

Agenda Item: B-2



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL APRIL 2001

Fisheries managed under delegated authority of the State of Alaska since the last council meeting: salmon, crab, and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery

(FIGURE 1) The 2001 winter troll fisheries began October 11, 2000 and continue through April 14, 2001 or until 45,000 chinook salmon are caught. Preliminary harvest data indicates approximately 16,200 chinook have been harvested to date, with approximately 10% of those being of Alaska hatchery origin. In addition, approximately 16% of the chinook caught since January 1, 2001 have been of Alaska hatchery origin.

The recent 5-year average catch-to-date is 16,450 chinook.

Bering Sea *C. Opilio* Fishery

(FIGURE 2) The 2001 Bering Sea snow crab (*C. opilio*) fishery opened by regulation at noon on January 15 and closed by emergency order at 11:59 p.m. on February 14. A total of 207 vessels, including 7 catcher processors participated in the 2001 fishery. Due to a price dispute, catcher vessels remained in port until 4:00 p.m. on February 1, and agreed to wait 48 hours or until 4:00 p.m. on February 3, before setting pots. Based on the inseason reports through February 12, it appeared the 25.3 million pound Guideline

Harvest Level (GHL) would be reached by the closure. However, due to the weather outlook, which called for storm and hurricane force winds on the fishing grounds during the period immediately after the closure, many vessels completed fishing operations and headed for port a full 12 hours before the closure. As a result, catch projections based on reports received after the fishery closure indicated the total harvest would fall short of the GHL. Preliminary processor reports indicate a harvest of 23,162,000 pounds; or about 92% of the GHL. Based on an exvessel price of \$1.55 per pound, the estimated 2001 snow crab fishery value is \$35.9 million. This compares to an overall fishery value in excess of \$55 million in 2000.

(FIGURE 3) The Community Development Quota (CDQ) snow crab fishery preliminary data indicate a catch of 1,865,372 pounds. This was within about 5,000 pounds of their allocation, and the fishery was worth about \$2.8 million.

Weather conditions in the Bering Sea throughout the 2001 fishery were extremely harsh. A number of storms, some generating hurricane force winds, combined with some of the largest tides of the year to produce extremely dangerous sea conditions. A number of vessels had wheelhouse windows blown out and other structural damaged caused by large waves. Remarkably, no vessels or lives were lost during the 2001 fishery.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

(FIGURE 4) In the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery waters west of 174° W long are open. There are currently eight boats fishing and they are landing 50,000 to 150,000 pounds per week. Total catch to date is 1.7 million pounds from a 2.7 million pound GHL. No closure date is projected at this time. The Pribilof District golden king crab fishery is also underway with six vessels participating. Approximately 75,000 pounds have been landed from a 150,000-pound GHL. The fishery may close in mid-April.

Central Region Pacific Cod

(FIGURE 5) The State managed Pacific cod fishery in the Cook Inlet Management Area opened on March 5, which was 24 hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The 2001

GHL for the area is about 1.9 million pounds. Catches to date have reached approximately 350,000 pounds by nine vessels. In Prince William Sound (PWS) the GHL is 2.6 million pounds. While it is still very early, the season is off to a slow start because the weather has not been good for transiting between PWS and Seward (the only port now paying Pcod prices acceptable to local fishermen) and Pcod fishing in the PWS parallel fishery wasn't particularly good. Also, the primary player in the PWS fishery lost his boat at Gore Pt. enroute from the Kodiak Tanner crab fishery. Last year the fishery supported about 13 fishermen.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

Kodiak

(FIGURE 7) The 2001 Kodiak Area GHL for state-managed Pacific cod is 10.6 million pounds. This is 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. Vessels over 58 feet can take no more than 25% of the guideline with pot gear prior to September 1. The fishery opened on March 11, seven days after the closure of the Central GOA to cod fishing.

The 2001 fishery has taken 1.2 million pounds through April 7. Jig gear accounts for approximately 31,000 pounds of that catch with the remainder harvested by pots. There are currently 79 vessels registered to fish.

