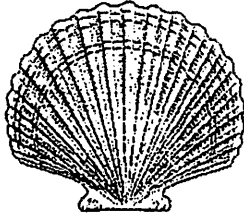


6/8/04 B-5

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



Kevin Duffy, Commissioner

*Doug Mecum, Director
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau*



Contact: Jeffrey Barnhart
Statewide Scallop Biologist/Observer
Program Coordinator, Kodiak

Westward Region
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Date: June 4, 2004

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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SCALLOP FISHERY OPENING, GUIDELINE HARVEST RANGES ANNOUNCED

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Bering Sea, and Adak Registration Areas will open on July 1, 2004. Guideline harvest ranges (GHR) for the 2004/2005 scallop season, and the king and Tanner crab bycatch limits are listed below.

<u>Registration Area</u>	<u>Guideline Harvest Range (pounds of shucked meats)</u>	<u>Bycatch Limits</u>	
		<u>Tanner Crab</u>	<u>King Crab</u>
Yakutat			
Area D	0 to 200,000	NA	NA
District 16	0 to 35,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound	0 to 50,000	11,400	NA
Kodiak			
Shelikof District	0 to 180,000	35,069	25
Northeast District	0 to 80,000 ¹	527,388	40
Alaska Peninsula	0 to 10,000	85,021	199
Dutch Harbor	Closed	NA	NA
Bering Sea	0 to 50,000 ²	65,000 <i>C. bairdi</i>	500
		150,000 <i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>	
Adak	0 to 75,000	10,000	50

¹The GHR for the Northeast District of the Kodiak Area is further divided into harvest caps by statistical area.

²Based on inseason fishery performance the upper end of the Bering Sea GHR of 50,000 lbs may be increased to the 2003/2004 level of 105,000 lbs.

-continued-

In the Northeast District of the Kodiak Area, the GHR will be divided into harvest caps by statistical area. The harvest cap in statistical area 525702 is 40,000 pounds; the harvest cap in statistical area 525630 is 20,000 pounds. The remaining 20,000 pounds may be taken in other waters open to scallop fishing in the Northeast District.

In the Alaska Peninsula Registration Area, the historically important scallop grounds between 160° W. long. and 161° W. long. will remain closed for stock rebuilding. However, the remainder of the area will open with a small exploratory guideline harvest range.

The Dutch Harbor Registration Area will remain closed to allow for stock rebuilding.

The Kodiak and Bering Sea Areas will be managed based on inseason fishery performance. The department may close the season prior to achieving the upper end of the GHR if fishery performance is at or below fishery performance benchmarks.

Areas will be closed if crab bycatch limits are attained. If the bycatch rate becomes excessively high the department may close areas prior to achieving crab bycatch limits. Conditions of area registration require vessel operators and crewmembers to notify observers of every king crab encountered.

Additional news releases containing information specific to a registration area or district may be issued prior to the season opening date.

For additional information please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840, in Douglas at (907) 465-4250, in Cordova at (907) 424-3212 or Homer at (907) 235-8191.

-end-

Agenda Item: "B-5"

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
JUNE 2004**

Fisheries managed under delegated authority to the State of Alaska since the last council report includes salmon and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The all gear Southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest quota is 383,500 fish (the largest quota since 1985 when the Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed).

The 2004 chinook salmon quota for troll gear is approximately 287,000 fish. The Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery closed on April 20, 2004. An estimated 51,500 chinook salmon were harvested in that fishery. Average price per pound was relatively high and the overall value of the fishery of over \$3.0 million is the highest on record. The spring troll fisheries opened on April 22, 2004 and will continue until June 30, 2004. The first general summer troll opening will commence on first of July, the length of that opening is not known at this time. 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. Fishing areas may change from year to year and are announced after the department conducts a series of meetings in several Southeast Alaska towns. 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. Although the spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery chinook salmon, treaty chinook are also harvested. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has established guideline limits of treaty fish that may be harvested in each spring fishing area as follows:

Alaska Hatchery Contribution To The Catch	Treaty Fish Limit
less than 33%	1,000
33 to 49%	3,000
50 to 65%	5,000
greater than 65%	no limit

These new guidelines were established in 2003 and will be in effect during the 2004 spring troll fisheries. This season catches have been much better than those in 2003. A very high number of treaty fish on the outside produced closures in three areas around Sitka this week to try and increase the Alaska hatchery catch. Good catches are also occurring in lower Chatham Strait and the Lisianski Inlet area. Prices are still high at \$3.25 -\$4.00 per pound, which is well above recent year averages.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 2)

Cook Inlet

In Cook Inlet, the state waters fishery opened twenty-four hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL for the 2004 state waters season has been set at 2.37 million pounds. The GHL is calculated as 3.0% of the Acceptable Biological

Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. The GHL is split 50% to pot and 50% to jig gear.

