



**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 Pacific cod.

Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab – The BSAI crab FMP establishes a State/Federal cooperative management regime that defers crab management to the State of Alaska with Federal oversight. The SSC establishes the overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) level. The State establishes the total allowable catch level (TAC) and manages the fisheries inseason. During the 2014/15 season, fisheries opened for golden king crab in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, blue king crab near St. Matthew Island, red king crab in Bristol Bay and Norton Sound, as well as snow (*opilio*) and Tanner (*bairdi*) crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. Ten percent of most TACs are allocated to the community development quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery and 7.5% of the Norton Sound summer fishery GHF is allocated to the CDQ fishery.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab – The 2014/15 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery closed by regulation on May 15, 2014. Fishing in the eastern area concluded in mid-November upon achievement of the TAC. Two vessels fished in the western area and all vessel operators have signed waivers to release the confidential harvest data. Total harvest in the western area was 2.68 million pounds (90% of the TAC). The 2015/16 season will open on August 1, 2015.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

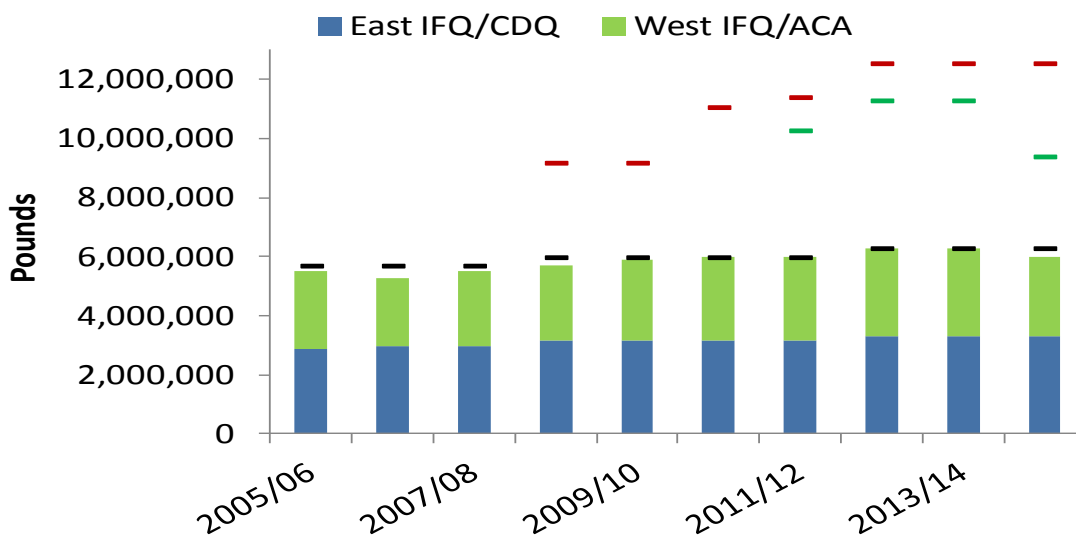


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest, TAC, ABC, and OFL by area, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

Bering Sea snow crab – The Bering Sea snow crab fishery closed May 15, 2015 in the Eastern Subdistrict (east of 166° W long.) and on May 31, 2015 in the Western Subdistrict. Total catch was 67.9 million pounds (100% of TAC). Seventy-one vessels participated and average catch was 182 crabs per pot (similar to last season).

