



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

Fisheries

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

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2021/22 Aleutian Islands (AI) commercial golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2021 for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2021 for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 5.93 million pounds and is apportioned east (EAG) and west (WAG) of 174° W longitude. For the 2021/22 fishing year the EAG TAC was 3.61 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.32 million pounds, a 10% decline overall from 2020/21. Ten percent of the EAG TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the WAG TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. The EAG closed by regulation on April 30, 2022 and the WAG closed by emergency order on May 23, 2022. In the eastern area, 100% of both the CDQ and IFQ was harvested by three vessels (Figure 1). In the western area ACA harvest is confidential and 91% of the IFQ in this area, approximately 1.9 million pounds was harvested.

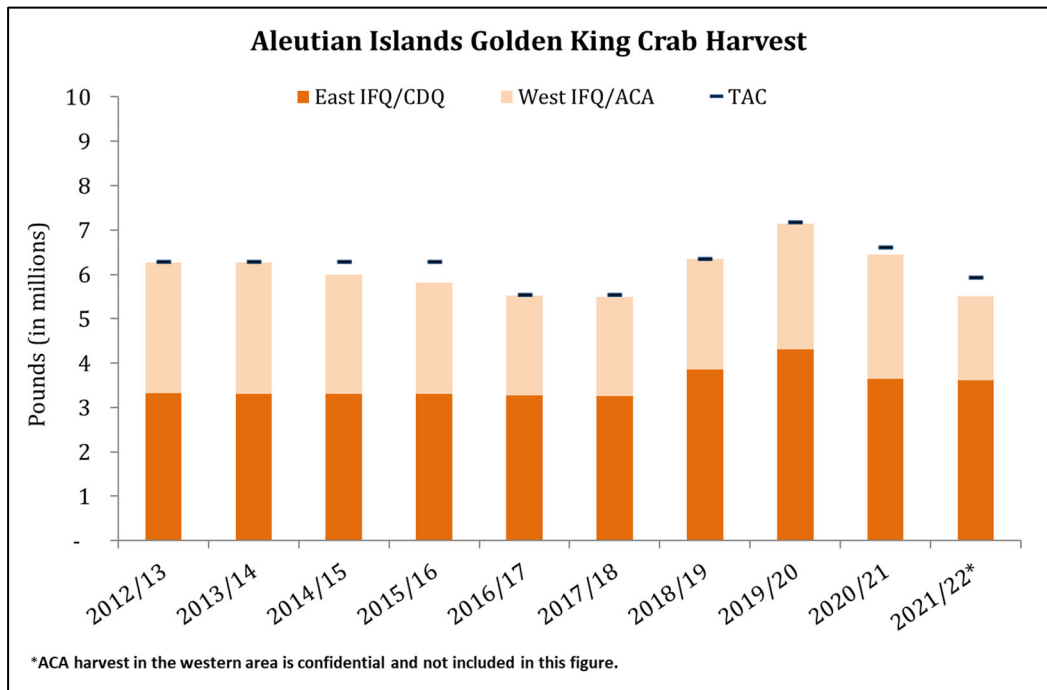


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2021, and closed on May 15, 2022, in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and on May 31, 2022, in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2021/22 snow crab TAC was 5,600,000 pounds, an 88% reduction from the 2020/21 TAC of 45 million pounds. Ten percent of the Bering Sea snow crab TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Forty-two vessels harvested 4.9 million pounds in the IFQ fishery, 99% of the IFQ TAC, and five vessels have harvested 560,000 pounds in the CDQ fishery, 100% of the CDQ TAC (Figure 2).

