



**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 includes those for crab and Pacific cod.

Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab. During the 2015/16 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, St. Matthew Island blue king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab, and Eastern Bering Sea Tanner (*bairdi*) crab. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab: The 2015/16 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2015. The TAC is set at 6.29 million pounds by regulation and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long. The eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.98 million pounds. Fishing in the eastern area concluded in November and both the IFQ and CDQ quota were fully harvested by three vessels. Catch rates remained strong throughout the season, with an average catch of 37 crabs per pot. Two vessels are fishing in the western area and harvest remains confidential. Catch rates are lower in the western Aleutian Islands and average 15 crabs per pot. The fishery closes by regulation on April 30, 2016, and given current effort some TAC is likely to remain unharvested.

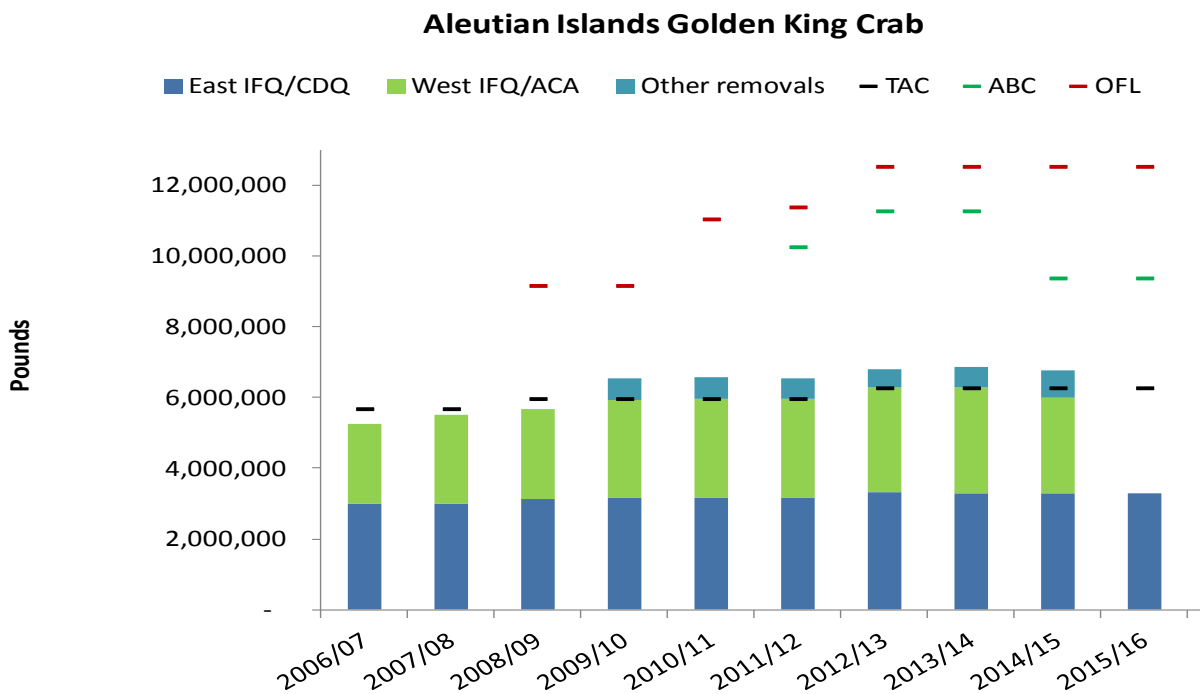


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2006/07 – 2015/16 seasons.

Bering Sea snow crab: The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2015 with at TAC of 40.61 mlbs. A total of 73 vessels have participated this season and 13 vessels are currently active. Total harvest is 37.5 mlbs (92% of TAC). Catch rates are highly variable between vessels and the average CPUE is 156 crabs per pot. The fishery is likely to conclude in the next few weeks; the fishery closes by regulation on May 15, 2016 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and on May 31, 2016 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.).

Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvest

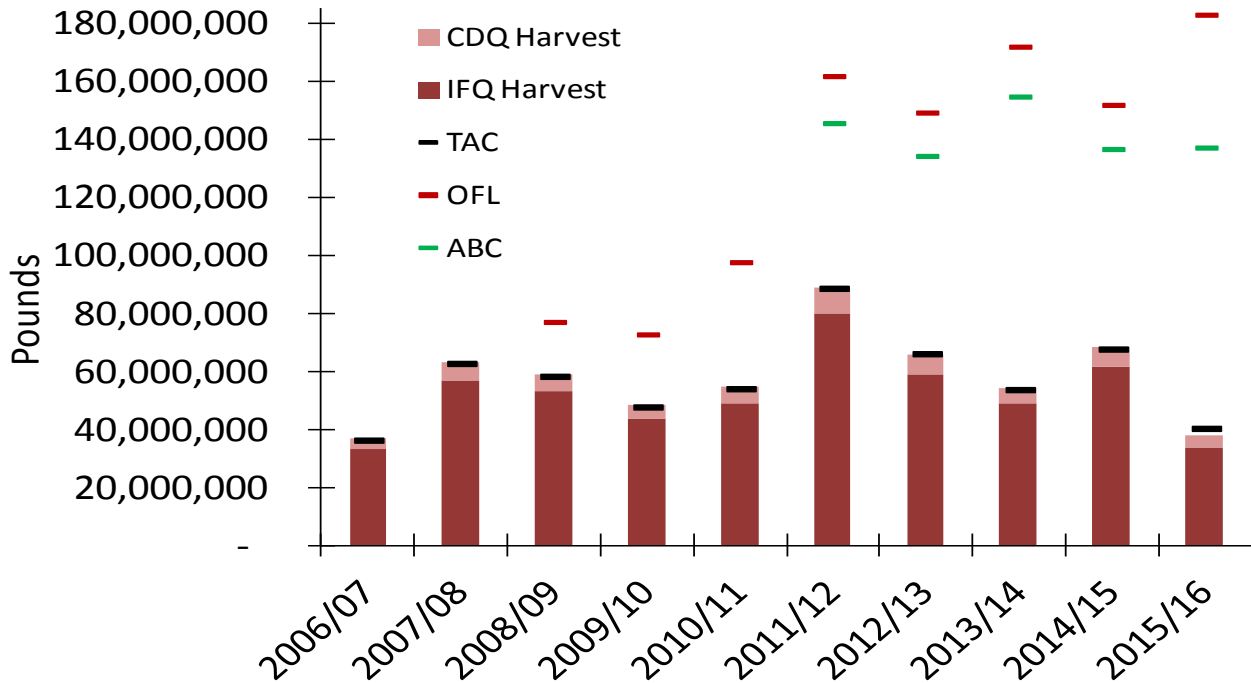


Figure 2. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2006/07 – 2015/16 seasons.

Bering Sea Tanner crab: Bering Sea Tanner crab is managed east and west of 166° W long, with a separate TAC for each area. The Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2015 with a TAC of 11.27 mlbs in the eastern district and 8.39 mlbs in the western district. The fishery closed by regulation on March 31, 2016. A total of 11.27 mlbs (100% of TAC) was harvested in the eastern district by 50 vessels and 60 vessels harvested 8.37 mlbs of Tanner crab in the western district (99.8% of TAC). Catch rates were slightly higher in the western district at 48 crabs per pot compared to 43 crabs per pot in the eastern district.

