



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October 2013

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include those for salmon, scallops, crab, and Pacific cod.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2013. The summer fishery targets the majority of the annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in one or more open periods during the July 1 – September 30 timeframe. During the summer season, most waters of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat area are open to commercial trolling, including outer coastal waters in the EEZ, excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150.

The entire summer Chinook quota was taken in July so there was one retention period this summer. Total catch from the summer troll fishery was 84,653 Chinook salmon and 81,342 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

Fish ticket reports indicate that 14% of the summer Chinook salmon harvest and 2% of the summer Coho salmon harvest occurred in the EEZ.

Scallops (FIGURE 2)

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2013. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2013/14 season is 400,000 pounds of shucked meats, a 4% decrease from the 2012/13 cumulative GHL. The Prince William Sound (East Kayak Island) and the Cook Inlet Area Kamishak District are both closed for the 2013/14 season due to declining trends in survey abundance and biomass.

Total harvest to date is just over 364,000 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in all areas except the Shelikof and Southwest Districts of the Kodiak Management Area, which are expected to close later this month.

Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
		Tanner Crab	King Crab
YAKUTAT			
Area D	120,000	N/A	N/A
District 16	25,000	N/A	N/A
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (East Kayak)		<i>Closed for the 2013/14 season</i>	
COOK INLET		<i>Closed for the 2013/14 season</i>	
KODIAK			
Northeast District	55,000	49,124	25
Shelikof District	105,000	27,450	50
Southwest District ¹	25,000	12,000	50
Semidi District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
ALASKA PENINSULA			
Unimak Bight ¹	15,000	12,000	50
DUTCH HARBOR	5,000	5,000	10
BERING SEA	50,000	260,000	<i>C. bairdi</i> 500
		300,000	<i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>
¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.			

Norton Sound Red King Crab (FIGURE 3)

The 2013 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries opened on July 3 with a total GHIL of 495,600 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent of the quota and the remaining 458,430 pounds were allocated to the open access fishery. Catch rates were poor this season, average catch per unit effort (CPUE) was nine crabs per pot, the lowest since 2001. Very low catch rates persisted for the first three weeks of the summer fishery leading ADF&G to open waters normally closed (three nautical miles inward of the closure line) to increase harvest efficiency in consideration that the crab may not have moved offshore. However, this did not increase catch rates and the end of the season was extended beyond the Sept. 3 closure date to allow more time to catch the GHIL.

The Norton Sound season lasted 74 days, closing on September 14, 2013. Thirty-three permit holders harvested 81% (373,278 pounds) of the open access quota and four permit holders harvested 50% (18,585 pounds) of the CDQ quota.

The average price paid (including CDQ catch) was \$5.63 per pound, the highest amount ever paid. The exvessel value of the fishery was \$2.165 million, second only to the record setting value of the 2012 summer fishery.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 4)

The 2013/14 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2013. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 6.29 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds, with the IFQ TAC set at 2.979 million pounds. Through October 1, 2013, approximately 1.33 million pounds have been harvested by three vessels. Harvest from the CDQ fishery is currently confidential.

The Western TAC is 2.98 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.682 million pounds. Catch for this fishery and the Adak Community Allocation Fishery is confidential given the number of participants. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2014.

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound (FIGURE 5)

The Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL was set at 1.78 million pounds. The state-waters jig fishery did not open due to the ongoing Central Gulf of Alaska jig sector fishery. No vessels have registered to fish with pot gear. Twenty-five vessels registered to fish with longline gear and harvested a total of 1.27 million pounds. The state-waters fishery closed on September 1, 2013 and state waters were immediately reopened for the parallel fishery.

Cook Inlet (FIGURE 6)

The Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL was set at 4.07 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters jig fishery did not open due to the ongoing Central Gulf of Alaska jig sector fishery. Thirteen vessels registered to fish with pot gear and harvested a total of 2.75 million pounds. The state-waters fishery closed on September 1, 2013 and state waters were immediately reopened for the parallel fishery.

Westward Region Pacific cod

Kodiak (FIGURE 7)

The Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL was set at 13.58 million pounds and is allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear (6.79 million pounds each). As previously reported, the pot fishery closed on April 2, 2013 with a total harvest of 6.689 million pounds. The jig fishery has been open since March 15, 2013 and total harvest to date is 536,970 pounds. Jig effort was relatively low this season; 52 vessels registered for the fishery.