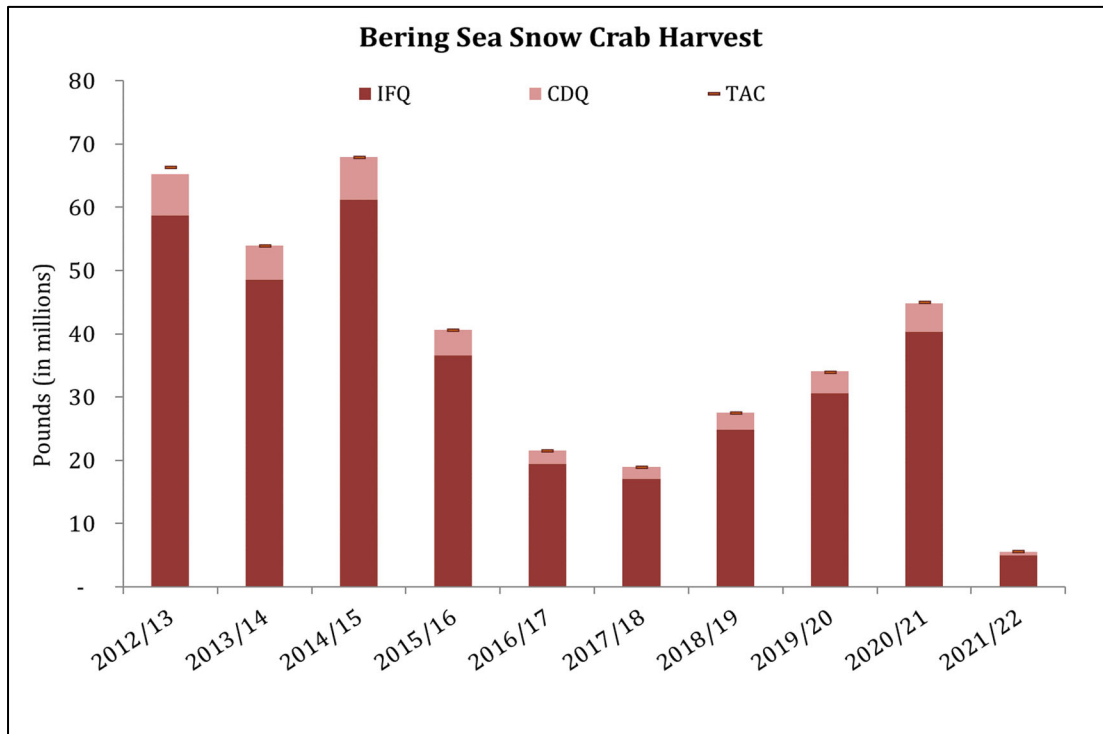


Figure 2. Bering Sea snow crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

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. 2022 GHLs are as follows:

Prince William Sound: The 2022 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.718 million pounds and is allocated 85% to longline gear and 15% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters season opened to pot gear on February 17, 2022 and remains open. The state-waters season for longline gear opened on March 22, 2022 and remains open. Current harvest is confidential.

Chignik

The 2022 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 3.810 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on March 1, 2022, and the state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15, 2022; both fisheries remain open. Through May 31, 2.5 million pounds have been harvested in the pot gear fishery and there has been no effort in the jig fishery (Figure 3).

