

Agenda Item: "B-5"



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
JUNE 2006**

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

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Winter Troll fishery, which began on October 11, 2005, closed April 21, 2006. The fishery reached the 45,000 chinook salmon cap in place just prior to the scheduled April 30, 2006 closure date. Final estimated winter catch is about 48,900 fish. Prices during the winter fishery reached record highs, and averaged about \$5.81 per pound, or about \$2.12 per pound above the most recent 10-year average winter troll price. Spring troll fisheries are now in progress. Spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, except for the Cross Sound fishery, which targets pink and chum salmon.

Spring fisheries occur along chinook migration paths or near hatcheries and release sites. Each spring troll area is managed individually and fishing periods are opened in season, by emergency order.

Weekly fishing time may be extended or reduced, based on inseason assessment of coded-wire tag (CWT) data and historic catch timing for each individual area. Fishing schedules are announced by news release. Preliminary estimates at this time indicate a harvest of approximately 6,000 chinook salmon during the spring season.

Aleutian Islands Golden king crab (FIGURE 2)

The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery closed on May 15, 2006. The fishery opened by regulation on August 15, 2005. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery is divided at 174° West longitude, with the eastern portion assigned a TAC of 3.0 million pounds (2.7 million to IFQ, 0.3 million to CDQ) while the western portion was assigned a TAC of 2.7 million pounds (2.43 million IFQ and 0.27 to the newly created Adak Community Allocation (ACA)). Harvest for the IFQ portion of the TAC totaled approximately 5.1 million pounds.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURES 3)

The season for snow crab in Bering Sea opened on October 15, 2005. The Bering Sea snow crab TAC was set at 33.47 million pounds for the IFQ portion of the catch. Catches through the last week in May totaled approximately 33.2 million pounds, or 99 percent of the TAC. The fishery closed in the Eastern Subdistrict on May 15, 2006, and in the Western Subdistrict on May 31, 2006.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Prince William Sound

The 2006 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season open at noon on March 7, 2006, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL has been set at 910,730 pounds, which is calculated as 10 percent of the

federal Eastern Gulf ABC. There has been no effort to date, probably a result of cooler temperatures, widely dispersed stocks of fish, and very high fuel prices.

Cook Inlet

The GHL for the 2006 state waters season is 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. In Cook Inlet, the state waters fishery opened on March 1, 2006 which was twenty-four hours after the close of the federal fishery. Approximately 1.5 million pounds of Pacific cod has been harvested by the pot sector to date. By regulation, the fishing season for vessels longer than 58 feet in overall length with pot gear shall close when 25 percent of the guideline harvest level has been taken by those vessels. That occurred on May 1, 2006. No jig effort has occurred this season.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

The Kodiak fishery opened on March 7, 2006 which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. 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. The fishery closed to pot gear on March 29, 2006. The catch for that sector is about 4.9 million pounds. Harvest by the jig fleet continues, with catches now at about 1.1 million pounds.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)

The Chignik area Pacific cod season opened by regulation on March 1, 2006. 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. In the Chignik District, approximately 3.4 million pounds have been harvested by the pot fleet. There has been no harvest from the jig fleet to date.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

The Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula opened on March 9, 2006. This was seven days after the closure of the federal fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska. 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. Pot harvest in this fishery reached approximately 8.1 million pounds, and the fishery closed to pot gear at 6 pm on March 29, 2006, when it was anticipated that the allocation would be realized. However, poor weather slowed effort in the later part of the season, and when it was determined that they had not reached their allocation, the department reopened the season for all vessels using pot gear on April 4, 2006. The fishery remained open for three days, with a final harvest for the season of about 11.6 million pounds. The jig fleet has harvested about 73,000 pounds of their 2.2 million pound allocation to date. Jig fishermen reported early in the season that fish were not concentrated, making them more difficult to catch and costly to pursue.

Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W longitude will reopen on June 10, 2006. The remaining portion of the 2006 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 4,349,592 pounds. During the March 2006 state-waters Pacific cod season 8,481,180 pounds or 66.1% of the GHL was harvested. The remaining 33.9% of the GHL will be available for harvest with this reopening.

The state-waters fishery is open to jig, pot, longline and non-pelagic trawl gear types. However, trawl and longline gear may not be used from May 1 through September 15, unless operating in the 60 feet and under vessel size limitation areas near Adak Island. In Sitkin Sound, near Adak Island, the vessel size limit is in effect for year-round for all gear types.

All vessels, including tenders, must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the state-waters fishery. Vessels operators previously registered for the parallel groundfish fishery must complete a specific registration for this state-waters fishery.

Registration for the Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fishery is non-exclusive.

Each vessel operator registered for the fishery will be required to report harvest information to the department each day. Reports for the prior 24 hours of fishing must be received by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor by 10:00 AM daily. Inseason reporting intervals may be increased inseason depending on catch rate and effort levels. Any change to inseason reporting intervals will be announced by subsequent news release.

All Steller sea lion closures that are in effect during the parallel fishery will also apply in the state-waters fishery as will the Aleutian Islands coral garden protection area closures announced by the department on March 16, 2006.