Chignik

The 2001 Chignik area GHL is 6.0 million pounds for state-managed Pacific cod. This is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The season opened on March 11, seven days after the closure of the Central GOA to cod fishing.

The 2001 fishery has had only minor participation to date because of a lack of processing capability in the area. A floating processor is expected to arrive in Chignik approximately April 9 and the local fleet is gearing up in anticipation.

South Alaska Peninsula

(FIGURE 8) The 2001 South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL is 13.4 million pounds for state-managed Pacific cod. This is 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The fishery opened March 6, seven days after the closure of the Western GOA to cod fishing. The 2001 fishery did not take off at the opening because the fleet remained inactive while negotiating the price. The strike broke March 18. Since that time there has been 3.3 million pounds landed, all of which was taken with pot gear. There are 63 vessels currently registered to fish.

Southeast Rockfish

In Southeast Alaska, the remaining directed winter Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) fishery (February 15-March 14) landed 76,793 round pounds. Approximately 61% of those pounds were landed from EYAK, 5% from NSEI and 34% from SSEI. The CSEO and SSEO management areas closed to the directed DSR fishery prior to February 15. The directed lingcod fishery is closed during this time period.

Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Winter Troll Fishery, 2001

(October 11, 2000 through April 14, 2001)

Troll Year	March 18 - 24 (Week 12)						
	Total Catch to Date	Total Catch	Permits Fished	Landings	Catch per Landing	Average Weight (lbs)	Average Price/lb (from fish tickets)
2001	16,206	752	58	74	10.2	16.9	\$ 4.26
2000	21,771	696	58	70	9.9	14.9	\$ 4.41
5-year average 1996-2000	16,450	966	51	72	11.4	16.1	\$ 3.45

Note: Data for troll year 2001 is preliminary

(Through April 2, 2001)