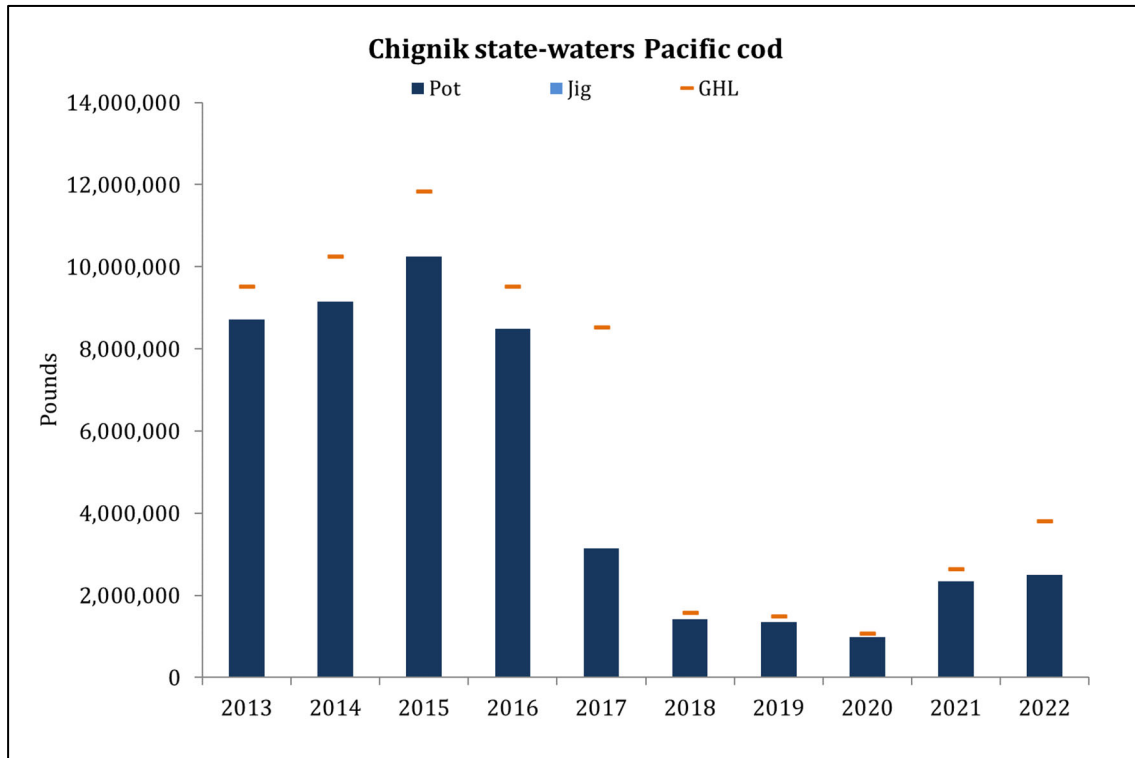


Figure 3. Annual Chignik Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Kodiak

The 2022 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.443 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (2.7 million pounds each). The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 23, 2022 and closed on March 10, 2022. The state-waters pot fishery re-opened on April 1 with a reallocation of unharvested Pacific cod from the jig allocation and as of May 31, the pot fishery has harvested 3.3 million pounds (Figure 4). The jig fishery opened on January 1, 2022 and remains open with 1.5 million pounds harvested.

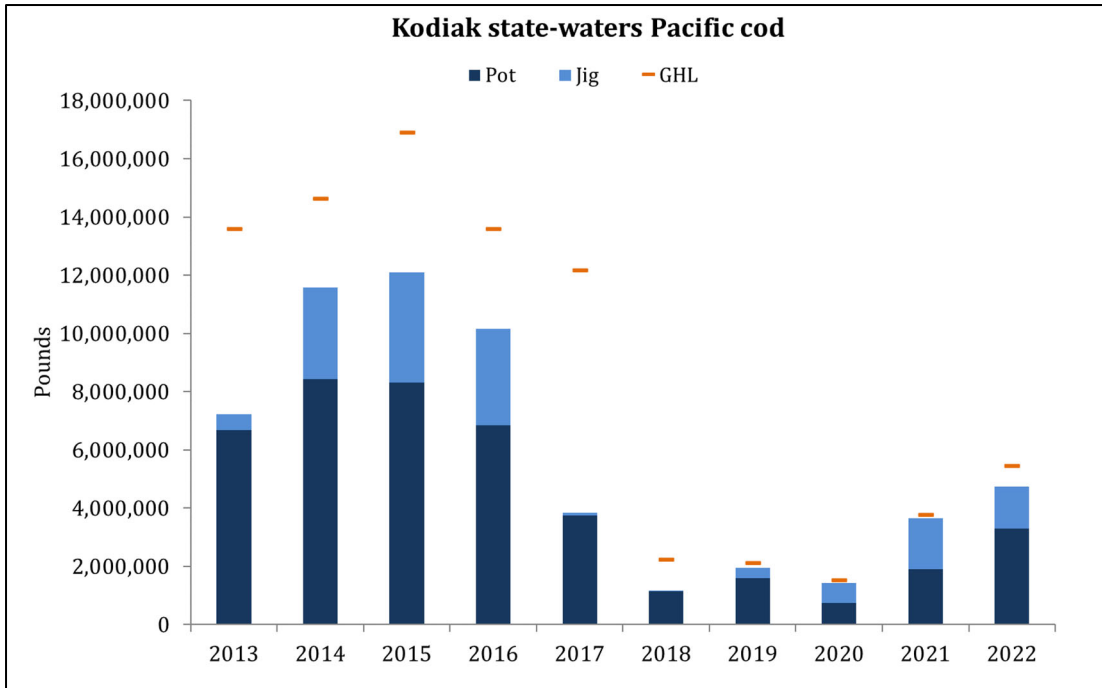


Figure 4. Annual Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Cook Inlet

The 2022 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.633 million pounds with 1.39 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 0.24 million pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 17, 2022 and remains open for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length; the fishery closed to vessels greater than 58 feet in length on March 3. Vessels using pot gear have harvested 1.4 million pounds with limited effort since the April ADF&G update (Figure 5). The jig fishery remains closed and will open following the closure of that federal sector.