The daily harvest limit for each vessel is 150,000 pounds round weight, with a maximum of 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod onboard a vessel. All Pacific cod taken must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to the department, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state. A vessel operator may not have more processed fish onboard than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets during the Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Bycatch limits that apply in the parallel groundfish fishery will apply in the state-waters fishery. As currently written, the management plan for the state waters fishery sunsets December 31, 2007. The Alaska Board of Fisheries will be revisiting the Aleutian Islands fishery during their October 2006 work session.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 10)

Participation in the directed Pacific cod fishery has subsided in the waters of the Northern Southeast Inside area (NSEI) with 280,000 landed. Overall, approximately 300,000 lbs of Pacific cod has been landed in the directed and bycatch fisheries for NSEI and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) combined.

The Chatham Strait or NSEI quota for sablefish will be the same as last year, 2,053,000 pounds. The number of eligible permits this year was decreased by one, therefore the equal quota share increased slightly over last year to 19,550 pounds (105 permits).

The Clarence Strait or SSEI sablefish longline fishery opened June 1, 2006. The quota is 696,000 (32 permits combined), making each fishermen eligible for 21,750 pounds under the equal quota share system. The season closes at noon on August 15, 2006. The Clarence Strait sablefish season opens to pot fishermen on September 1, 2006, running through November 15, 2006.

Approximately 43,000 pounds of lingcod has been landed as longline bycatch (primarily IFQ) for the Southeast area. Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) was closed to longline bycatch on May 10, 2006 as the area allocation of 10,800 pounds was taken. The directed lingcod fishery and lingcod bycatch in the troll fishery opened on May 16, 2006. In the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, the lingcod fishery closed on May 26, 2006, when it was estimated that the total annual directed fishery quota for that section of 111,000 round pounds had been harvested.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NPFMC
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June 2006