Chignik (FIGURE 8)

The Chignik state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL was set at 9.5 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. Total harvest by pot gear was 8.7 million pounds. The jig fishery has been open since March 15, 2013; to date no vessels have registered to fish with jig gear.

South Alaska Peninsula (FIGURE 9)

The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL was set at 15.58 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The pot fishery closed on March 22, 2013 with a total harvest of 13.38 million pounds. Thirty-eight vessels registered to fish with jig gear and harvested a total of 2.2 million pounds. The state-waters jig fishery closed on July 16, 2013.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Statewide Pacific cod

October 18 – 22, 2013, Anchorage Hilton

Statewide Pacific Cod

- 1 Clarify the term “estimated total allowable harvest”.

Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik State-waters Pacific Cod Guideline Harvest Level

- 2 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas based on 10-year average parallel season Pacific cod catch.
- 3 Increase Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 17.5 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable catch (TAC).

- 4 Increase Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 17 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable catch (TAC).
- 5 Increase Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) based on actual state waters harvest.

Cook Inlet Pacific Cod

- 6 Open state-waters Pacific cod season to longline gear July 15, if guideline harvest level (GHL) remains.

Chignik Pacific Cod

- 13 Change date for rollover to all gear types of unharvested guideline harvest level (GHL) in state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 15 Change state-waters Pacific cod jig season opening date and limit jig vessel size.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod

- 16 Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish area.
- 17 Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish area.
- 18 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 19 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 20 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 21 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 55 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 23 Change state-waters Pacific cod season opening date for pot gear.
- 24 Change state-waters Pacific cod season opening date for pot gear to March 12 or seven days following closure of the federal Western Gulf season, whichever is later.
- 28 Close state-waters surrounding Caton and Sanak islands to nonpelagic trawl gear.

Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod

- 29 Increase Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 4.5 percent of the federal Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 30 Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) rollover provision from A to B season.
- 31 Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery bycatch provisions with respect to state-federal jurisdiction.
- 32 Amend Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan to address concurrent state-waters and federal Pacific cod seasons.
- 33 Update Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan to identify Steller sea lion and essential habitat closure areas.
- 34 Place moratorium on new or expanded state-waters Pacific cod fisheries in Area O.
- 35 Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O.
- 36 Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O.

Aleutian Islands Atka Mackerel

- 37 Establish state-waters Atka mackerel fishery.

Chignik Finfish

December 5 – 6, 2013, Anchorage Egan Center

- 43 Create management plans for state-managed fisheries for all Gulf of Alaska groundfish for vessels less than 58 feet using trawl gear. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

- 44 Adopt a state-waters pollock fishery management plan, including provisions for seasons, gear, quotas, landing requirements, and observer coverage. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*
- 45 Require 100 percent observer coverage on vessels fishing for groundfish with trawl gear in state-waters management areas. *(This proposal will be considered at the Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, and Kodiak Finfish meetings.)*

Lower Cook Inlet Finfish

December 8 – 11, 2013, Anchorage Egan Center

43, 44, 45 (see above)

Kodiak Finfish

January 7 – 11, 2014, Kodiak Harbor Convention Center

43, 44, 45 (see above)

101 Close Alitak Bay to trawl gear.

102 Prohibit nonpelagic trawling in state waters of Kodiak Area.

Statewide King and Tanner Crab, and Supplementary Items

March 17 – 21, 2014, Anchorage Sheraton

Statewide King and Tanner Crab

326 Close all commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries, except Southeastern Alaska. *(The finfish aspects of this proposal will be considered at the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meetings.)*

Norton Sound Crab

346 Adjust harvest rates and trigger points based on changes in abundance model.

Aleutian Islands Crab

348 Increase harvest limit for Aleutian Islands golden king crab.

349 Modify Aleutian Islands golden king crab season.

350 Establish districts for western Aleutian Islands red king crab.

351 Establish management measures for Adak red king crab fishery.

352 Close federal waters between 171° W long and 179° W long to fishing when red king crab GHL in state-waters is less than 250,000 pounds.