FIGURE 2

ALASKA C. OPILIO CATCHES, 1990-2001

Open Access Only

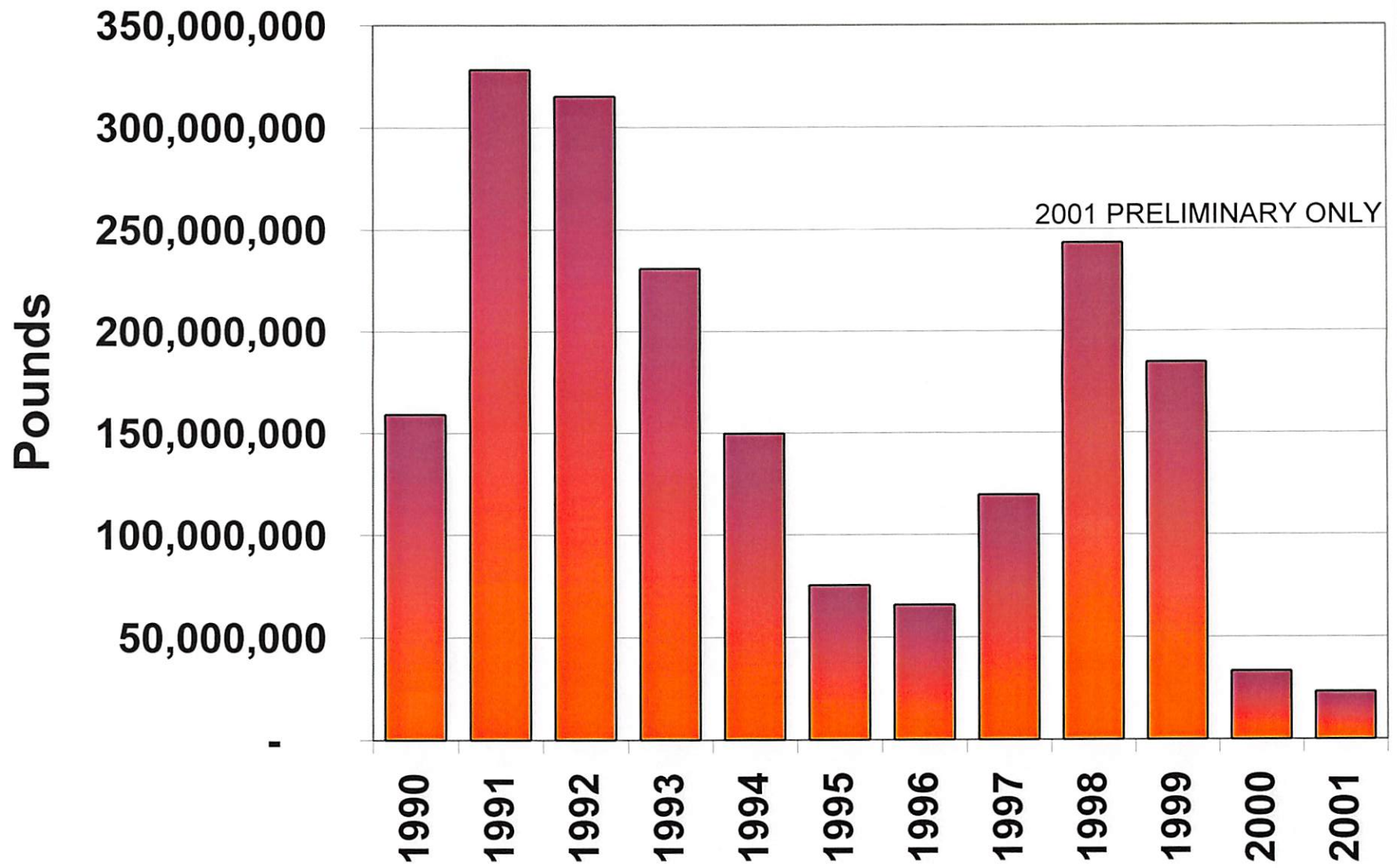


FIGURE 3