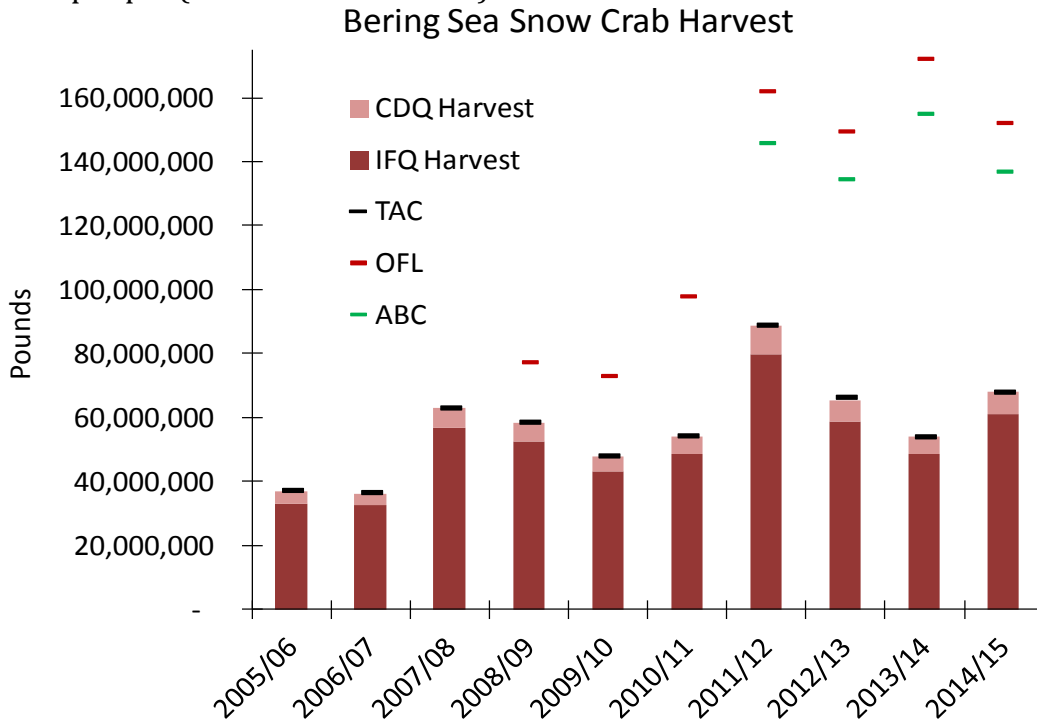


Figure 2. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC, ABC, and OFL, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

Norton Sound red king crab – The 2014/15 winter commercial fishery closed on April 30, 2015 with a total harvest of 98,330 pounds by 47 permit holders. This year's harvest is 50% above the previous record harvest of 62,000 pounds taken in 2013.

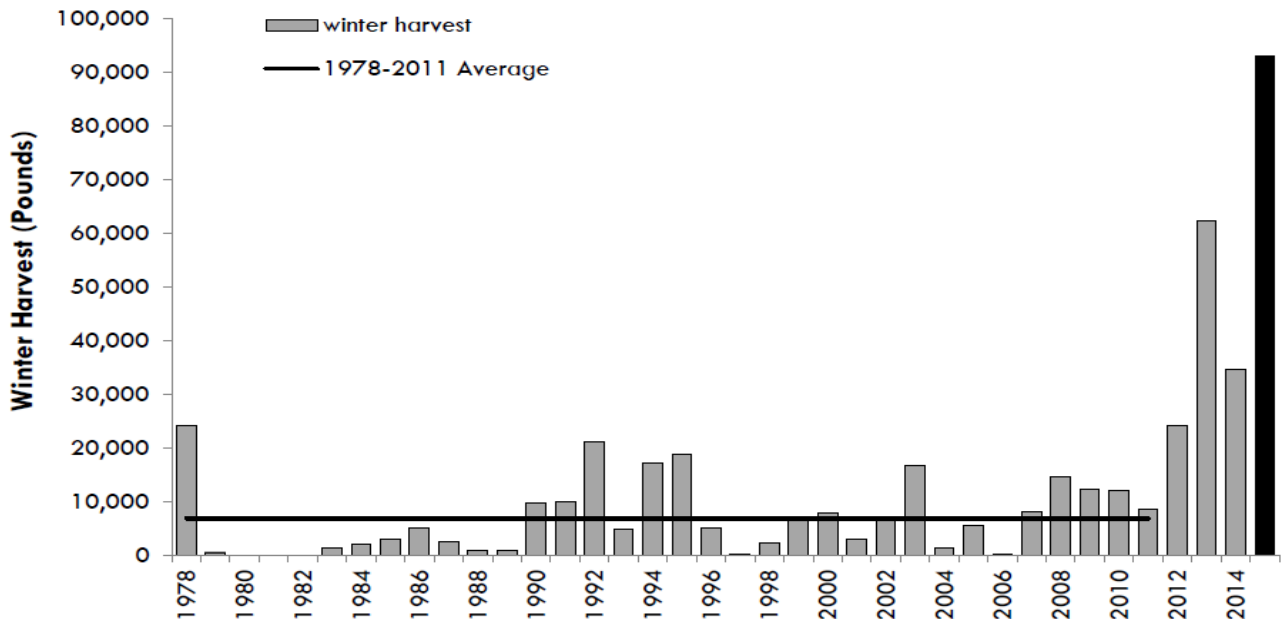


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial fishery harvest, 1978 – 2015.