353 Establish registration deadline for Adak red king crab.

354 Open Adak red king crab fishery by emergency order July 1.

355 Exempt persons and vessels participating in Adak red king crab fishery from participating in certain other fisheries.

356 Add Adak as tank inspection location for red king crab.

357 Amend description of Aleutian Islands king crab registration area.

Bering Sea Crab

358 Revise St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery harvest strategy.

359 Allow groundfish pots in St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.

360 Eliminate king crab pot marking for Registration Area Q (Bering Sea).

361 Modify gear marking requirements for longline pots in the Bering Sea golden king crab fishery.

362 Specify vertical placement of escape rings and update definition of escape ring placement in Bering Sea Tanner and snow crab fisheries.

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Crab (1 proposal)

363 Clarify vessel check-out provisions in rationalized crab fisheries.

Agenda Change Requests: to be considered and scheduled at the BOF work session
 October 9-10, 2013, Girdwood Alyeska Resort

- ACR 2 Implement a management plan for an open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska.
- ACR 8 Implement a management plan for an open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska.

Figure 1

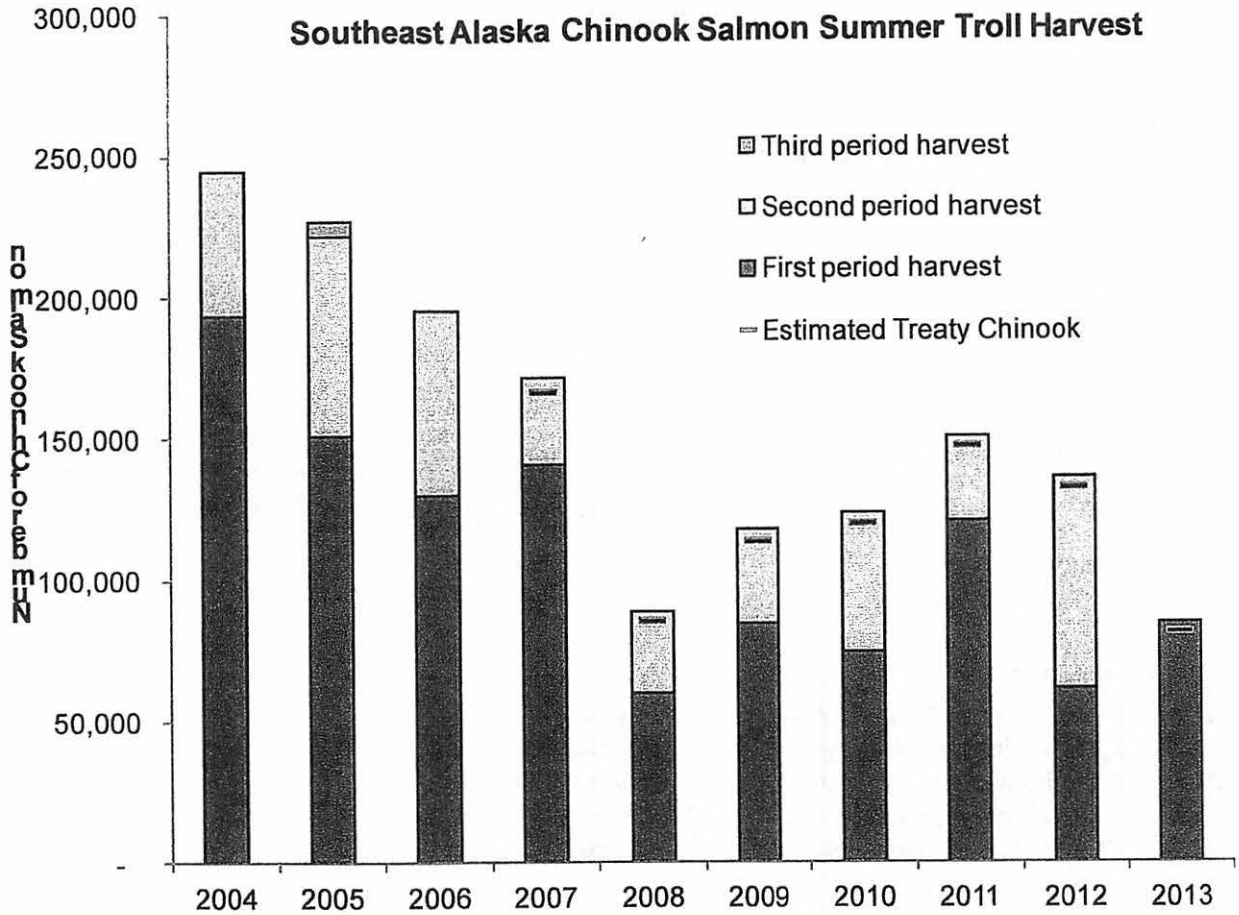


Figure 2

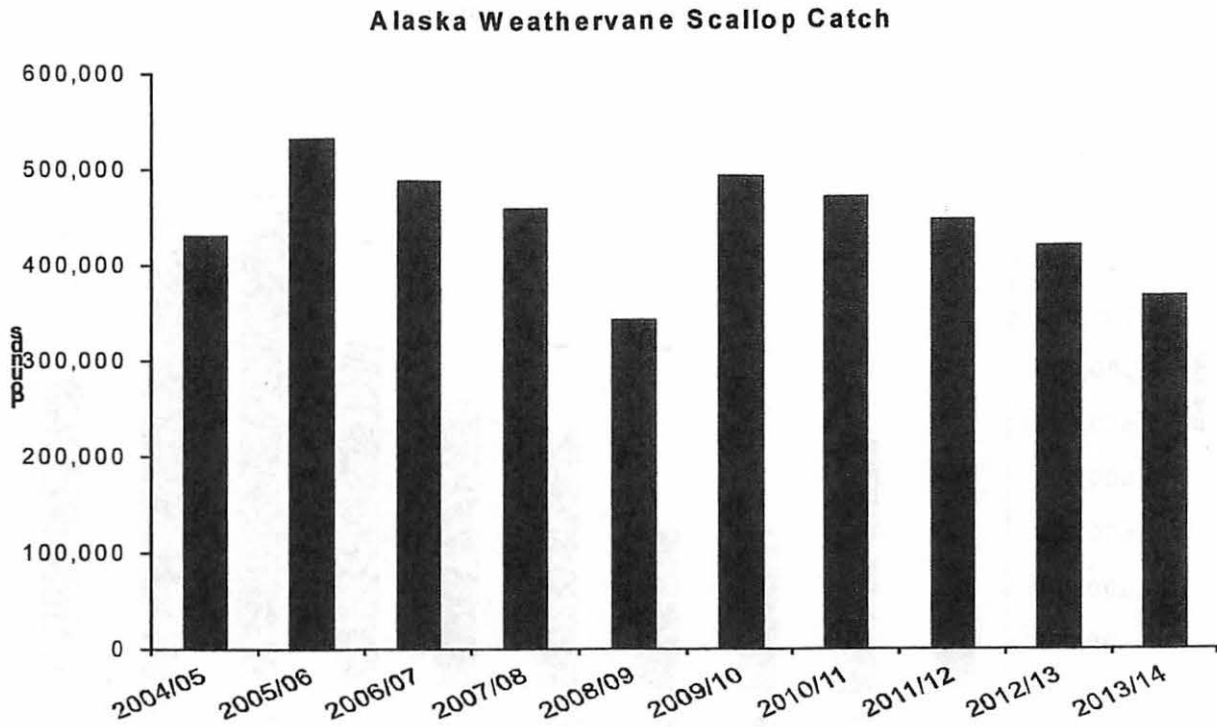


Figure 3

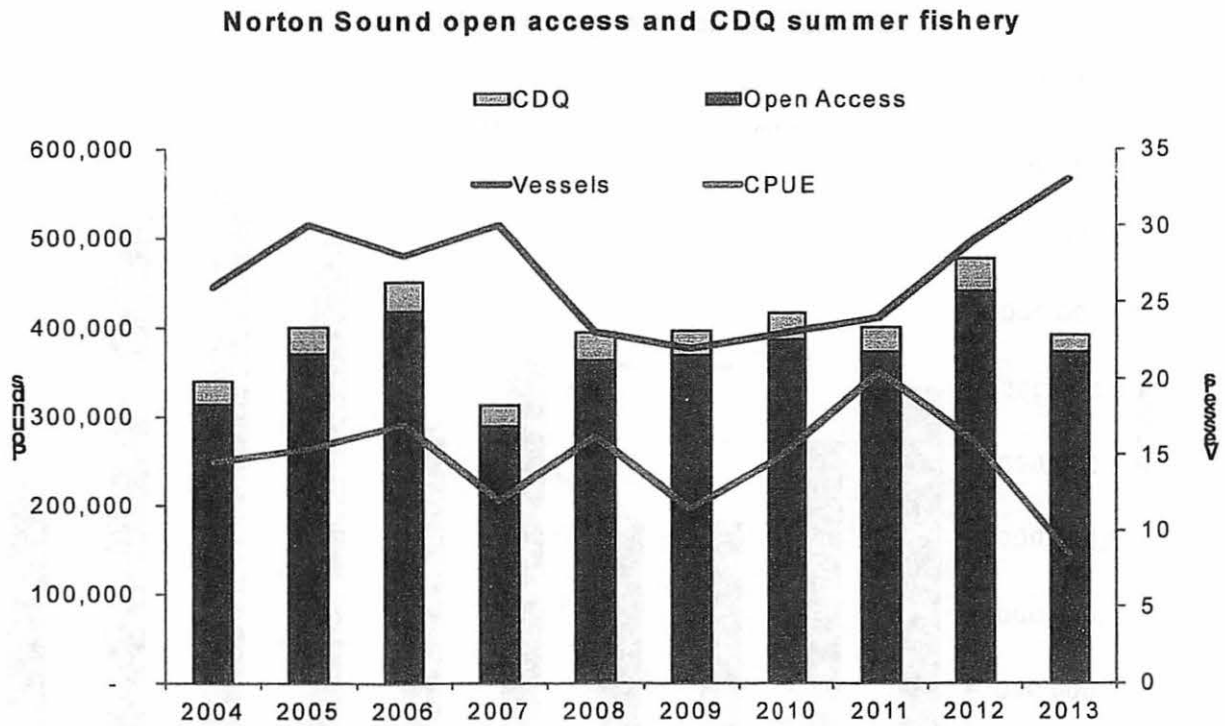


Figure 6

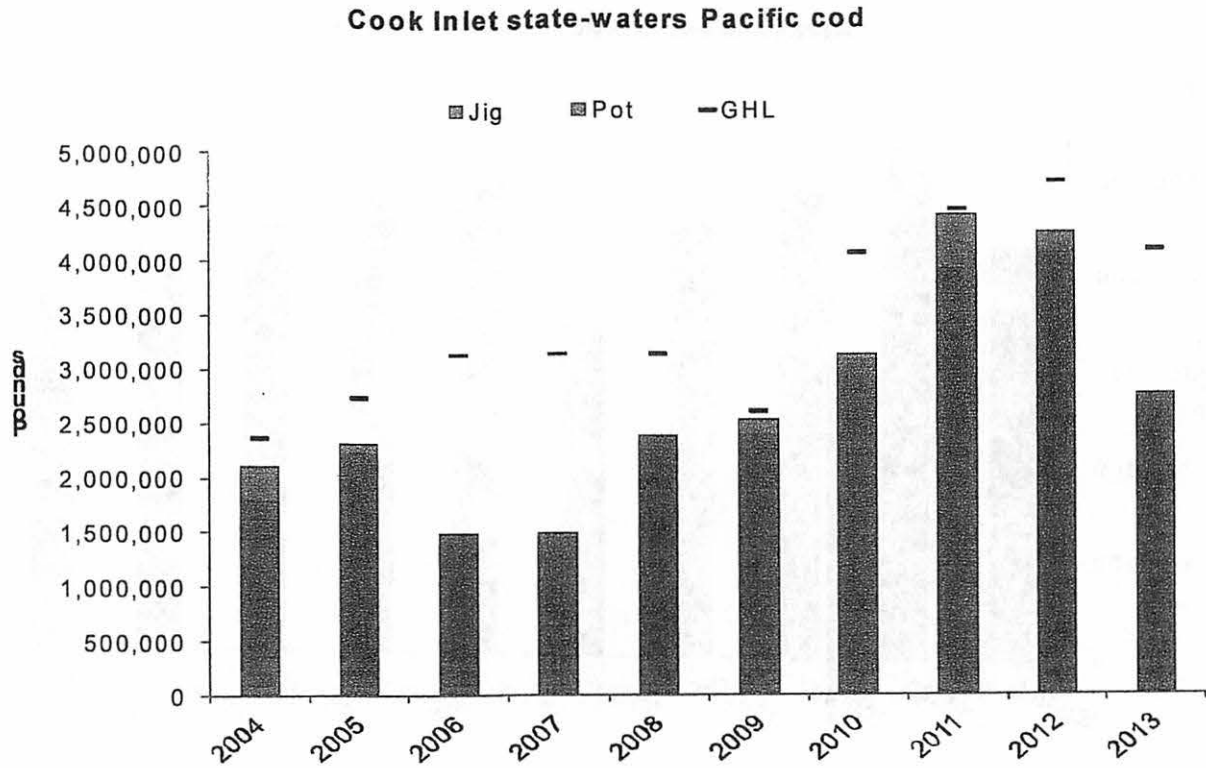


Figure 7