SE Troll Chinook Salmon - 2006

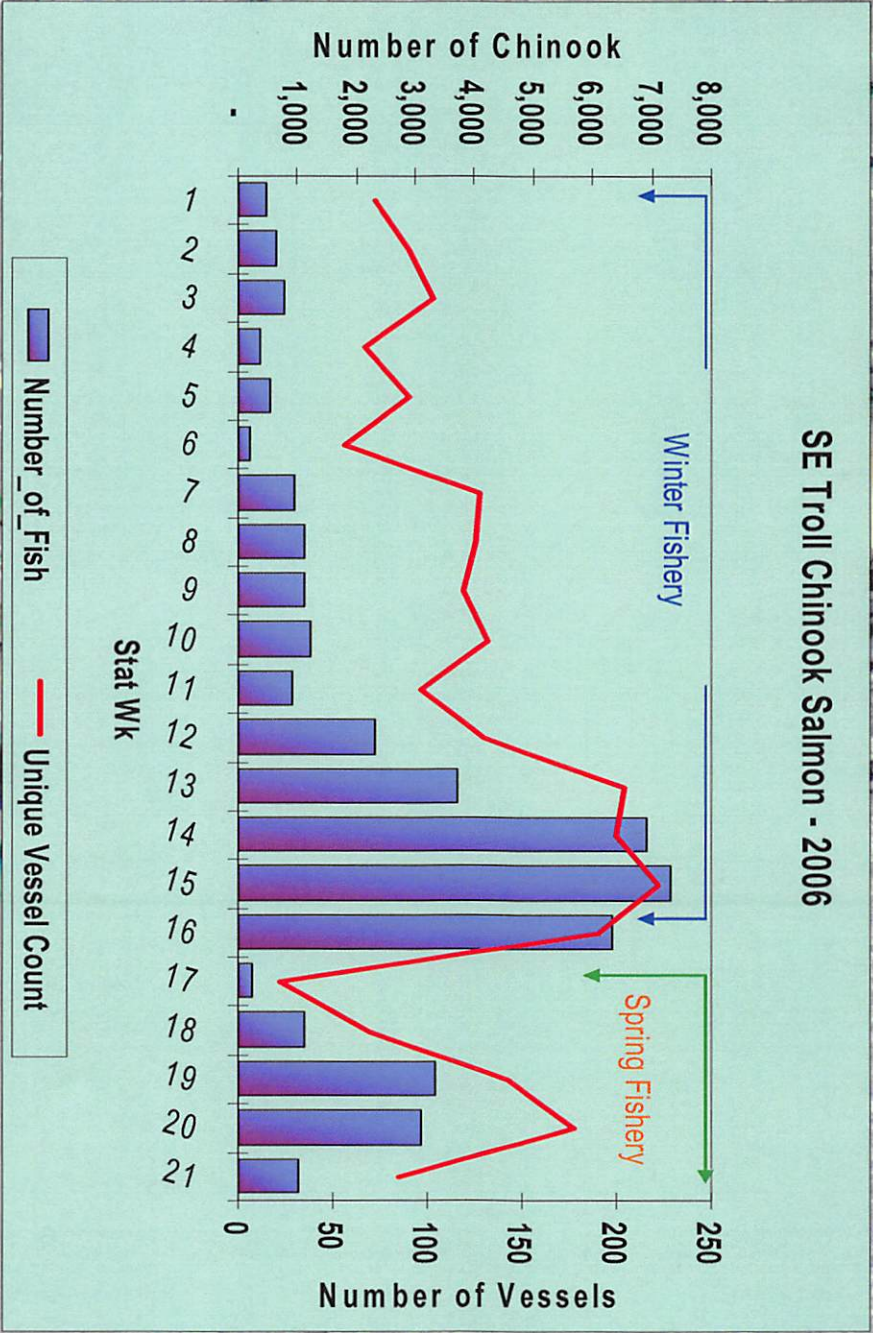


FIGURE 2.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVESTS

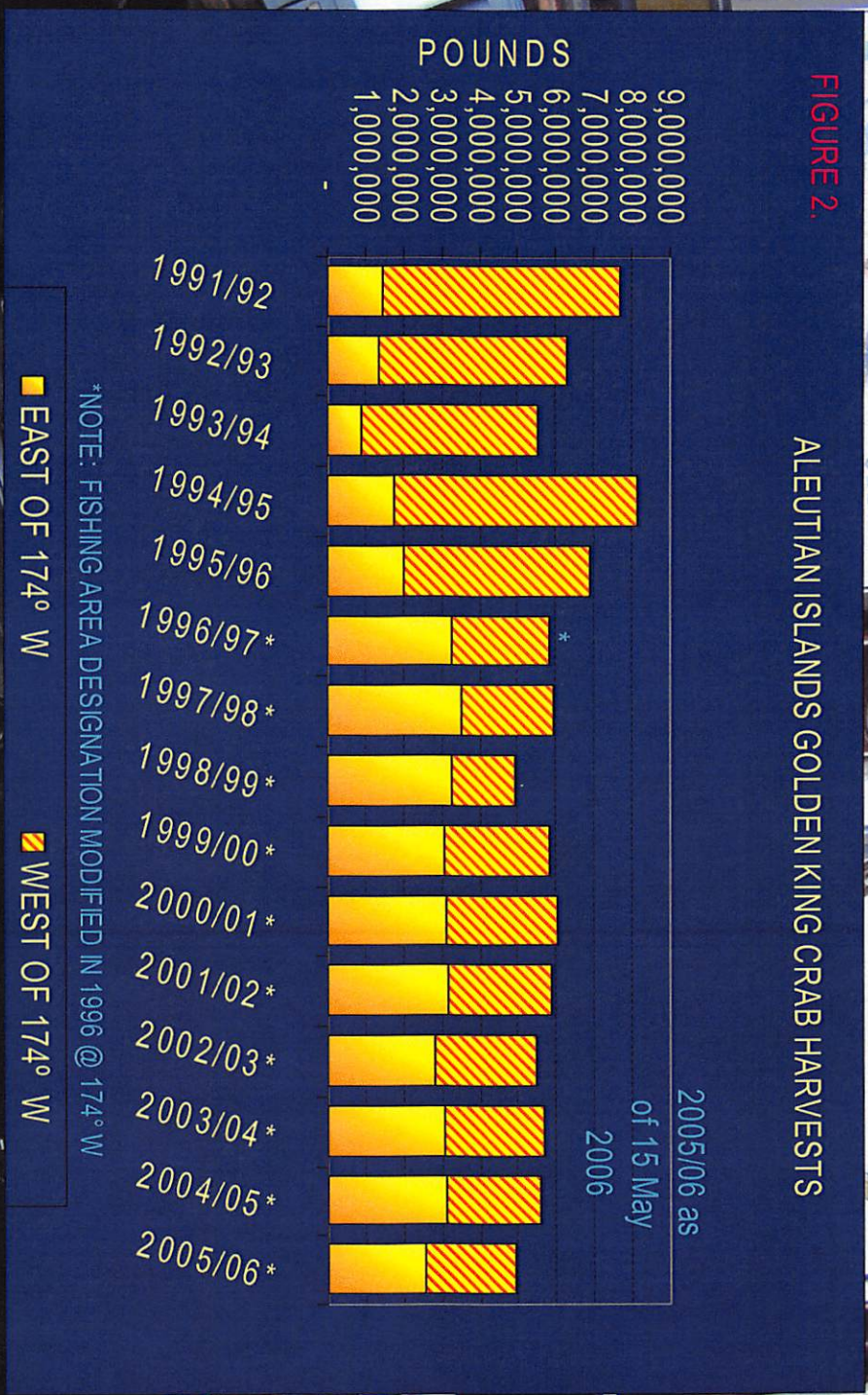


Figure 3.