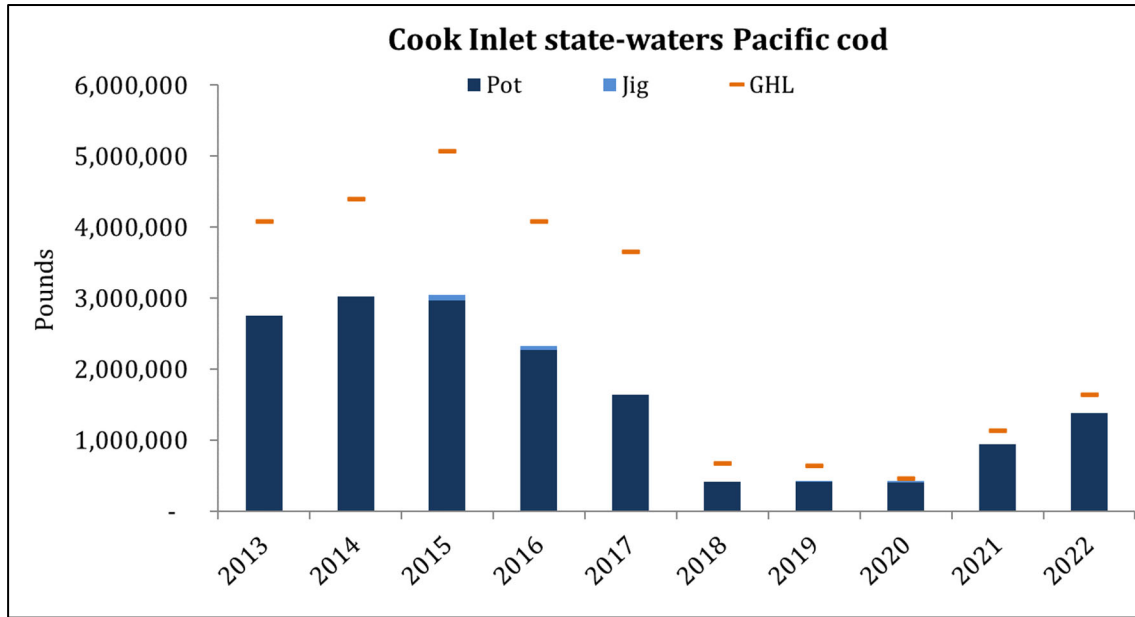


Figure 5. Annual Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2022 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 6.575 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters pot season opened on March 7, 2022, and closed on March 16, 2022, with 31 vessels harvesting 5.3 million pounds (Figure 6). The jig fishery opened on March 15, 2022 and eight vessels have harvested 165,000 pounds.