This fishery opened February 1, 2004, which was 24 hours after the closure of the federal fishery. Eleven pot vessels participating in the fishery harvested their portion of the GHL by the third week in February, and the fishery closed to pot gear at 5 pm on February 23, 2004. Their catch was just less than 1.5 million pounds. Twenty-three jig vessels continue to fish, and landings stand at about 252,000 pounds to date.

Prince William Sound

The 2004 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 7, 2004, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL has been set at 970,000 pounds, which is calculated as 10% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. To date only two vessels have participated in the fishery and catch remains confidential.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 3)

Kodiak (FIGURE 4)

The Kodiak Area GHL was 9.9 million pounds, which was 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The GHL is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50% to pot gear, or 4.95 million pounds. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels that are longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25% of the GHL (2.47 million pounds) before September 1. The fishery opened at noon on February 7, 2004. Fishermen using pot gear reached their target in just over two weeks, the shortest time period since the state implemented these cod fisheries in 1997. Closing date was February 22, 2004, with a final catch of approximately 5.8 million pounds. The jig fishery was closed April 20, 2004. Their harvest was approximately 4.2 million pounds.

Chignik (FIGURE 5)

The Chignik state waters Pacific cod GHL is 6.9 million pounds. This results as the final 'step up increment' to 8.75% of CGOA ABC. The GHL is split 85% to pot boats, and 15% to jig boats. The fishery opened by regulation on March 1, 2004. There are 17 fishermen registered to fish with pot gear in the area. Their catch now stands at approximately 5.6 million pounds. Thirteen jig fishermen have landed just over 102,000 pounds to date. Those fisheries remain open.

South Alaska Peninsula (FIGURE 6)

The South Alaska Peninsula GHL is 12.5 million pounds, which is 25% of the Western GOA ABC. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The fishery opened on March 2, 2004 which was 7 days after the close of the federal fishery. Thirty-four pot vessels harvested approximately 10.8 million pounds of cod in just over three weeks, and the fishery closed to pot gear at noon, March 24, 2004. Approximately 59 jig vessels participated this season, with a catch of approximately 1.7 million pounds. Their season closed on April 14, 2004.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 7)

The inside waters Pacific cod fishery opened January 1, 2004 with an annual quota of 1,000,000 round pounds, and to date the directed fishery has landed approximately 318,000 round pounds. It is anticipated that this fishery will remain open year round.

The directed fishery for black rockfish, in the Southeast District, opened on January 1, 2004 and to date effort has been minimal.

The directed fishery for lingcod opened in most waters of the Southeast District east of 144° W. longitude on May 16, 2004. The waters of the Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO) between latitudes 56°55.5' N. and 56°57' N. and longitudes 135°54' W. and 135°57' W. (the Pinnacle area) and waters of Sitka Sound will remain closed to lingcod fishing (5 AAC 28.150 defines closed waters of Sitka Sound). No directed fishing for lingcod is permitted in the Northern

Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI) or in the Southern Southeast Internal Waters Sector (SSEIW) (see attached map). The directed lingcod quota (round pounds) for the following management areas are:

<u>Management Area</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Icy Bay Sector (IBS)	66,660*
East Yakutat (EYKT)	86,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	50,100

*all gear commercial quota for directed lingcod, longline bycatch, and troll bycatch fisheries