Bering Sea *C. opilio* General Fishery Catches

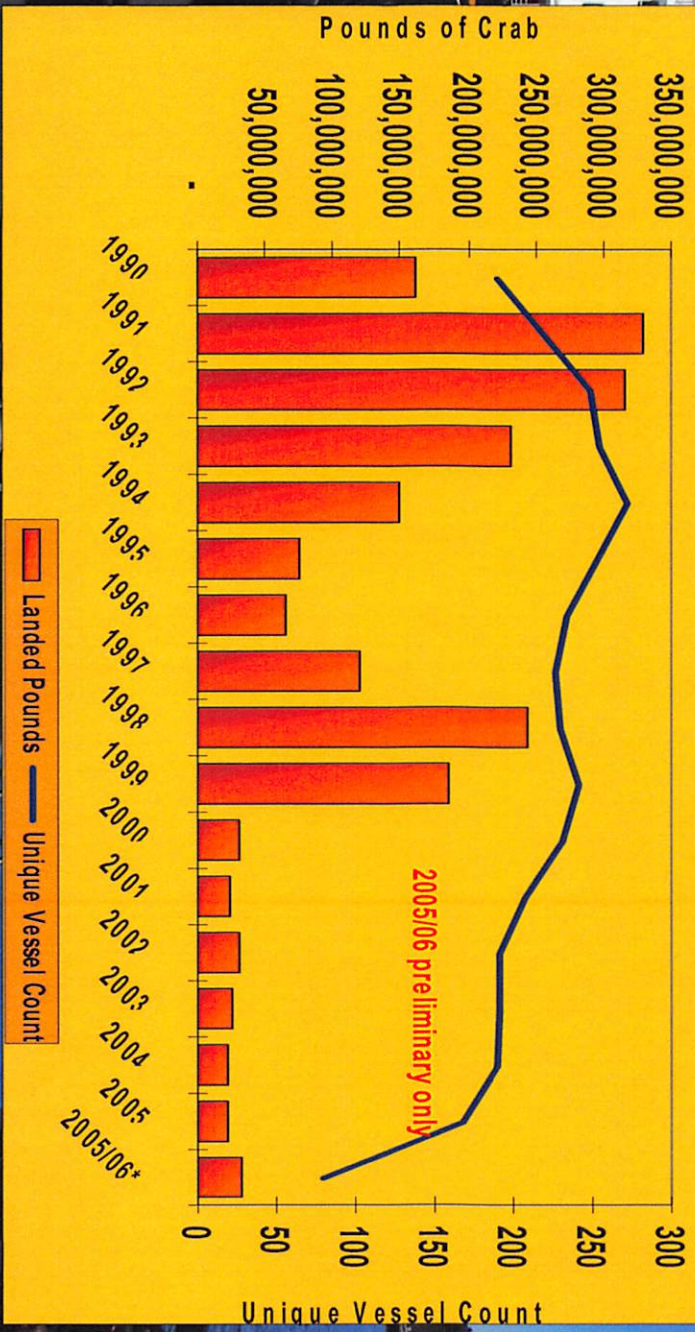


Figure 4.

Central Region Pacific cod Harvests, 0-3 miles

Censored where fewer than 4 fishermen participating

Pacific Cod

PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jigs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trawl	-	-	-	4	4	581
Longline	7	9	3,820	11	16	4,500
Pots	5	61	319,648	-	-	-
Totals	12	70	323,468	15	20	5,081
Status	Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons:	Directed Opened - Closed			Directed Opened - Closed		
Central Gulf	Jan 1 - noon Feb 28			Jan 1 - noon Feb 28		

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**

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
GHL (lb)		3,131,088			910,730	
Hand troll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jigs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pot Totals	11	148	1,472,045	-	-	-
State seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Jigs	noon March 1 -			noon March 7 -		
*Status	Open			Open		
Pots	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
	noon March 1 - noon May 1			noon March 7 -		
	Sept 1 -					
*Status	Closed			Open		

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



Figure 5.

2006 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK

UPDATED: 5/30/06



	KODIAK				CHIGNIK				SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA			
Vessel Registration	Total		Pot	Jig	Total		Pot	Jig	Total		Pot	Jig
Current	94		0	94	18		15	3	24		0	24
Overall	138		44	94	18		15	3	67		43	24
2006 GH L	10.43 Million Pounds				7.30 Million Pounds				14.80 Million Pounds			
ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GH L before Sept. 1. Jigs = 5.21 million, Pots = 5.21 million, >58' pots 2.60 before Sept.1				90% Pots, 10% Jigs Fishery opened 3/10/6 12:01am Pots = 6.57 million Jigs = .73 million				85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 12.58 million Jigs = 2.22 million			
Fishery opened 3/7	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
DATES:	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/1 to 3/4	Fishery Opens 3/7/06 at 12:00 Noon				5	42,316	0	0	Fishery opens 3/9/06 at 12:00 Noon			
3/5 to 3/11	13	186,773	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	13	193,531	0	0	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	0	0
3/12 to 3/18	60	1,527,414	15	38,376	16	208,294	0	0	96	3,091,616	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>
3/19 to 3/25	60	1,759,000	16	97,742	13	176,497	0	0	108	3,390,613	6	6,428
3/26 to 4/1	34	1,410,451	50	249,582	21	389,812	0	0	111	3,738,132	5	15,137
4/2 to 4/8	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	33	89,262	21	476,624	0	0	40	1,220,081	4	12,444
4/9 to 4/15	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	35	95,573	18	425,197	0	0	8	199,742	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>
4/16 to 4/22	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	40	62,098	25	474,123	0	0	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	7	16,668
4/23 to 4/29	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	36	94,543	27	441,633	0	0	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>
4/30 to 5/6	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	28	53,478	20	291,463	0	0	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	5	14,461
5/7 to 5/13	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	45	154,236	19	239,534	0	0	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>
5/14 to 5/20	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	49	166,006	5	80,497	0	0	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	5	7,079
5/21 to 5/27	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	<i>Closed 3/29</i>	38	105,769	No Effort	No Effort	No Effort	No Effort	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Closed 4/8</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Confidential</i>
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	167	4,883,638	385	1,206,665	203	3,439,521	0	0	363	11,640,184	32	72,217
	(Total combined)		6,090,303		(Total combined)		3,439,521		(Total combined)		11,712,401	

Figure 6.