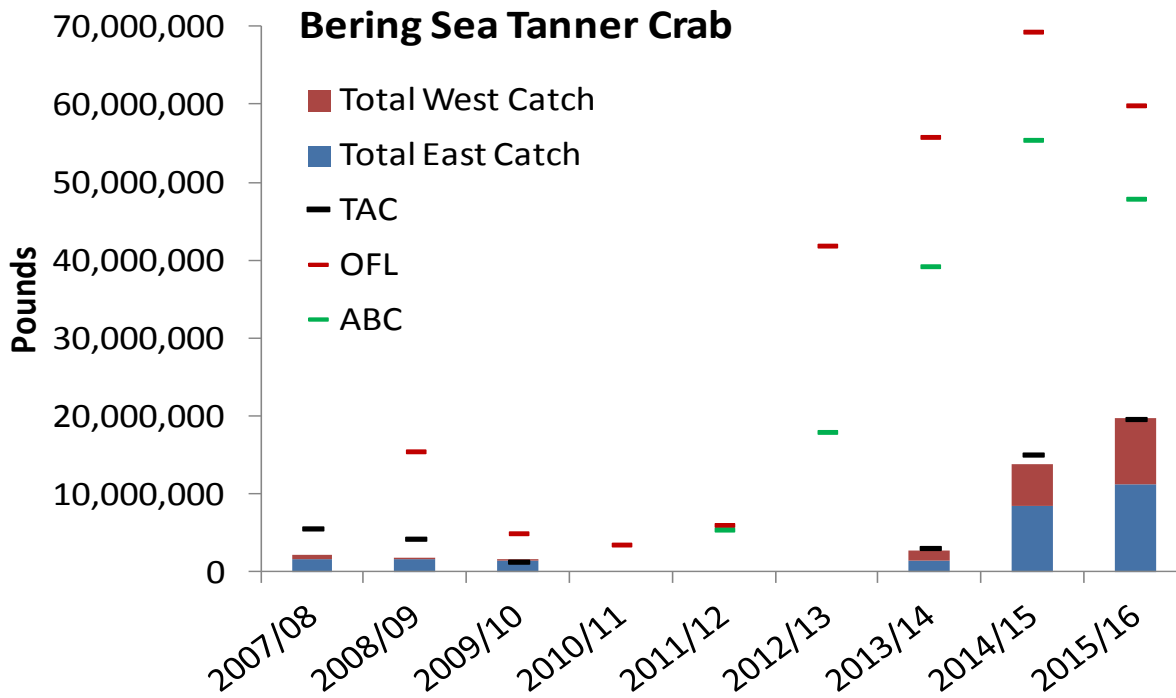


Figure 3. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2007/08 – 2015/16 seasons.

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 as follows:

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC	2016 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%	2,196
Chignik	CGOA	8.75%	4,315
Kodiak		12.5%	6,164
Cook Inlet		3.75%	1,849
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%	12,151
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	6.4%	16,320
Aleutian Islands District	AI	27%	4,752

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound: The state-waters jig season opened at noon on March 2, 2016, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery, and closed on March 21 when the federal season was reopened. One vessel has registered to fish with jig gear and harvest remains confidential. The state-waters pot season opened on February 2, 2016, 24-hours after the closure

of the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery, and closed on March 12, 2016 when the federal season was reopened. The state-waters fishery reopened on March 31, 2016. No vessels have registered to fish with pot gear. The state-waters longline season opened on March 19, concurrent with the IFQ Halibut season opening date. Twenty vessels registered to fish with longline gear and have harvested a total of 344,000 pounds (156 mt).

Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod

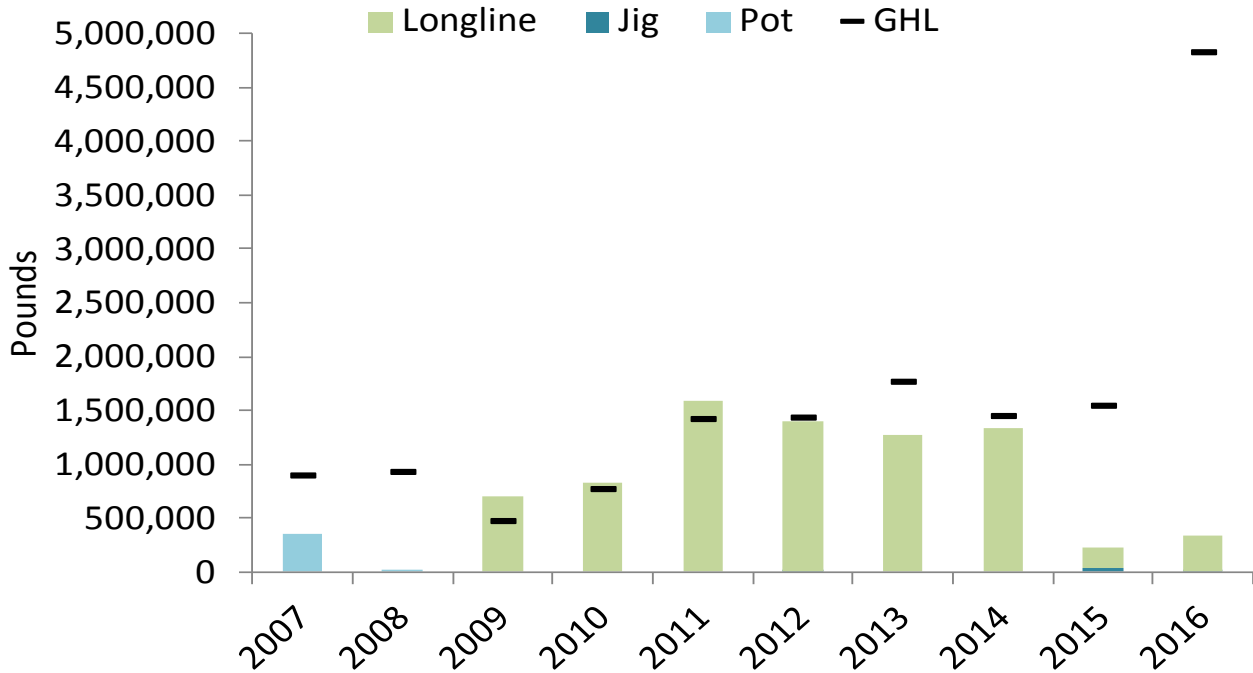


Figure 4. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

Cook Inlet: The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opened at noon on March 2, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery, and closed on March 21 when the federal season was reopened. Seven vessels have registered for the jig fishery and harvested 55,600 pounds (25 mt). The state-waters pot season opened at noon on February 2, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA A-season pot fishery, and closed on March 12, 2016 when the federal season was reopened. The state-waters fishery reopened on March 31, 2016. Total pot fishery harvest to date is 2.4 mlbs (1,105 mt) by 13 vessels.

Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod

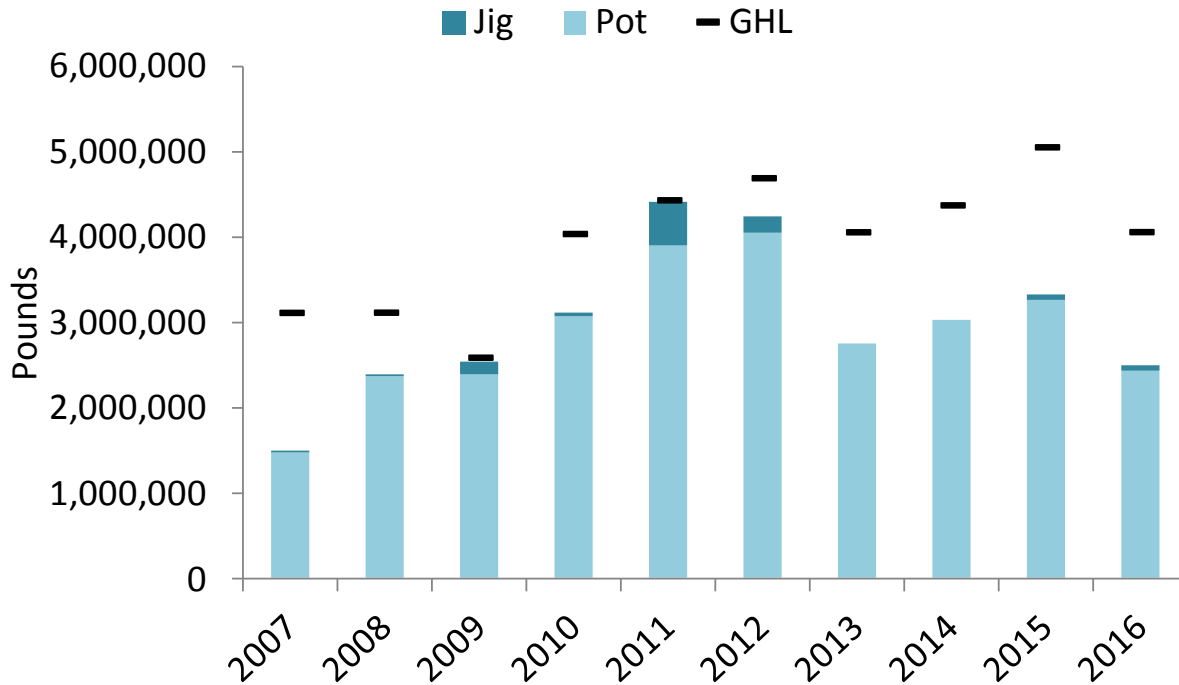


Figure 5. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

Westward Region Pacific Cod

Kodiak: The 2016 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 6.79 mlbs (3,082 mt) each. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 8, 2016, seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closure, and closed on February 26, 2016. Total harvest by 36 vessels was 6.83 mlbs (3,100 mt), or 101% of the GHL. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 3, 2016, 48-hours after the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery closure. To date, a total of 63 vessels have harvested 1.5 mlbs (667 mt).

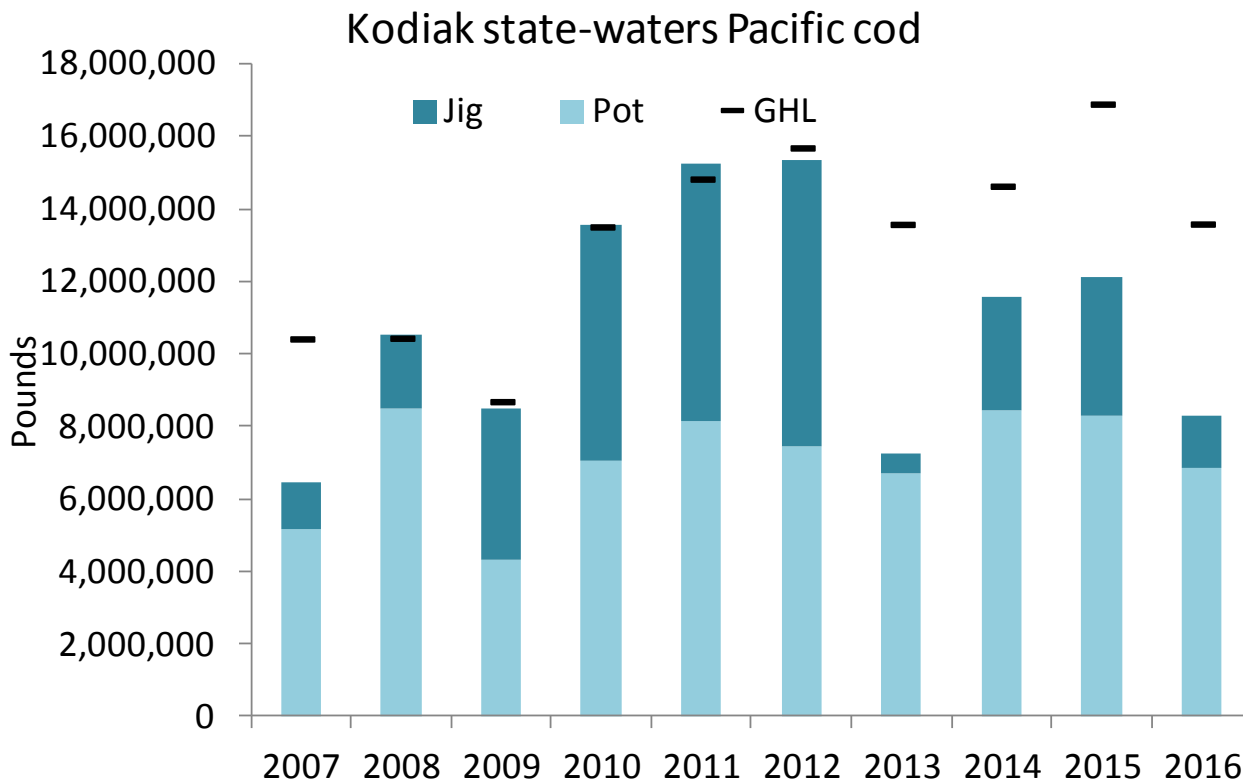


Figure 6. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

Chignik: The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on March 15. No vessels have registered for the jig fishery. The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 1, 2016. Total harvest by ten vessels is 6.5 mlbs (2,938 mt). Vessels participating in the Chignik Area may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