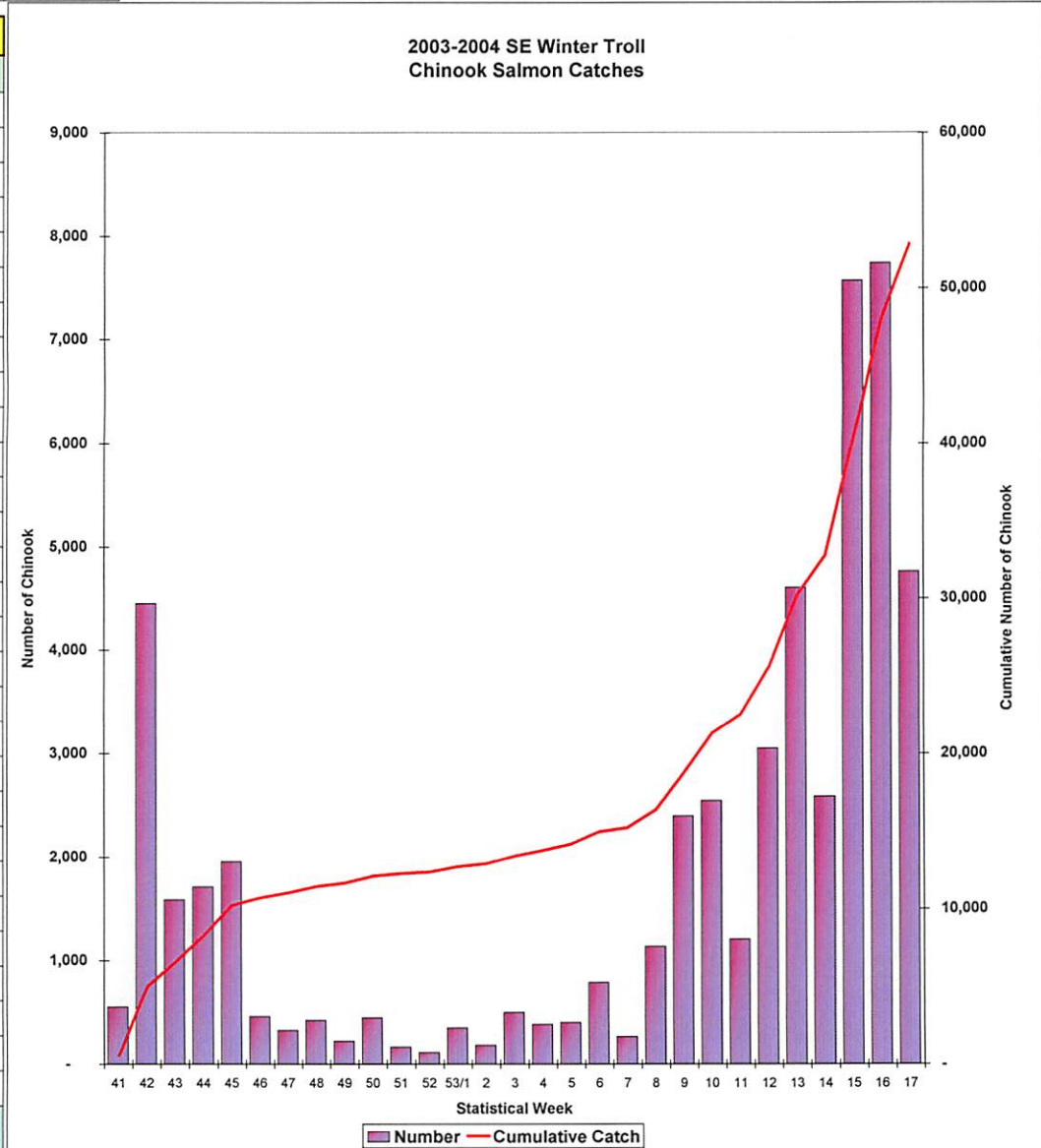
The fishery closed in the East Yakutat Section on May 20, 2004. The directed fishery remains open in the Northern Southeast Outside Section (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside Section (CSEO), and the Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC). Fishermen should expect closures on short notice. The retention of lingcod bycatch in the commercial longline fisheries closed in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section in May. Longline quotas for lingcod in those areas were 9,600 and 10,800 round pounds respectively. Longliners are required to release all lingcod caught in these areas after the closure is in effect, however tagged lingcod may be retained if the tag remains attached to the fish. Lingcod may still be taken as longline bycatch in the IBS, EYKT, CSEO, SSEOC and SSEIW management areas of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Lingcod catches in the longline fisheries will be closely monitored, and fishermen are advised that closures may occur on short notice.

FIGURE 1. 2004 COMMERCIAL WINTER TROLL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY

This table was updated May 11, 2004. Numbers below are listed by Troll Year, which begins with the winter fishery in October and ends with the summer fishery in September.