Kodiak State Managed Pacific Cod, 2006

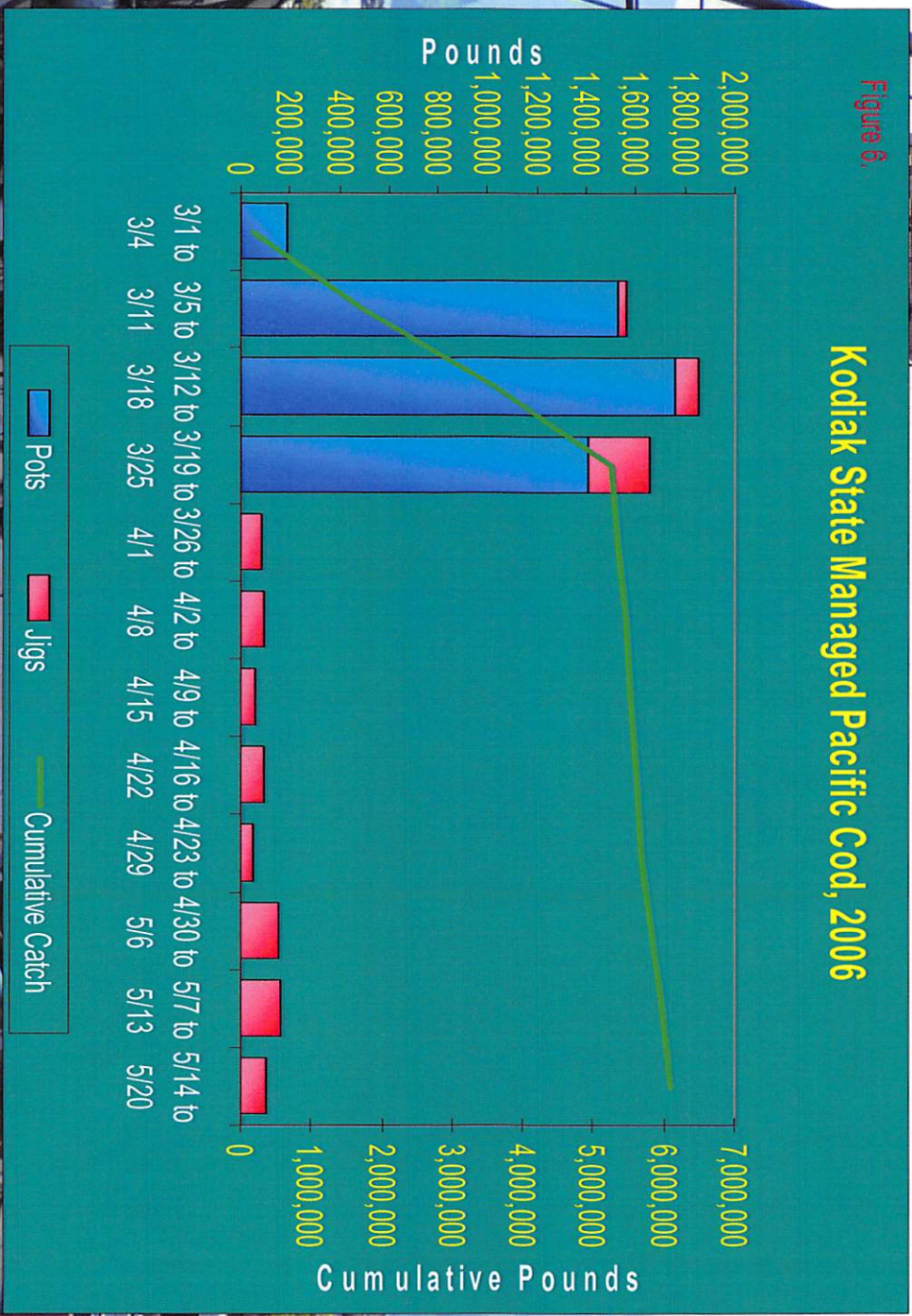


Figure 7.