The 2015 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access fishery is opened by emergency order on or after June 15, 2015. The CDQ fishery also opens by emergency order and may occur before, during, or after the open access fishery; fishery opening dates are contingent upon ice conditions and when buyers are ready to purchase crab. The summer fishery GHL is 394,600 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent of the quota (29,595 pounds) and the remaining 365,005 pounds is allocated to the open access fishery. The combined fishery-related mortality from the summer commercial GHL, winter commercial harvest, and subsistence harvest estimates (20,000 to 30,000 pounds) is expected to be 89 to 92 percent of the ABC.

Norton Sound open access and CDQ summer fishery

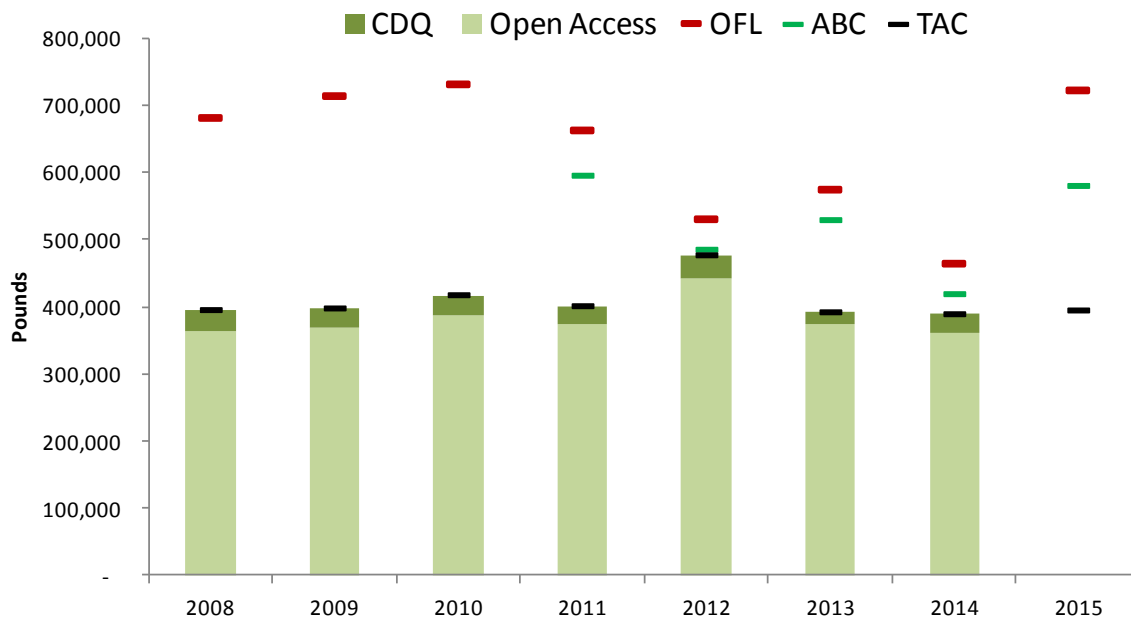


Figure 4. Norton Sound summer red king crab fishery harvest, TAC, ABC, and OFL, 2008 – 2015.

Pacific Cod – State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs as follows:

Pacific cod ABC	State Management Area	GHL as % of ABC	2015 GHL (Mlbs)	(mt)
EGOA	Prince William Sound	25%	1.559	707
CGOA	Chignik		11.829	5,366
	Kodiak	25%	16.898	7,665
	Cook Inlet		5.070	2,300
WGOA	South Alaska Peninsula	30%	25.597	11,611
Combined BS and AI	Dutch Harbor Subarea	3%	18.029	8,178
Combined BS and AI	Aleutian Islands west of 170° W	3%	18.029	8,178

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound – 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 pot fishery opened on February 17, 2015; no pot vessels have registered to fish. The jig fishery opened on March 3, 2015, total harvest by 2 jig vessels remains confidential. The state-waters longline season opens seven days following the closure of the initial federal season in the CGOA for the ≤50’ hook and line sector or concurrent with the individual fishing quota halibut season opening date, whichever occurs later. Eighty-five percent of the GHL is allocated to longline gear. The Prince William Sound state-waters season has an exclusive registration designation. Any GHL remaining on October 1 may become available to all legal gear types.

Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod

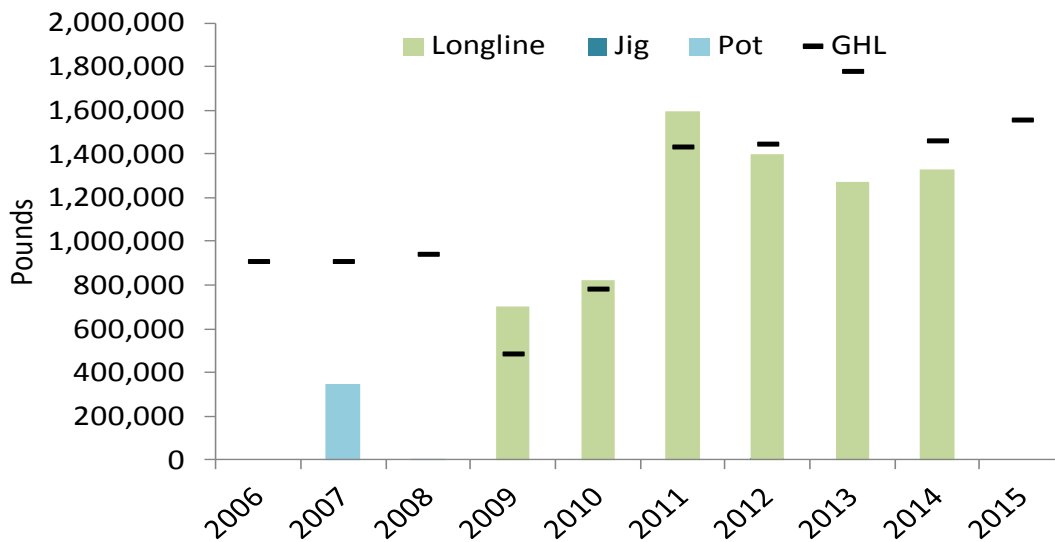


Figure 5. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

Cook Inlet – 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 set at 5.07 million pounds (2,300 mt) is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. Pot vessels larger than 58 feet are limited to 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1 and Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. The fishery opened to pot gear on February 17, 2015 and total harvest to-date by 11 pot vessels is 3.25 million pounds (1,475 mt). The fishery opened to jig gear on March 3, 2015 and total harvest to-date by six jig vessels is 70,000 pounds (32 mt). Any GHL remaining on September 1 may become available to all legal gear types.

Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod

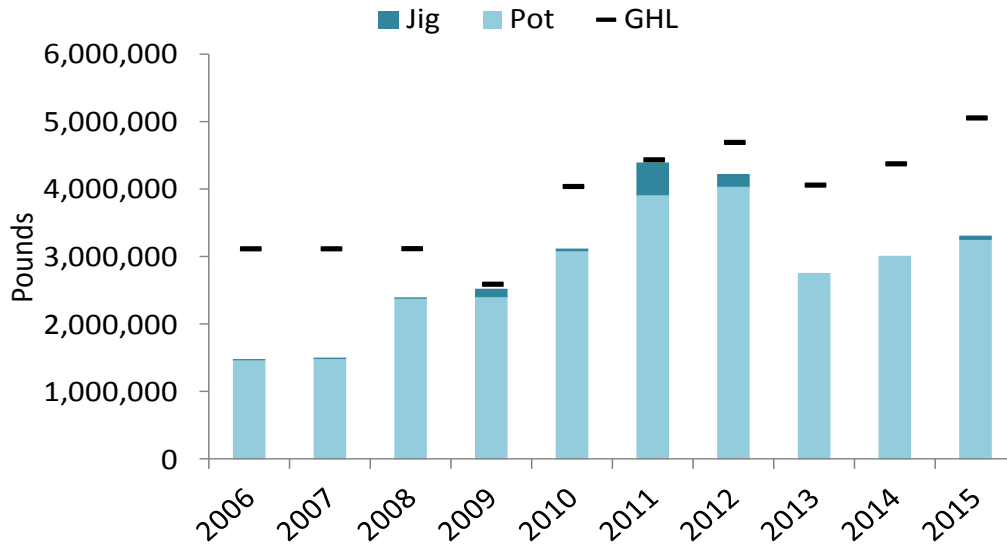


Figure 6. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

Westward Region Pacific Cod

Kodiak Pacific Cod – The GHL is allocated 50 percent to jig gear and 50 percent to pot gear. The state-waters pot fishery on March 24, 2015 with a total harvest of 8.3 million pounds (3,765 mt) by 30 vessels. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 4, 2015 and remains open. Total jig harvest to date by 93 vessels is 3.51 million pounds (1,594 mt). If the GHL has not been harvested upon closure of the federal/parallel CGOA pot gear sector B-season, the state-waters season may re-open to both pot and jig gear.

Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod

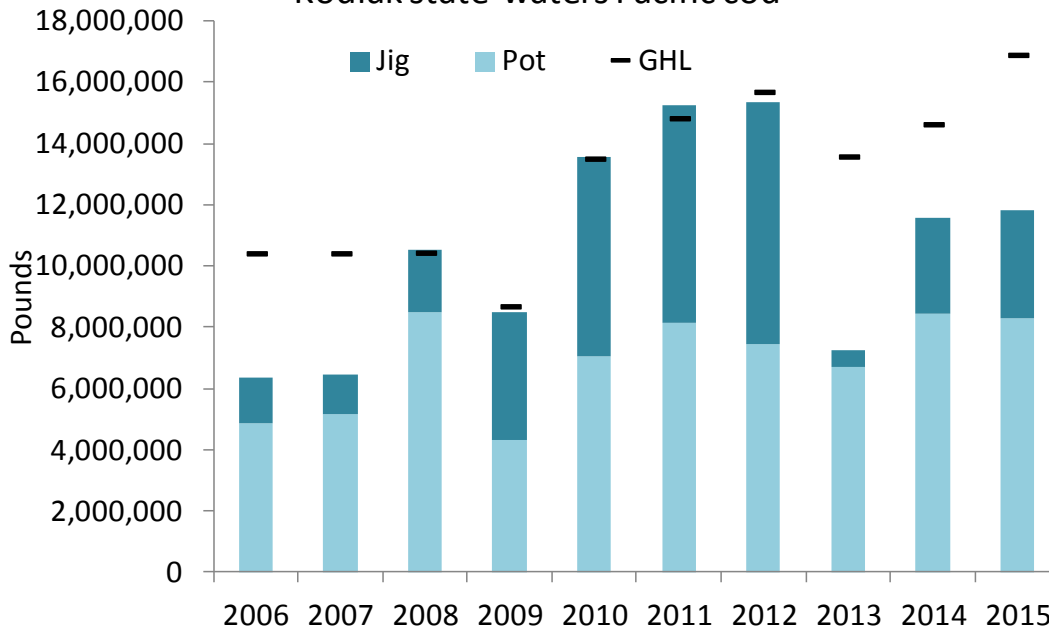


Figure 7. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

Chignik Pacific Cod – The GHL is allocated 90 percent to pot vessels and 10 percent to jig vessels. Registration in Chignik is superexclusive for the state-waters Pacific cod season. The state-waters jig fishery in Chignik opened on March 15 and two vessels have registered to participate so harvest remains confidential. The state-waters pot season closed on March 23, 2015. Total harvest by 17 pot vessels was 10.25 million pounds (4,650 mt). The state-waters season may reopen to both pot and jig gear on August 15.