Troll Year	Statistics for April 11-17				Week 16		
	Total Catch to date	Week 16 Catch	Permits Fished	Landings	Catch/Landing	Average Weight (lbs.)	Average Price/lb
2004	48,058	7,740	241	413	18.7	13.8	\$4.21
2003	50,854	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
5-year average 1999 - 2003	35,780	2,006	109	139	15.9	14.9	\$3.11

Troll Year 2004 Weekly Chinook Salmon Catch and Effort Data						
Week	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds	Ave. Price	Ave. Wt.
41	28	29	547	7,386	\$2.96	13.5
42	133	182	4,449	61,532	\$2.96	13.9
43	74	102	1,586	22,398	\$3.38	14.2
44	108	148	1,709	23,229	\$3.42	13.7
45	95	133	1,953	25,488	\$3.74	13.2
46	41	50	457	5,977	\$3.86	13.1
47	41	51	324	4,314	\$4.08	13.3
48	39	47	419	5,941	\$4.24	14.2
49	28	31	218	2,974	\$4.67	13.6
50	71	83	443	6,047	\$4.91	13.7
51	29	34	160	2,058	\$4.84	12.9
52	28	34	110	1,521	\$5.08	13.8
53/1	59	67	346	4,444	\$5.14	13.3
2	28	36	181	2,541	\$5.10	14.0
3	50	82	497	6,521	\$5.21	13.2
4	52	58	381	5,510	\$5.13	14.5
5	50	61	398	5,607	\$5.35	14.1
6	80	94	787	11,477	\$5.37	14.6
7	51	65	262	3,863	\$5.58	14.7
8	102	149	1,135	16,343	\$5.70	14.4
9	154	244	2,395	34,746	\$5.71	14.5
10	159	246	2,545	35,877	\$5.42	14.0
11	116	148	1,206	17,441	\$5.46	14.5
12	163	259	3,048	42,556	\$4.91	14.0
13	200	347	4,607	62,810	\$4.06	13.6
14	142	177	2,584	34,938	\$3.79	13.5
15	178	303	7,571	96,113	\$3.99	12.7
16	241	413	7,740	106,881	\$4.21	13.8
17	178	237	4,761	67,906	\$4.34	14.3
Totals	439	3,910	52,819	724,439	\$4.28	13.7



Data for troll year 2004 is preliminary and based on fish ticket reports.

Figure 2. 2004 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through May 15.

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 (05)	1	1	confidential	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	1	3	confidential
Longline (61)	22	27	8,133	10	18	6,862
Pots (91)	7	43	360,637	0	0	0
Totals	30	71	368,770	11	21	6,862
Status		Bycatch			Bycatch	
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 31			Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 31		

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)		2.37mil.			970,000	
Hand troll (05)	1	12	confidential	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	23	89	251,959	0	0	0
Pots (91)	11	98	1,461,666	2	6	confidential
Totals	35	199	1,713,625	2	6	confidential
State seasons: Jigs Status	Opened - Closed noon Feb 1 - Open			Opened - Closed noon Feb 7 - Open		
State seasons: Pots Status	Opened - Closed noon Feb 1 - 5 PM Feb 23 Closed			Opened - Closed noon Feb 7 - 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 directed fishery harvest.

FIGURE 3. WESTWARD REGION 2004 STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD CATCHES