Chignik State Managed Pacific Cod, 2006

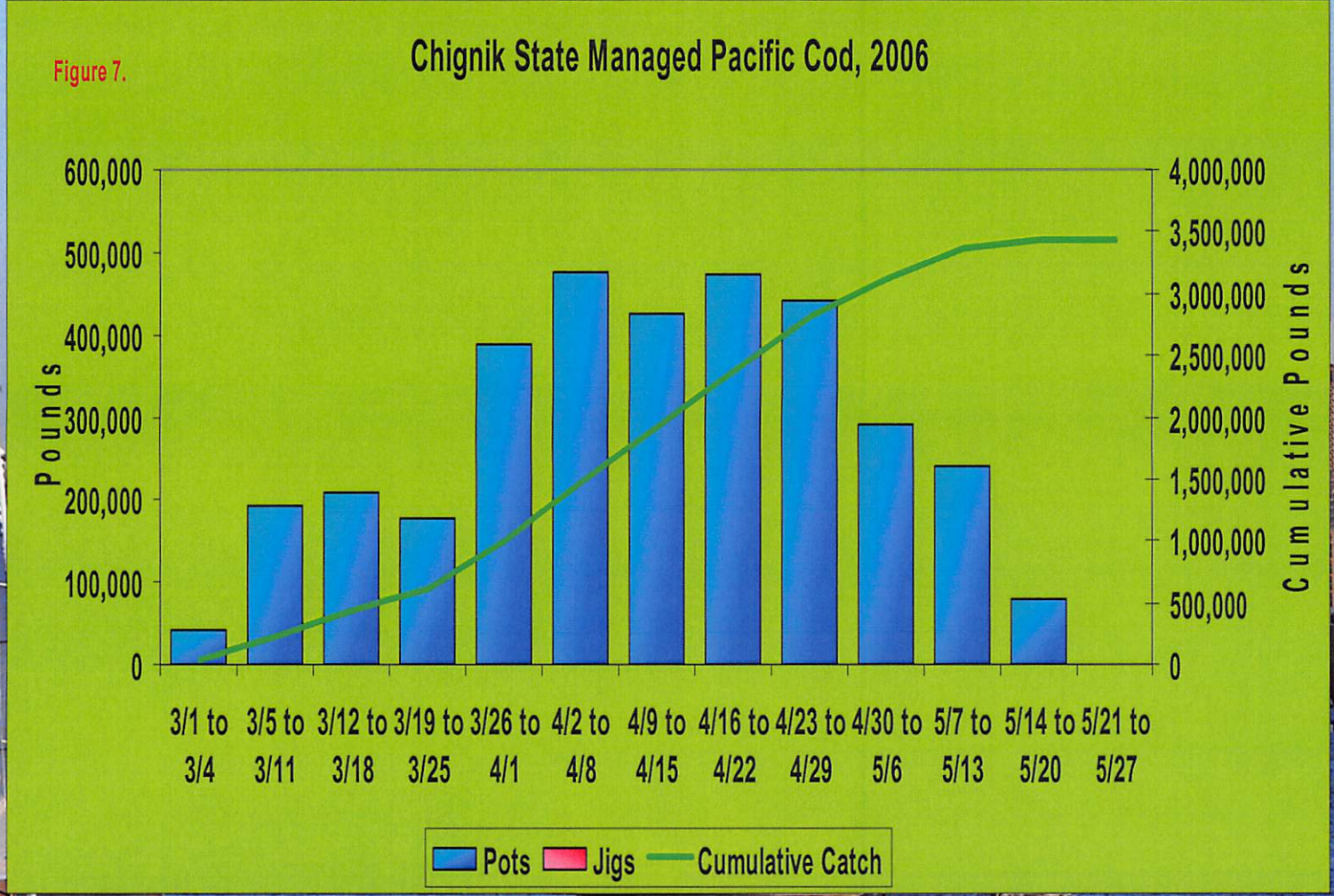
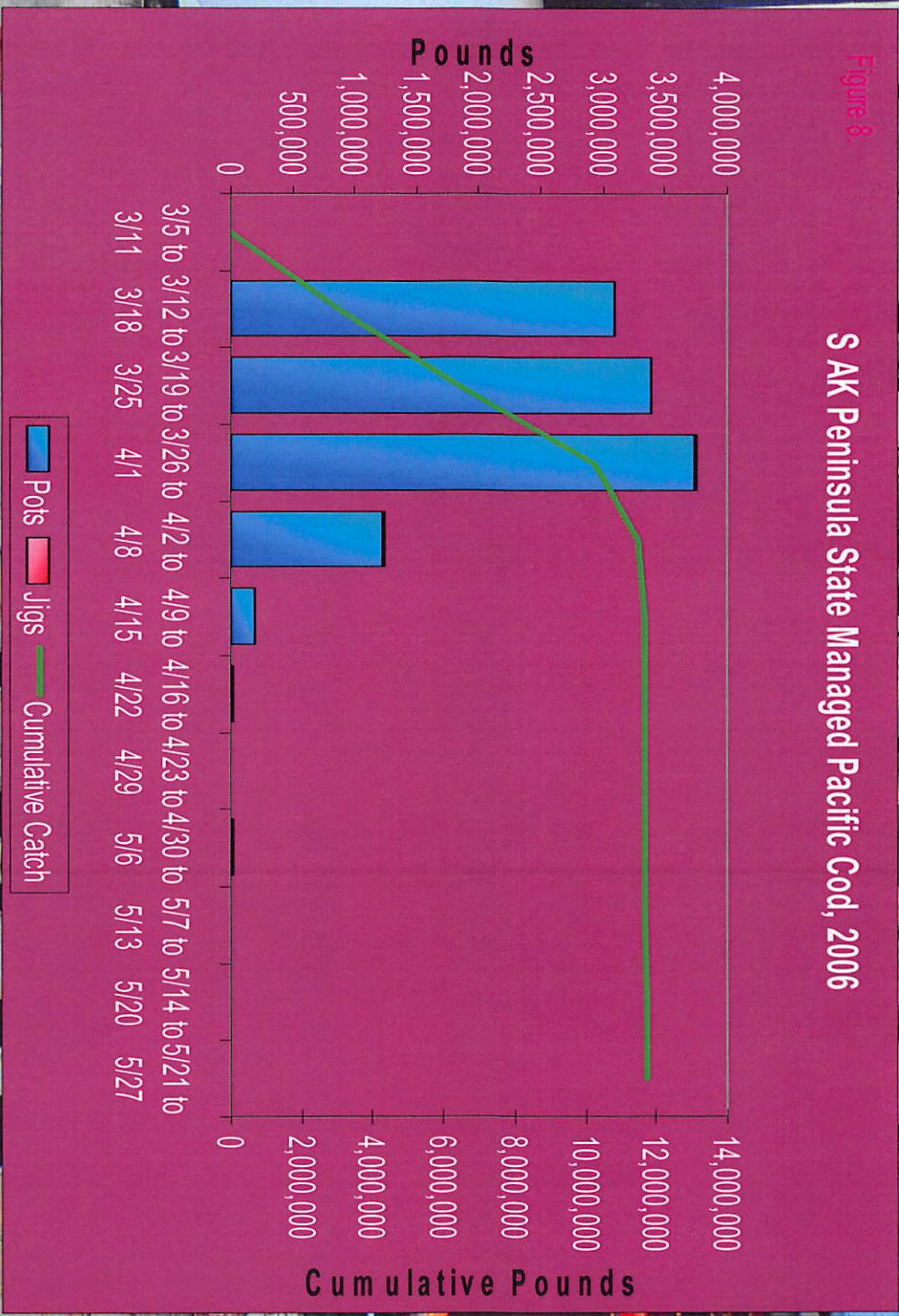

