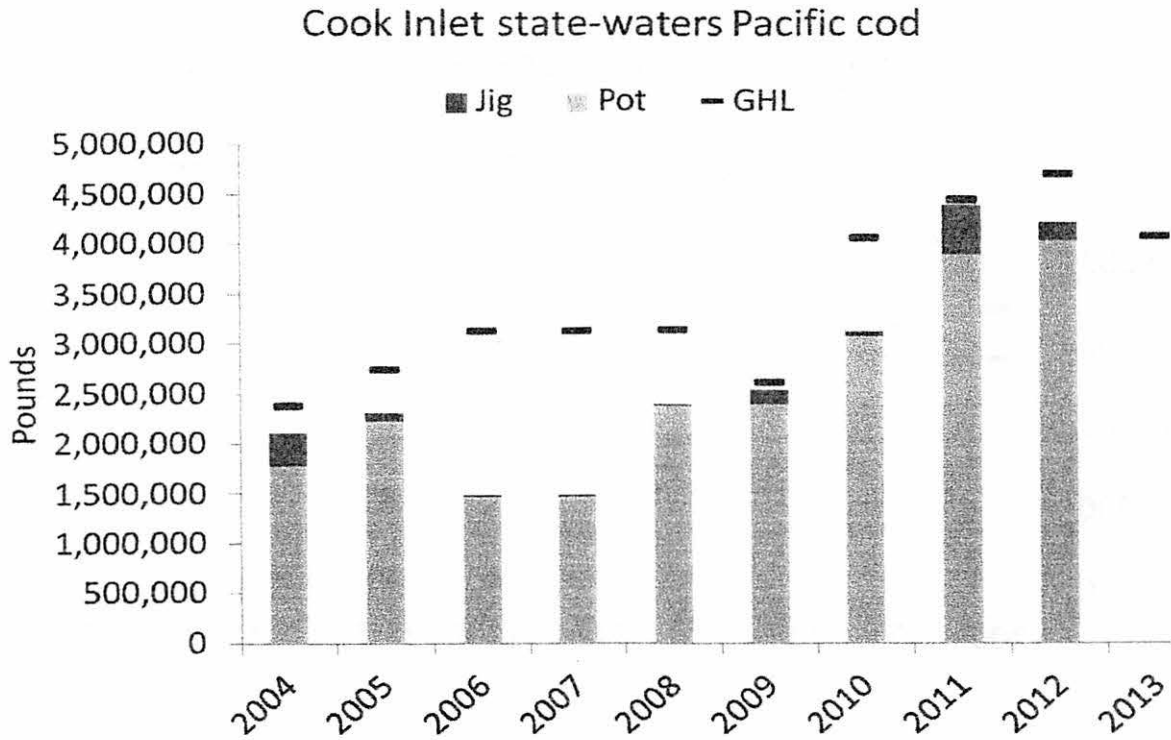


Figure 8

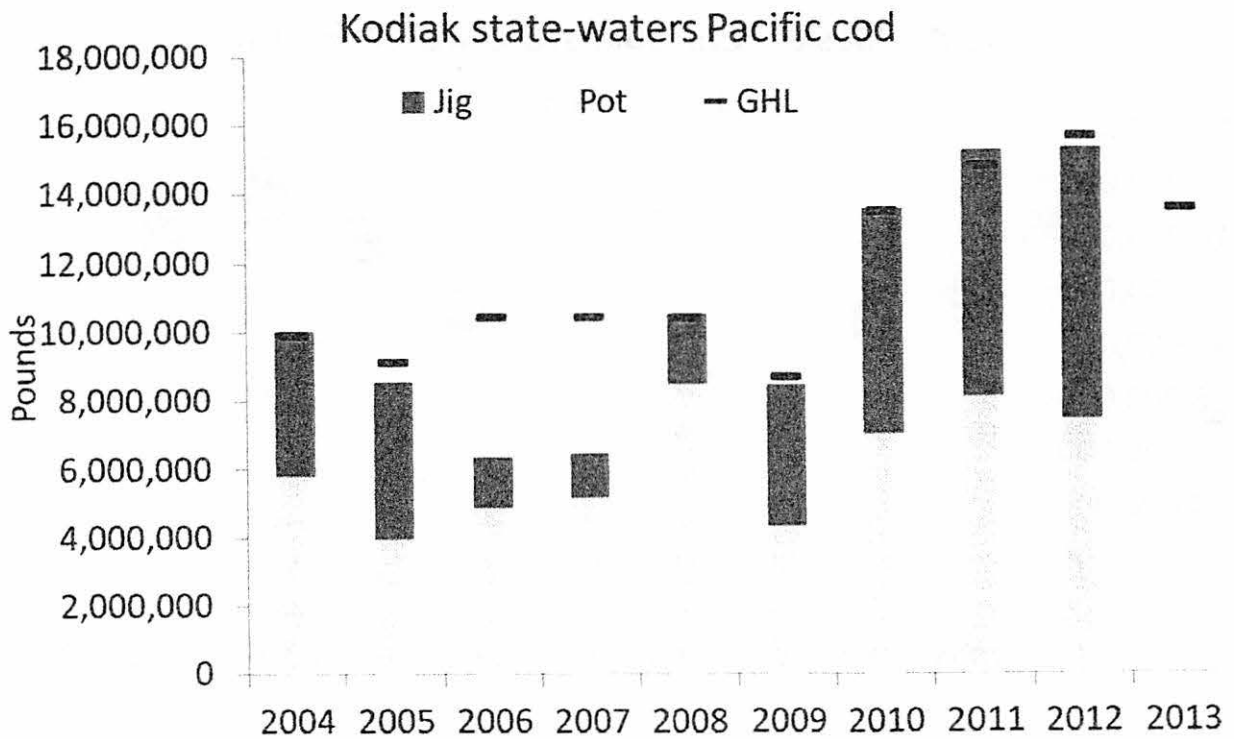


Figure 9