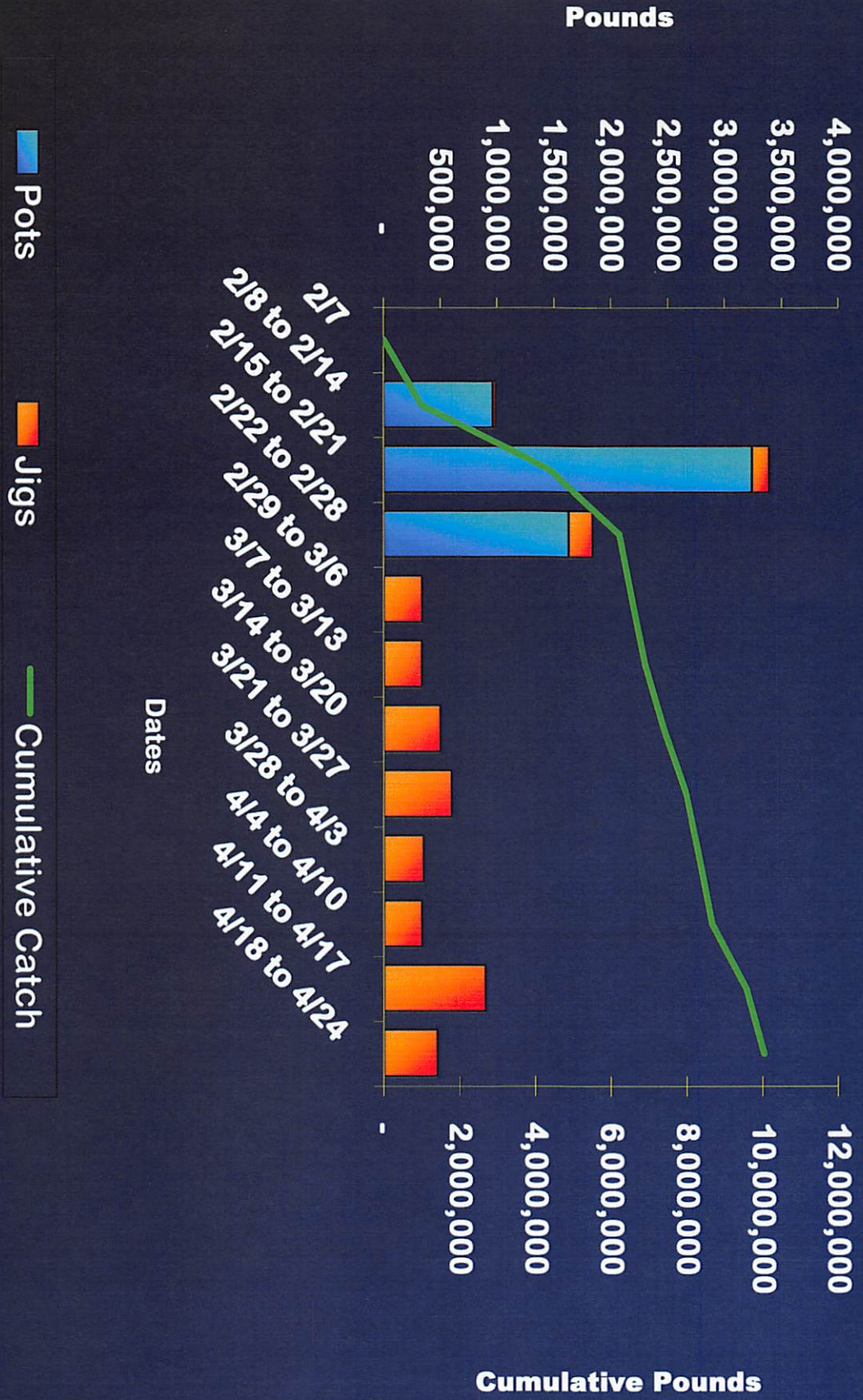


KODIAK				CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA					
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig			
	178	38	140	30	17	13	93	34	59			
2004 GHJL	9.9 Million Pounds			6.9 Million Pounds			12.5 Million Pounds					
ALLOCATIONS: 50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHJL before Sept. 1. Jigs = 4.95 million, Pots = 4.95 million, >58' pots 2.475 before Sept. 1.				85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 5.8 million Jigs = 1.1 million			85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 10.6 million Jigs = 1.9 million					
Opened 2/7 noon	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
DATES:	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
2/7	0	0	5	6,870	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/8 to 2/14	38	959,973	19	27,848	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/15 to 2/21	79	3,239,336	68	150,821	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes			
2/22 to 2/28	44	1,624,295	66	215,593	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 3/2 at noon			
2/29 to 3/6	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	83	336,846	10	271,731	0	0	38	1,565,086	11	39,269
3/7 to 3/13	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	96	333,728	24	572,007	0	0	72	2,932,505	37	164,649
3/14 to 3/20	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	103	498,112	24	578,502	0	0	78	2,828,417	22	89,063
3/21 to 3/27	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	119	595,448	26	631,403	0	0	89	3,444,648	55	280,658
3/28 to 4/3	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	82	348,542	24	562,664	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	71	390,999
4/4 to 4/10	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	73	334,586	29	508,431	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	73	469,041
4/11 to 4/17	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	153	895,799	23	444,280	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	48	237,779
4/18 to 4/24	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	82	468,686	35	837,612	confidential	confidential	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14
4/25 to 5/1	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	24	580,419	11	18,419	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14
5/2 to 5/8	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	16	305,154	12	47,990	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14
5/9 to 5/15	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	9	348,019	10	35,803	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14
ACCUMULATIVE	161	5,823,604	949	4,212,879	244	5,640,222	33	102,212	277	10,770,656	317	1,671,458
CATCH	(Total combined)		10,036,483		(Total combined)		5,742,434		(Total combined)		12,442,114	