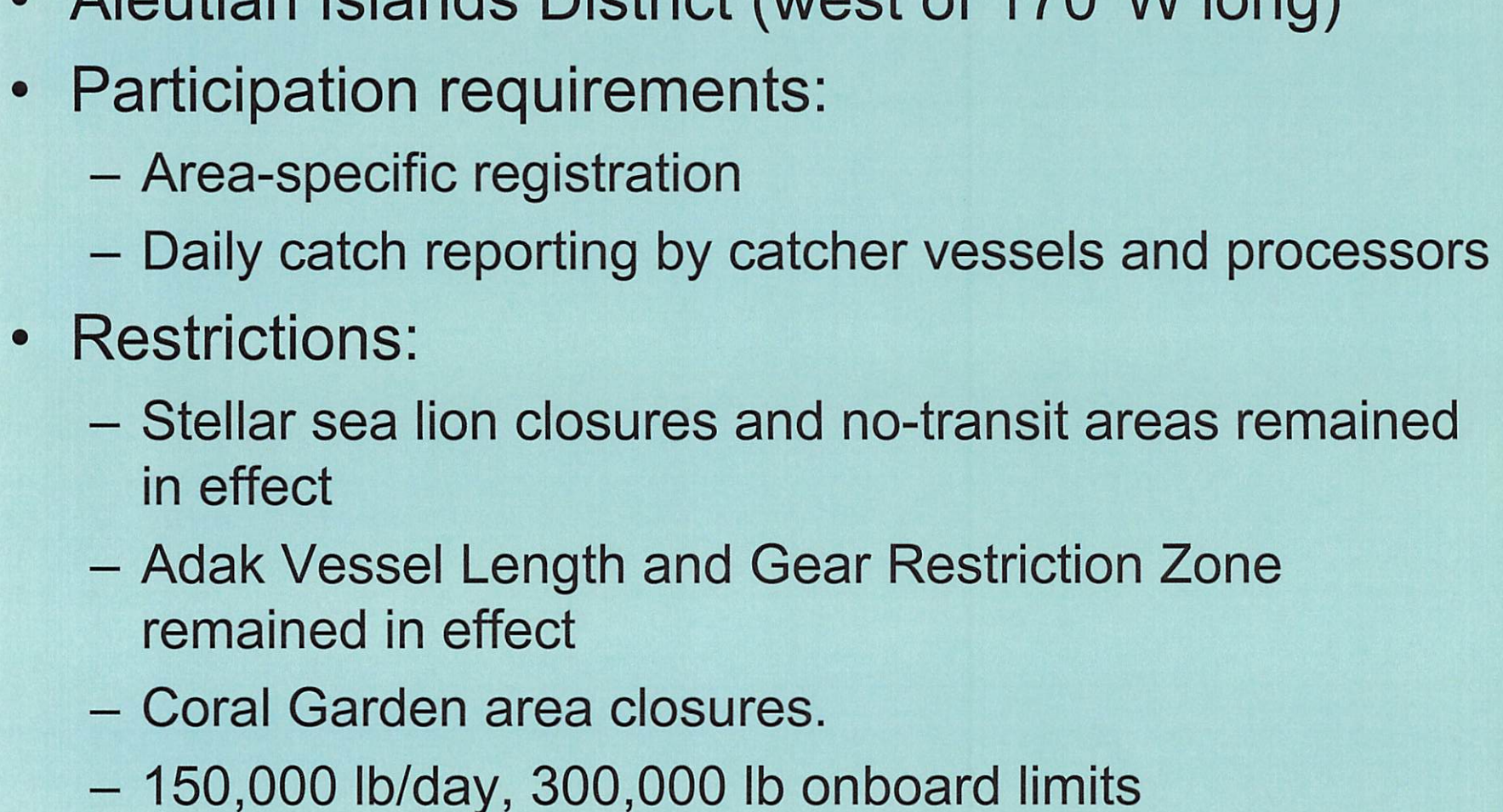


Figure 8
 S AK Peninsula State Managed Pacific Cod, 2006



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- Figure 9.
- Non exclusive fishery for Pacific cod
 - Aleutian Islands District (west of 170°W long)
 - Participation requirements:
 - Area-specific registration
 - Daily catch reporting by catcher vessels and processors