ALASKA C. OPILIO CATCHES, 1998-2001 CDQ Only

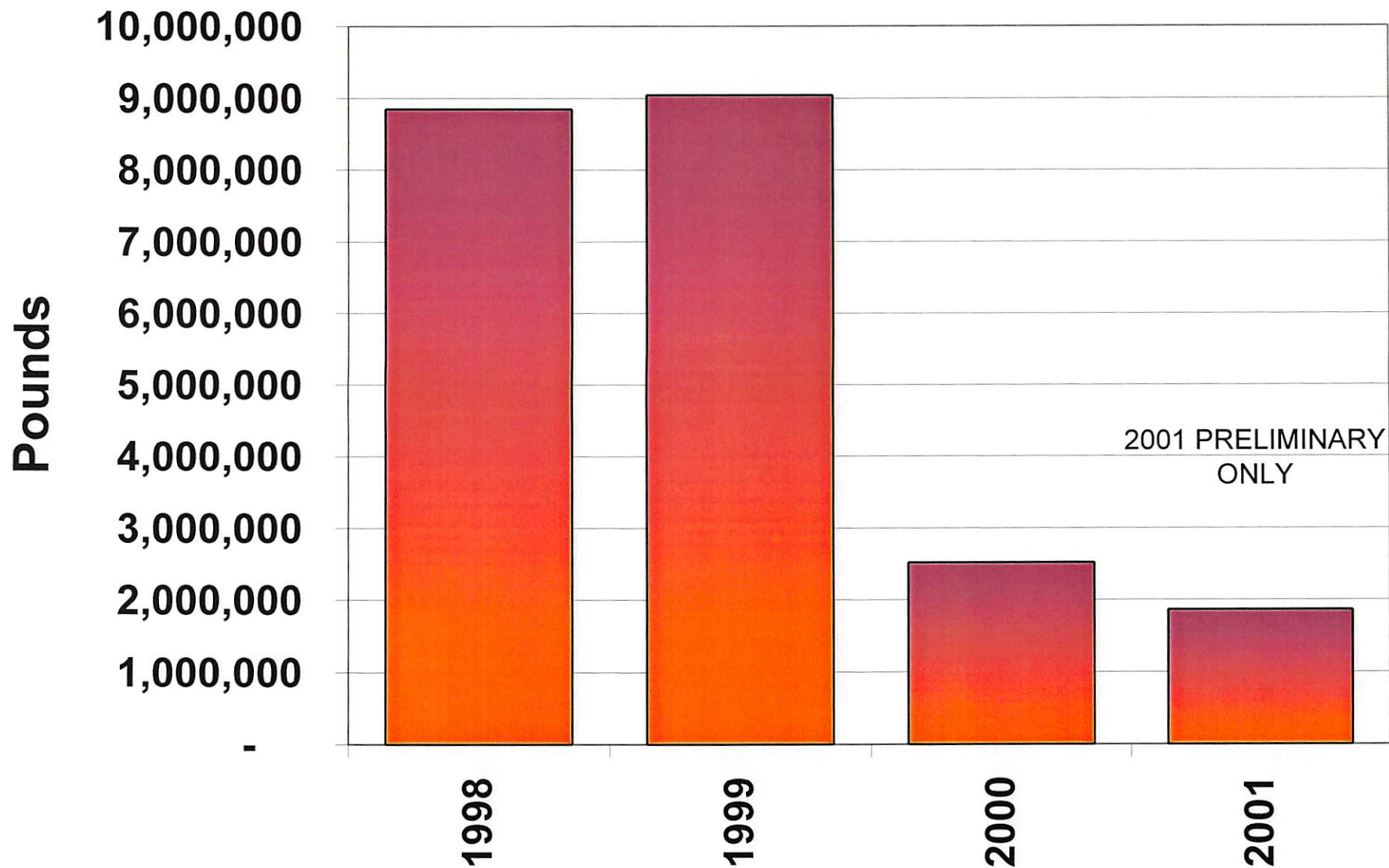
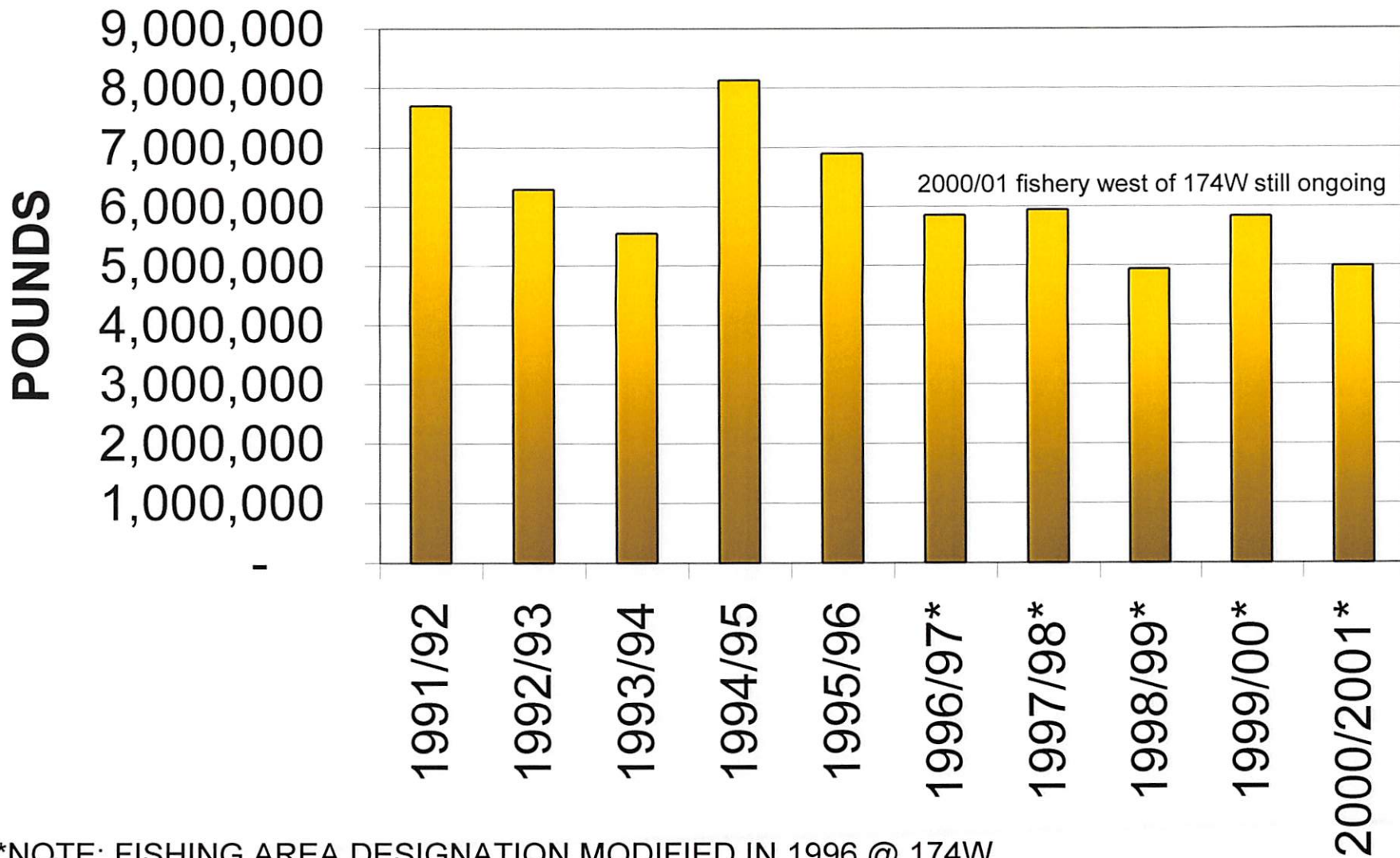