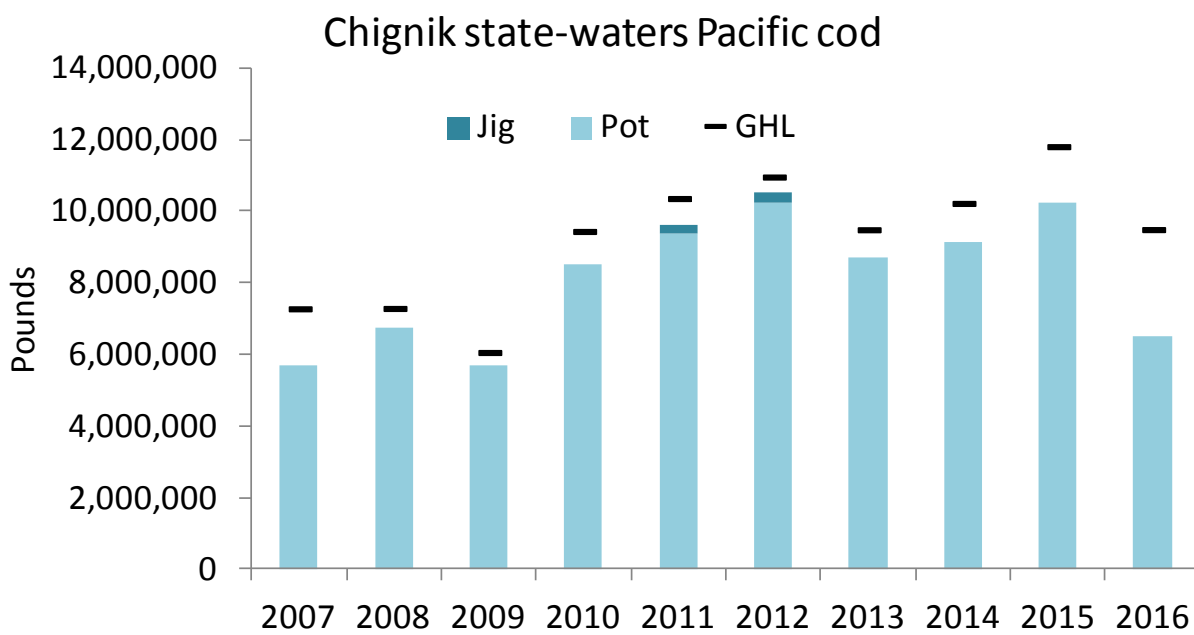


Figure 7. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

South Alaska Peninsula: Eighty-five percent of the GHL in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Area is targeted by pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. The SAP state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on March 15, 2016. Seven vessels have registered to fish and current harvest is 77,000 pounds (35 mt). The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 7, 2016 and 38 vessels have harvested a total of 18.9 mlbs (8,605 mt).