 - Restrictions:
 - Stellar sea lion closures and no-transit areas remained in effect
 - Adak Vessel Length and Gear Restriction Zone remained in effect
 - Coral Garden area closures.
 - 150,000 lb/day, 300,000 lb onboard limits
- 
- Map coordinates: 52°N, 53°N, 51°N, 179°E, 180°, 179°W, 178°W, 177°W, 176°W, 52°N.

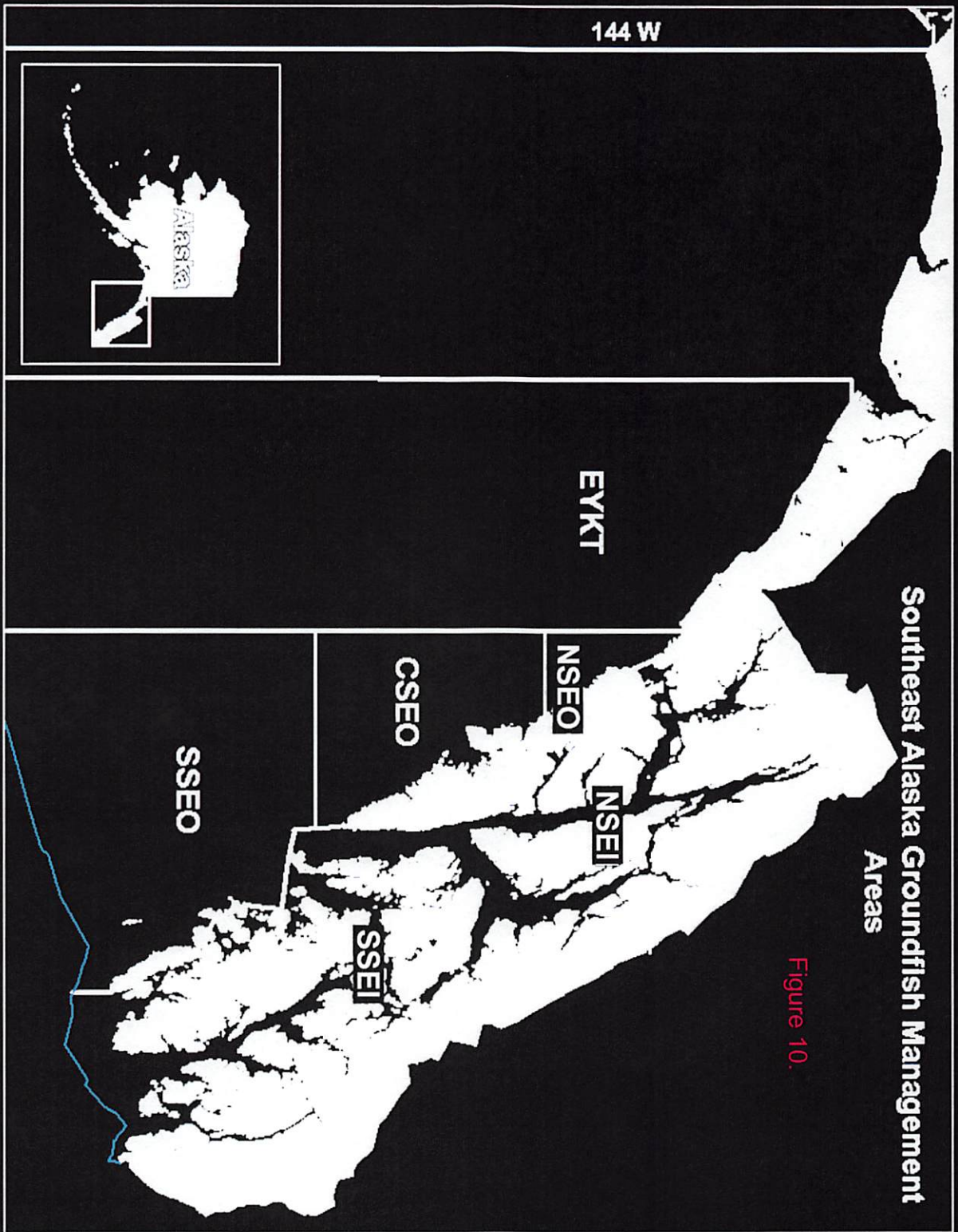


Figure 10.

end