FIGURE 4

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST



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

Figure 5. Central Region State Water Pacific Cod Fisheries through 31 Mar 2001.

This summary has been 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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl	0	0	0	2	confidential	confidential
Longline	34	62	267,644	11	23	129,903
Pots	6	98	314,098	3	confidential	confidential
Totals	40	160	581,742	16	36	156,707
Status	Closed			Closed		
Federal seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Central Gulf	Jan 1 - Mar 4			Jan 1 - Mar 4		
*Longline closed noon 2/26	*Remaining gear closed noon 3/4/01					

*Parallel season concurrent with federal waters of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

Totals include Pacific Cod bycatch to other directed fisheries e.g. halibut & sablefish.

Pacific Cod STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS*

GHL (lb)	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
		1.92 mil.			2.62 mil.	
Gear						
Hand troll	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pots	9	77	349,928	0	0	0
Totals	9	77	349,928	0	0	0
State seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Jigs	noon 3/5-			noon 3/11-		
Status	Open			Open		
State seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Pots	noon 3/5-			noon 3/11-		
Status	Open			Open		

The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive area regulation 24 hours after the Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS.

Includes any directed fishery harvest.

FIGURE 6.

2001 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD CATCH BY WEEK WESTWARD REGION

UPDATED: 4/03/01

		KODIAK				CHIGNIK				SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA			
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS		Total 79		Pot 32	Jig 47	Total 7		Pot 6	Jig 1	Total 63		Pot 59	Jig 4
2001 GHL:		10.6 Million				6.0 Million				13.4 Million			
ALLOCATIONS: Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1.		50% Jigs, 50% Pots				85% Pots, 15% Jigs				85% Pots, 15% Jigs			
DATES:		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
		Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/11 to 3/17		21	342,468	8	4,488	Confidential		0	0	Confidential		0	0
3/18 to 3/24		36	419,983	9	3,887	Confidential		0	0	14	452,733	0	0
3/25 to 3/31		37	458,936	21	23,045	Confidential		0	0	70	2,871,738	0	0
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH		94	1,221,387	38	31,420	X	X	0	0	70	3,324,471	0	0
		(Total combined)		1,252,807		(Total combined)		X		(Total combined)		3,324,471	
Accumulative Catch		Harvest by pot vessels ≤ 58'		947,303		Harvest by pot vessels > 58'		274,085					

Vessels greater than 58' restricted to 2,650,000 pounds before Sept. 1

X = CONFIDENTIAL DATA (catch combined with following week)