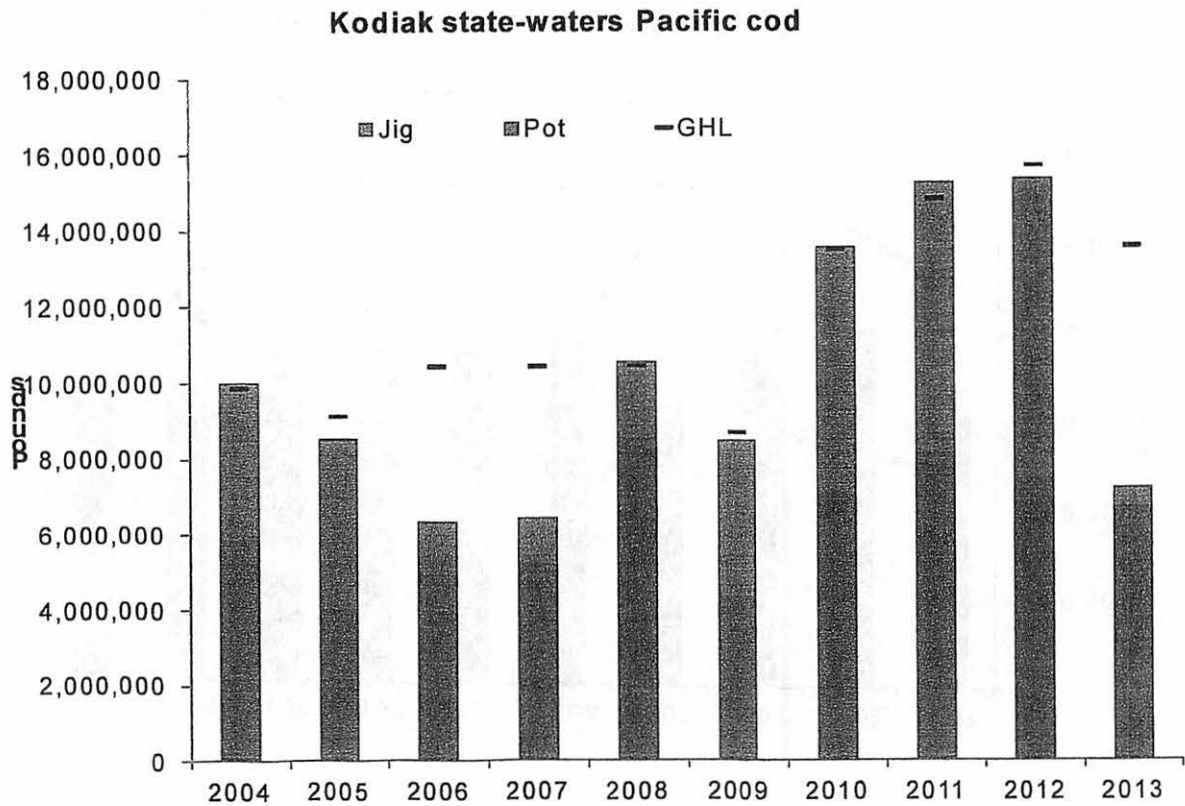


Figure 4

Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Harvest

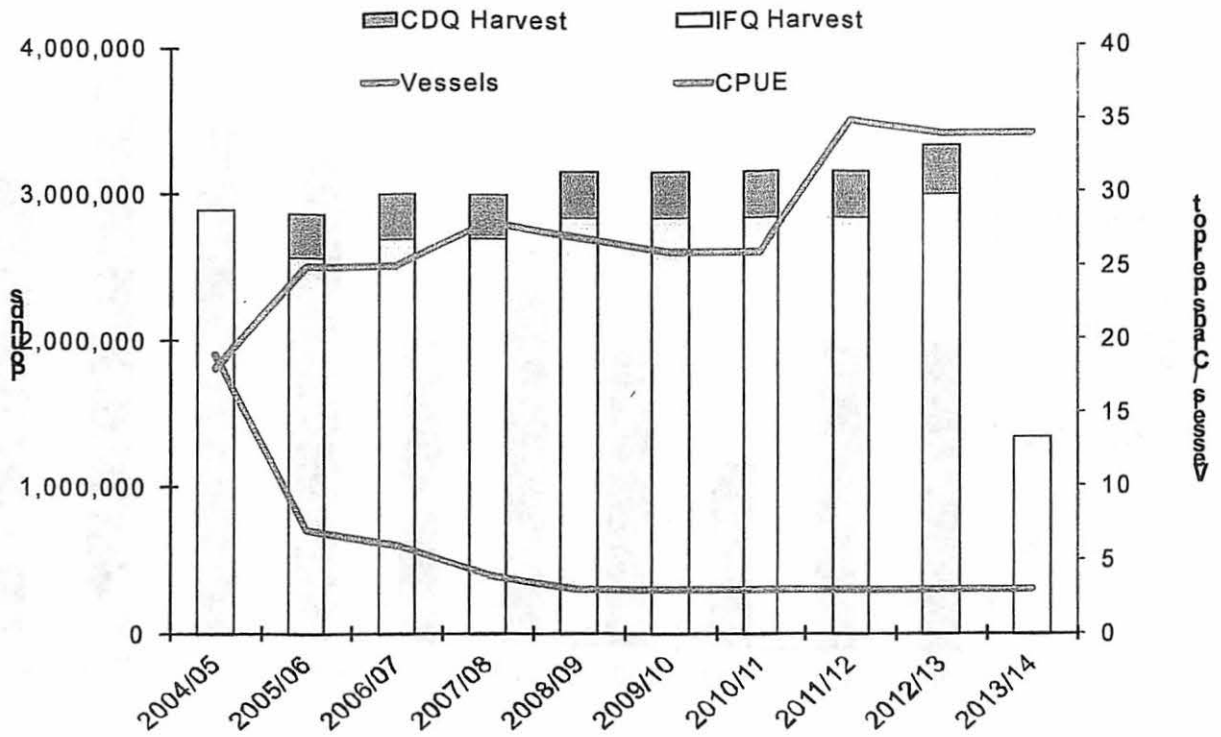


Figure 5

Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod

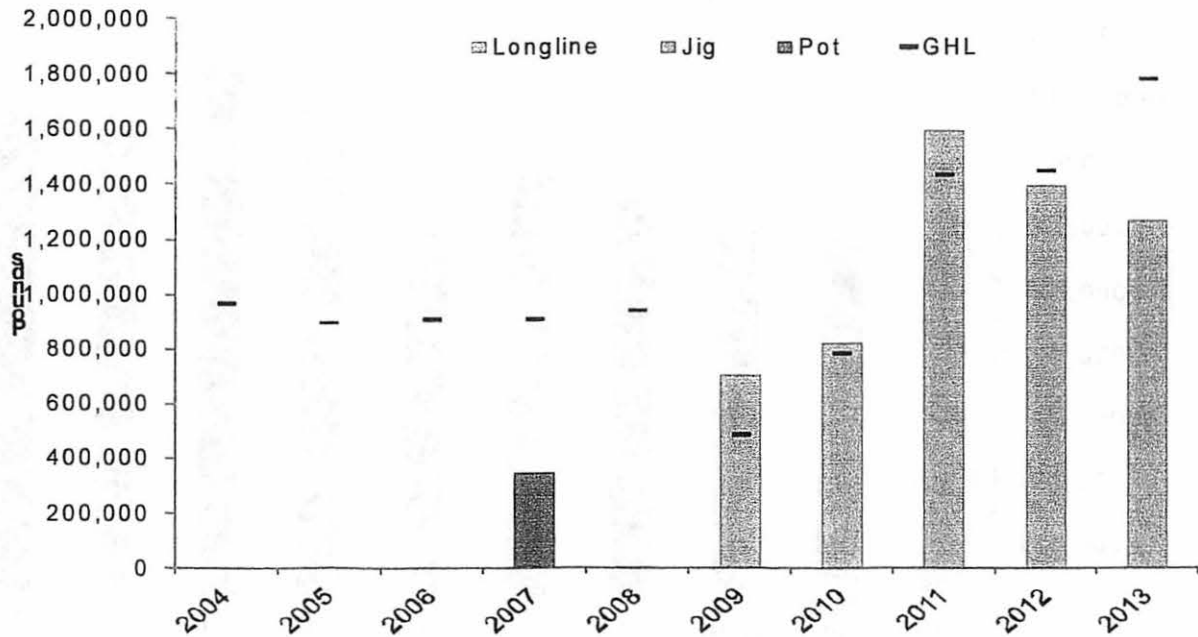


Figure 8

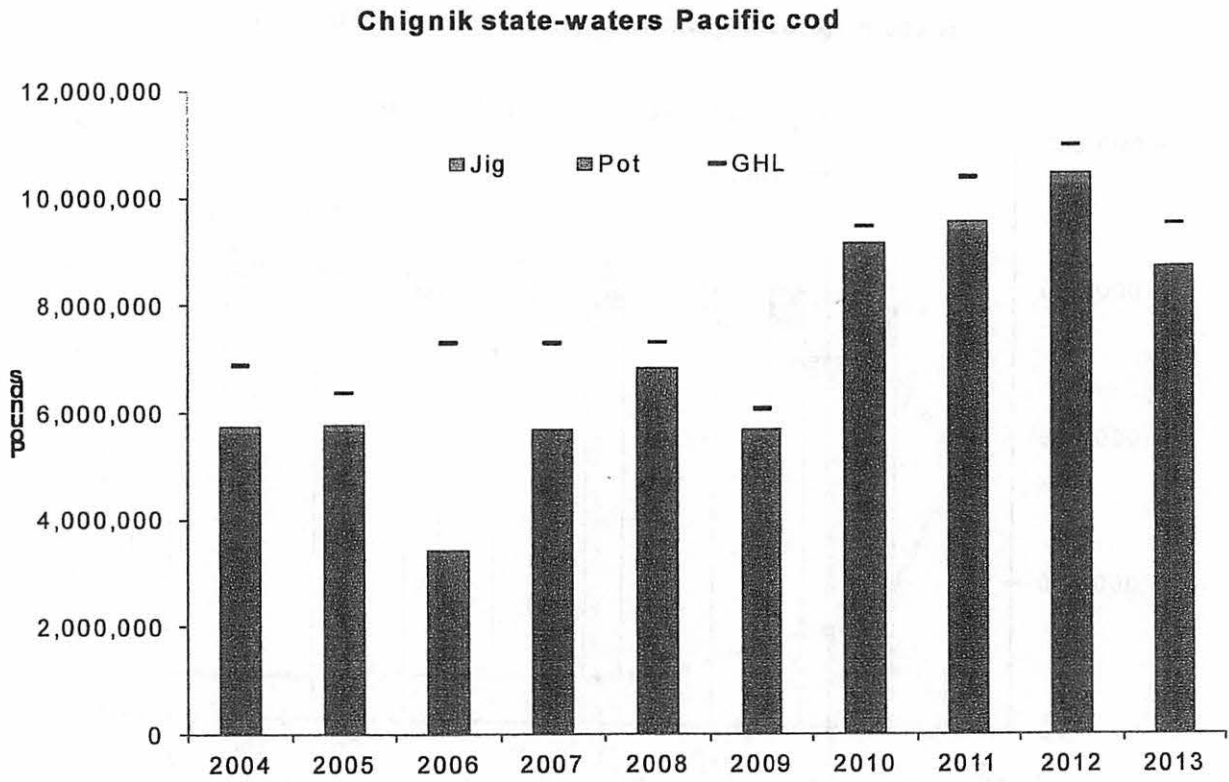


Figure 9