South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod

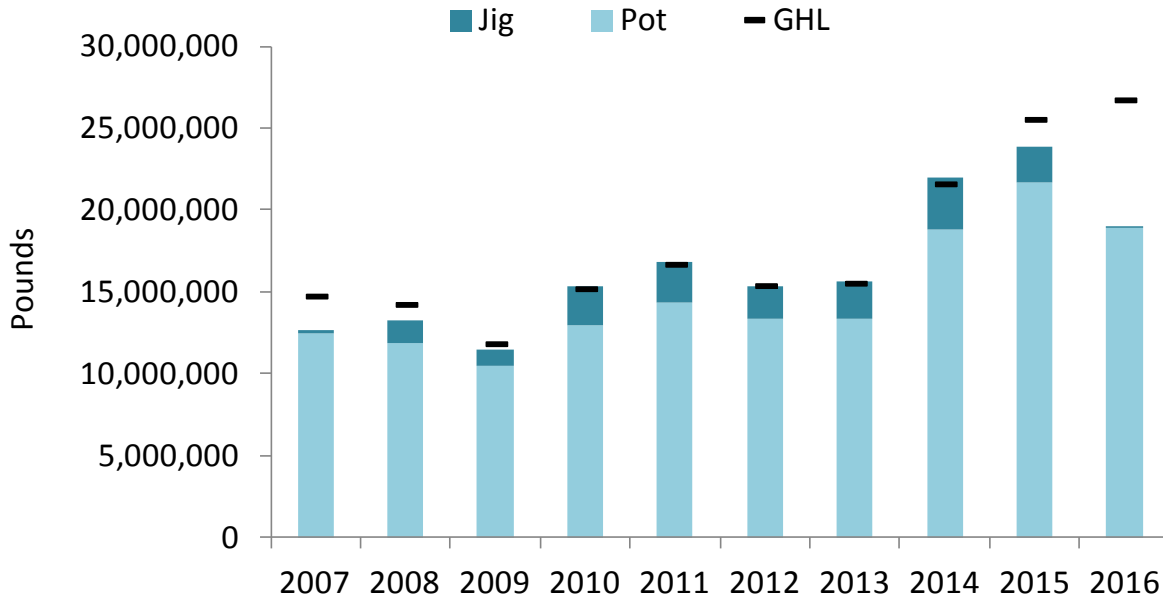


Figure 8. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict: The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict opened on February 12, 2016, seven days after the initial federal Pacific cod season for the BSAI <60’ hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel sector fishery closed. The fishery is only open to vessels ≤58’ using pot gear (60 pot limit). Total harvest by 23 vessels is 26.7 mlbs (12,105 mt).

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod

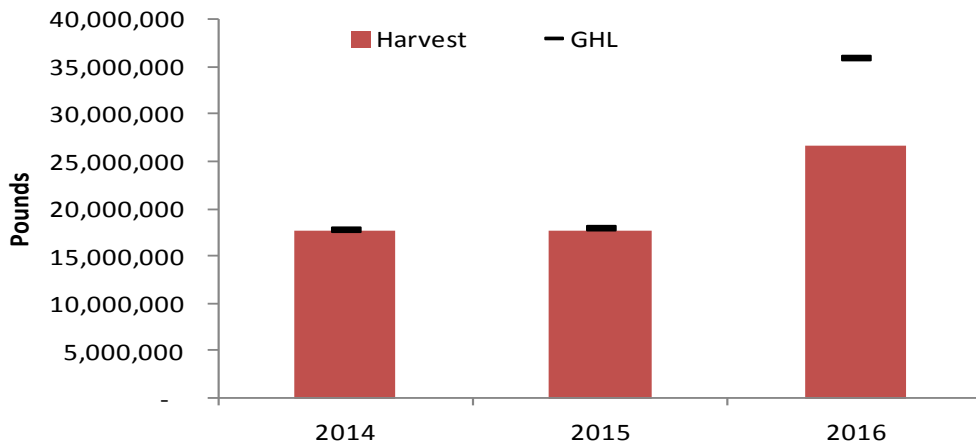


Figure 9. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2007 – 2016.

Aleutian Islands: The 2016 Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season initially opened January 1, 2016 in the Adak Section (between 175° W long. and 178° W long.) to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Beginning noon March 13, 2016, the state-waters season was expanded to include all state waters west of 170° W long. and opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet OAL or less using trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear.

Stellar sea lion closures in place prior to 2011 are in effect during the state-waters Pacific cod season with an additional 3-mile fishing closure around the Kanaga Island/Ship Rock rookery.

Seven vessels have participated in the fishery and harvest remains confidential given the number of processors.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

March 8–12, 2016, Anchorage, Hilton Hotel

Groundfish

- 213 **Passed (7-0)** Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock.
- 214 **Failed (0-7)** Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount.
- 215 **Failed (0-7)** Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel pollock fishery using trawl gear.
- 194 **Passed (6-1)** Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear.
- 216 **Failed (1-6)** Establish a state waters pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.
- 217 **Failed (0-7)** Establish a fishing season for pollock that does not conflict with salmon season.
- 218 **Passed (7-0) – Amended with language in RC 66.** Establish state-waters pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands. *Amended language in RC 66 provides provisions for miscellaneous groundfish permits (Commissioners permits).*