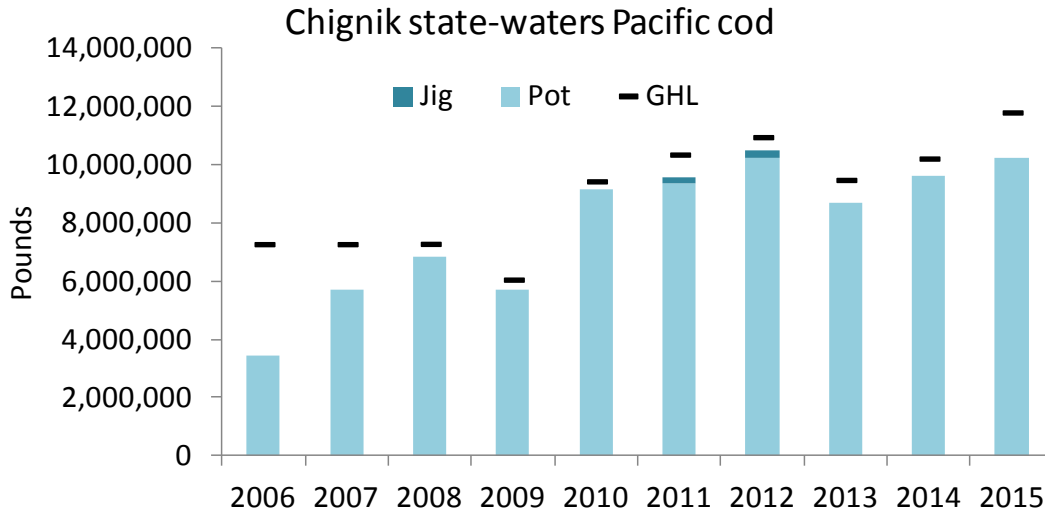


Figure 8. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod – Eighty-five percent of the South Alaska Peninsula GHL is allocated to pot vessels. The area has a 58-foot vessel length limit and an exclusive registration designation. The state-waters pot season closed on March 31, 2015. Forty-two pot vessels harvested a total of 21.64 million pounds (9,816 mt). The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 18 and to date, 33 vessels have harvested a total of 1.5 million pounds (680 mt). The state-waters fishery may reopen to both pot and jig gear after the federal/parallel WGOA pot sector B-season closure.

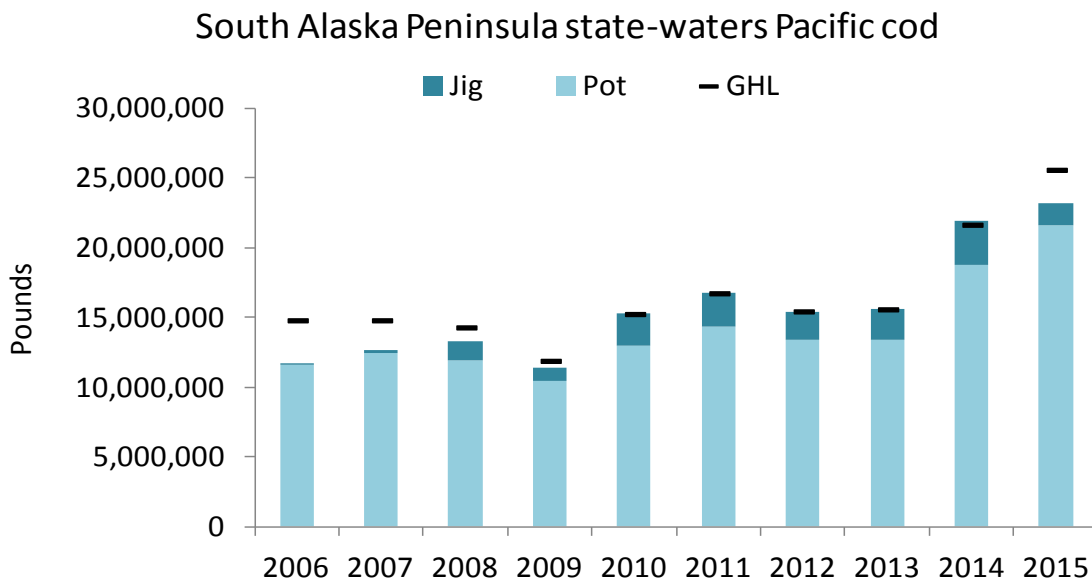


Figure 9. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod – The GHL is apportioned 70 percent in the A-season (12.6 million pounds or 5,725 mt) and 30 percent for the B-season (5.4 million pounds or 2,450 mt). The A-season opened January 1 and three vessels participated. Total harvest remains confidential given the number of processors. Unharvested A-season GHL may be rolled over to the B-season, except that the B-season GHL may not exceed 70 percent of the total GHL. The B-season opens on June 10 with the maximum allowable GHL of 12.6 million pounds (5,725 mt).

Alaska Board of Fisheries – 2015/2016 meeting cycle

Due to the overlap in timing of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery, proposals for Pacific cod were moved from the Alaska Peninsula / Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands / Chignik Finfish meeting (February 23 to March 16, 2016) to the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting (November 30 to December 9, 2015).

The deadline for GOA pollock proposals for the Statewide Finfish meeting (March 8 to 12, 2016) was extended until **September 4, 2015**.

The deadline for Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) for out-of-cycle proposals is **August 21, 2015**. The Board will consider whether or not to accept an ACR at their annual Work Session (October 21 to 22, 2015). The policy for changing Board agenda can be found at 5 AAC 39.999.