FIGURE 7

Kodiak State Managed Pcod Catches, 2001

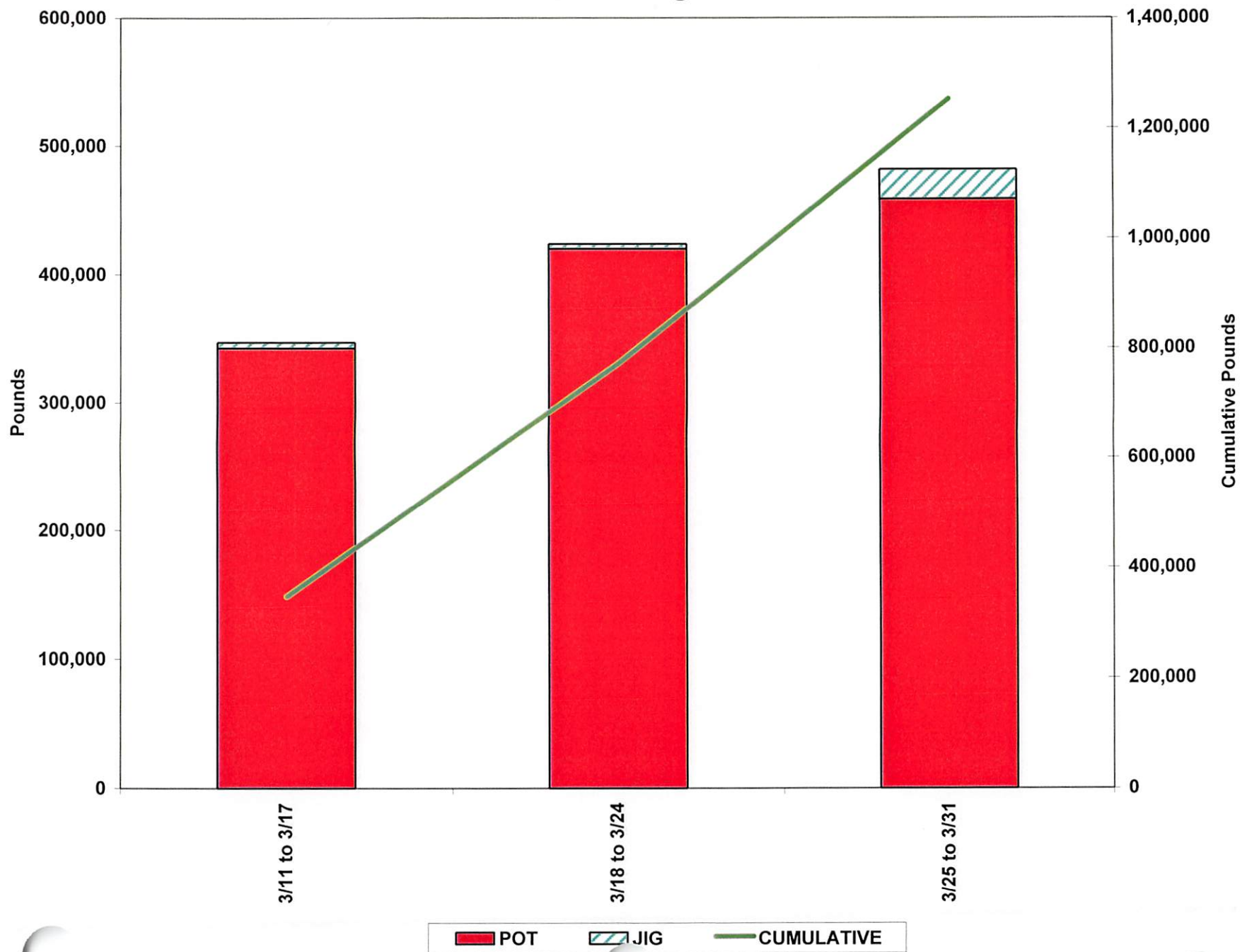


FIGURE 8

AK Peninsula State Managed Pcod Catches, 2001