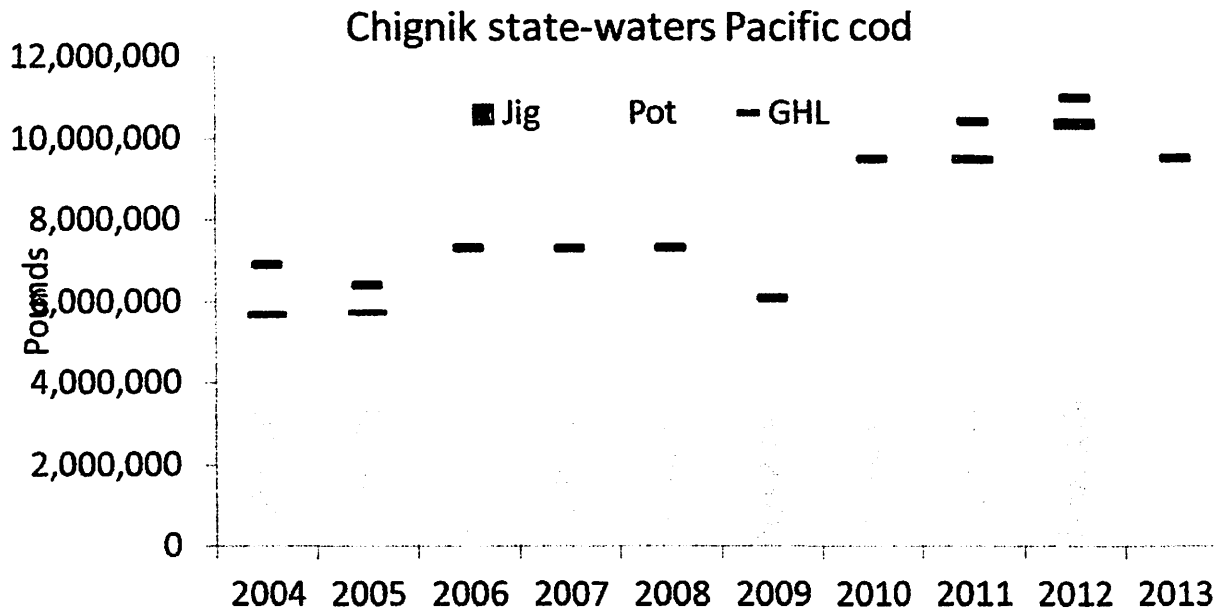


Figure 10

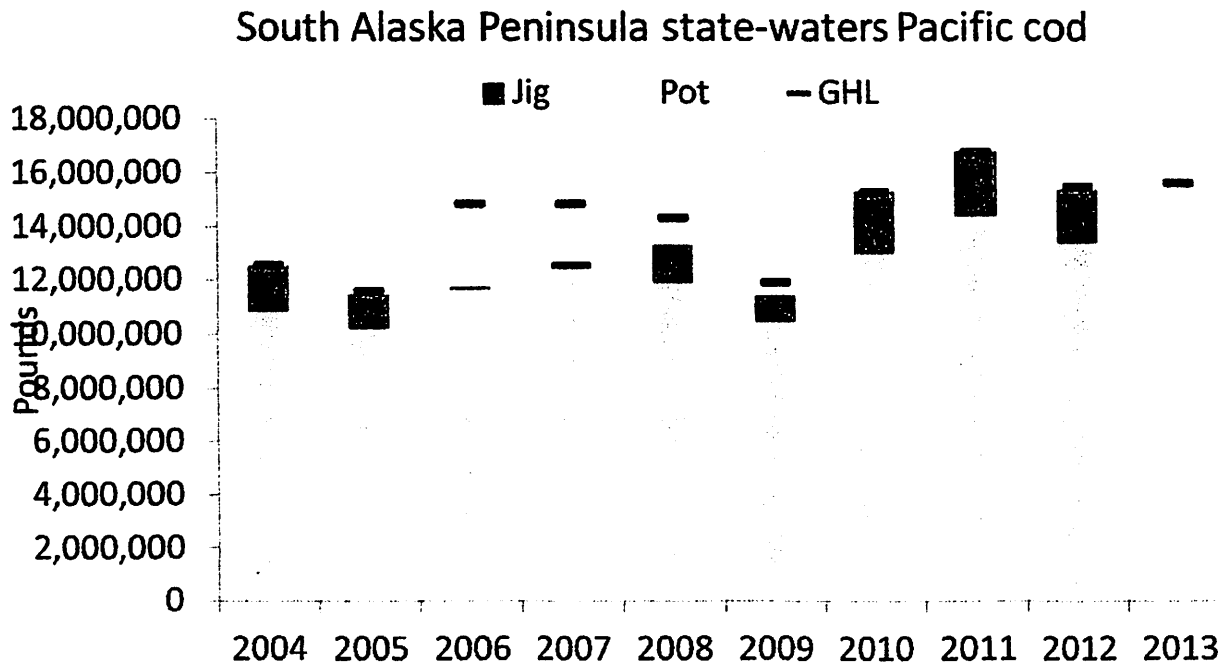




Figure 11