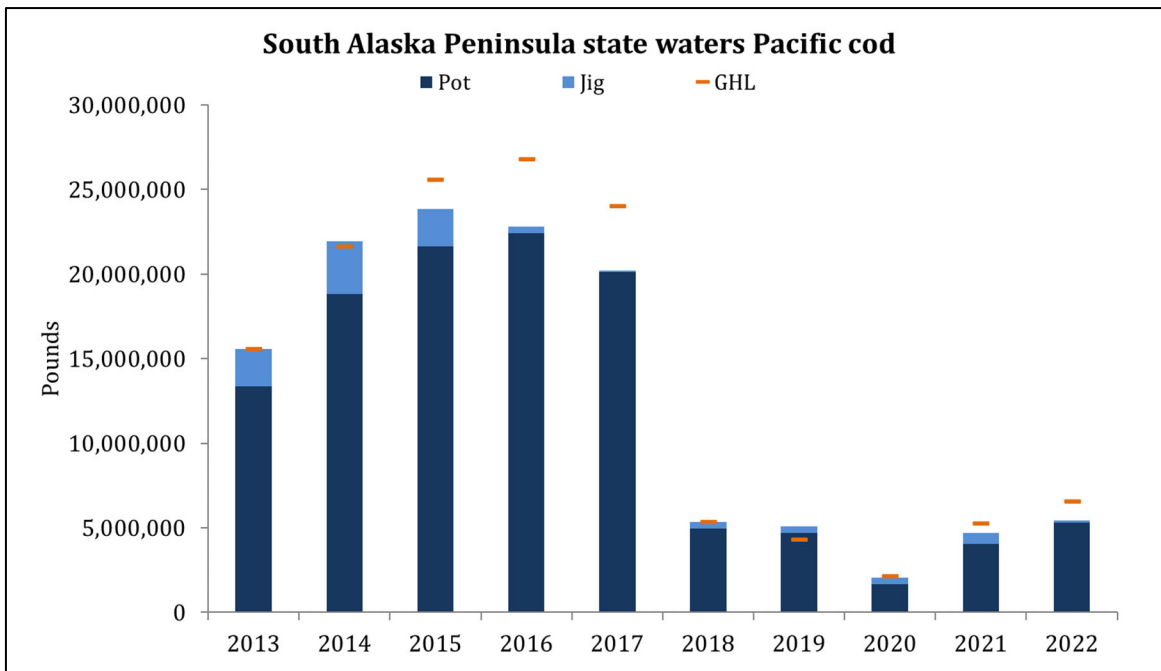


Figure 6. Annual South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot season opened on February 2, 2022 with a GHL of 37.2 million pounds and approximately 34.9 million pounds (94% of the GHL) have been harvested by 29 vessels (Figure 7). The Dutch Harbor jig fishery opened May 1, 2022, with a GHL of 100,000 pounds; harvest is confidential. By regulation, the fisheries close December 31, 2022, or when the GHL is achieved.

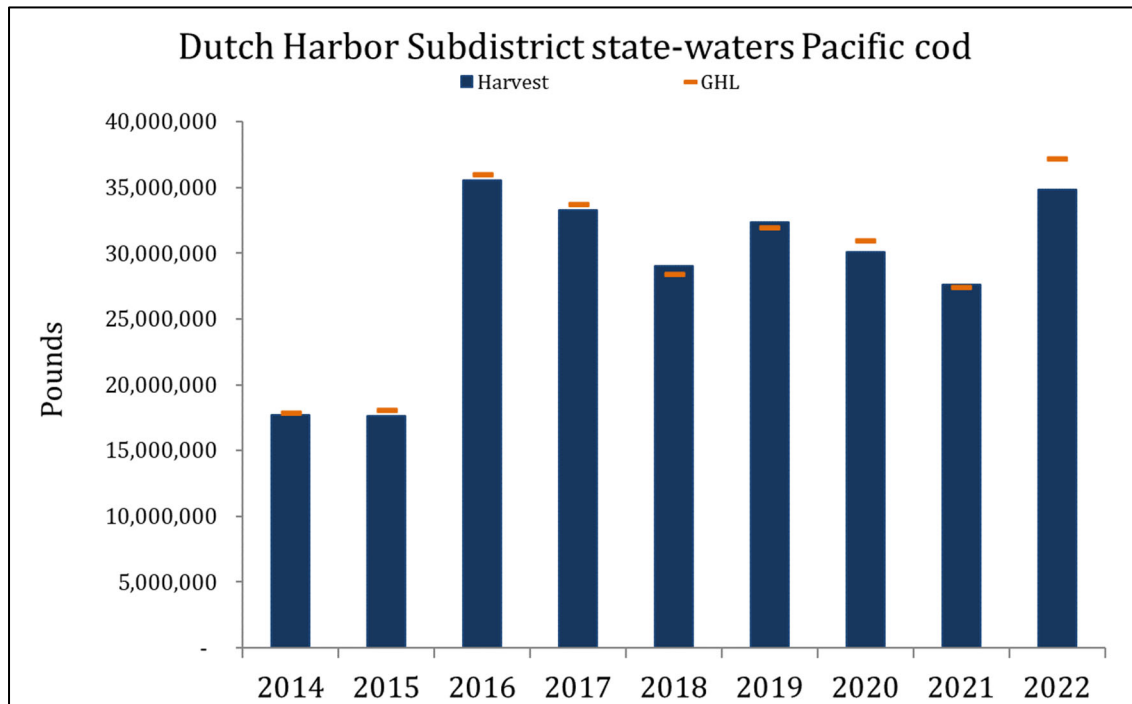


Figure 7. Annual Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2022.

Aleutian Islands

The 2022 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 39% of the Aleutian Islands ABC; however, the AIS GHL is capped by regulation at 15 million pounds which represents 33% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC in 2022. The Adak Section, between 175° W. long and 178° W. long, opened January 1, 2022, to vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to an OAL of 58 feet. The entire AIS opened on January 27, 2022, to vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl or jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. The AIS opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear and vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear on March 15, 2022. Current harvest is confidential.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The proposal book for the 2022/2023 Board cycle should be available by August 1, 2022. The Agenda Change Request deadline for this cycle is August 26, 2022 and comments for the October meetings are due by October 11, 2022. The tentative 2022/2023 meeting schedule is as follows:

-Work Session: October 25-26, 2022 (Anchorage)

- Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod: October 25-26, 2022 (Anchorage)
- Bristol Bay Finfish: November 29-December 3, 2022 (Anchorage)
- Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish: January 14-18, 2023 (Anchorage)
- Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish: February 13-17, 2023 (Anchorage)
- Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues: March 10-13, 2023 (Anchorage)