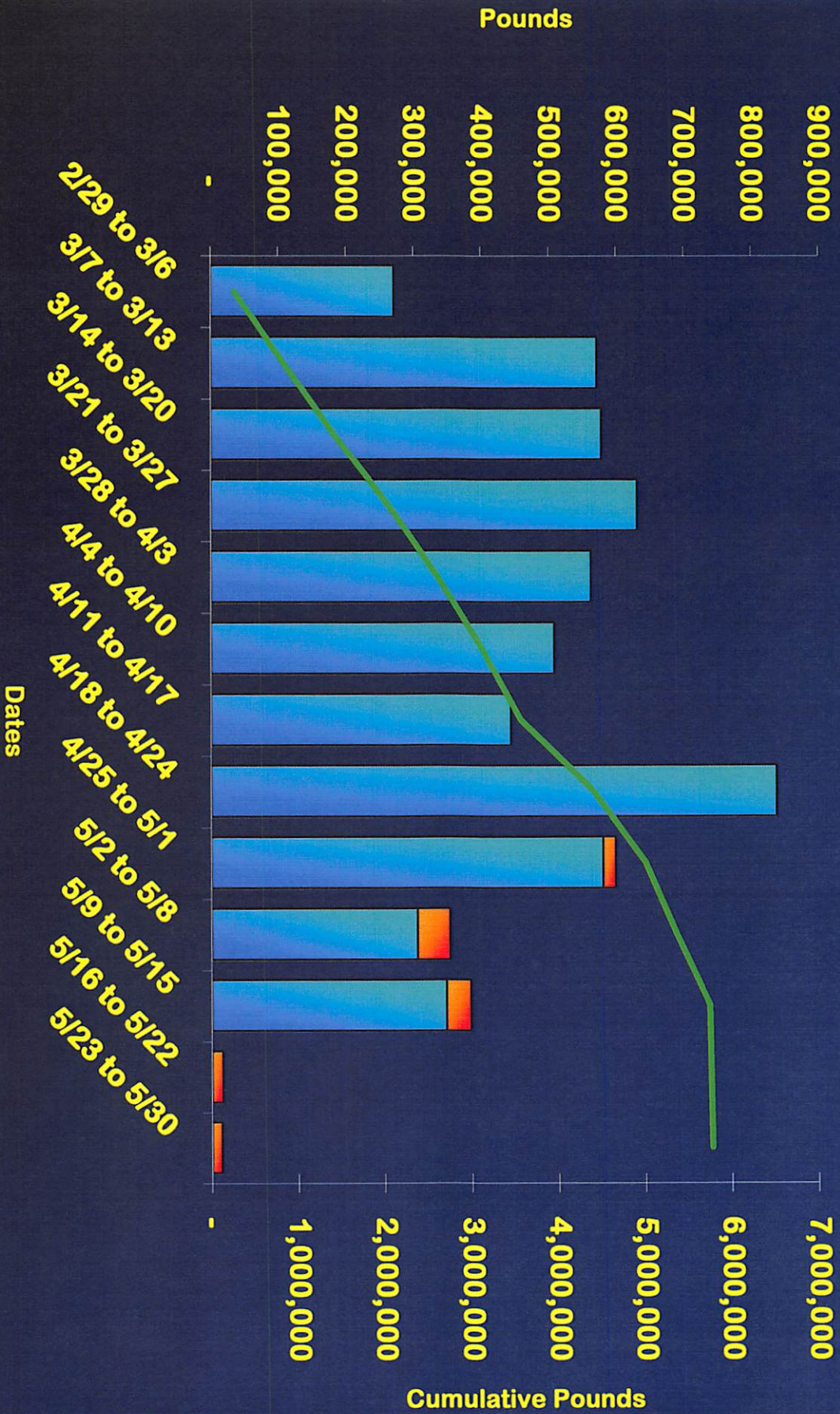
Chignik Pot fishery closed 5/13 @11.59 PM

updated 5/17/04

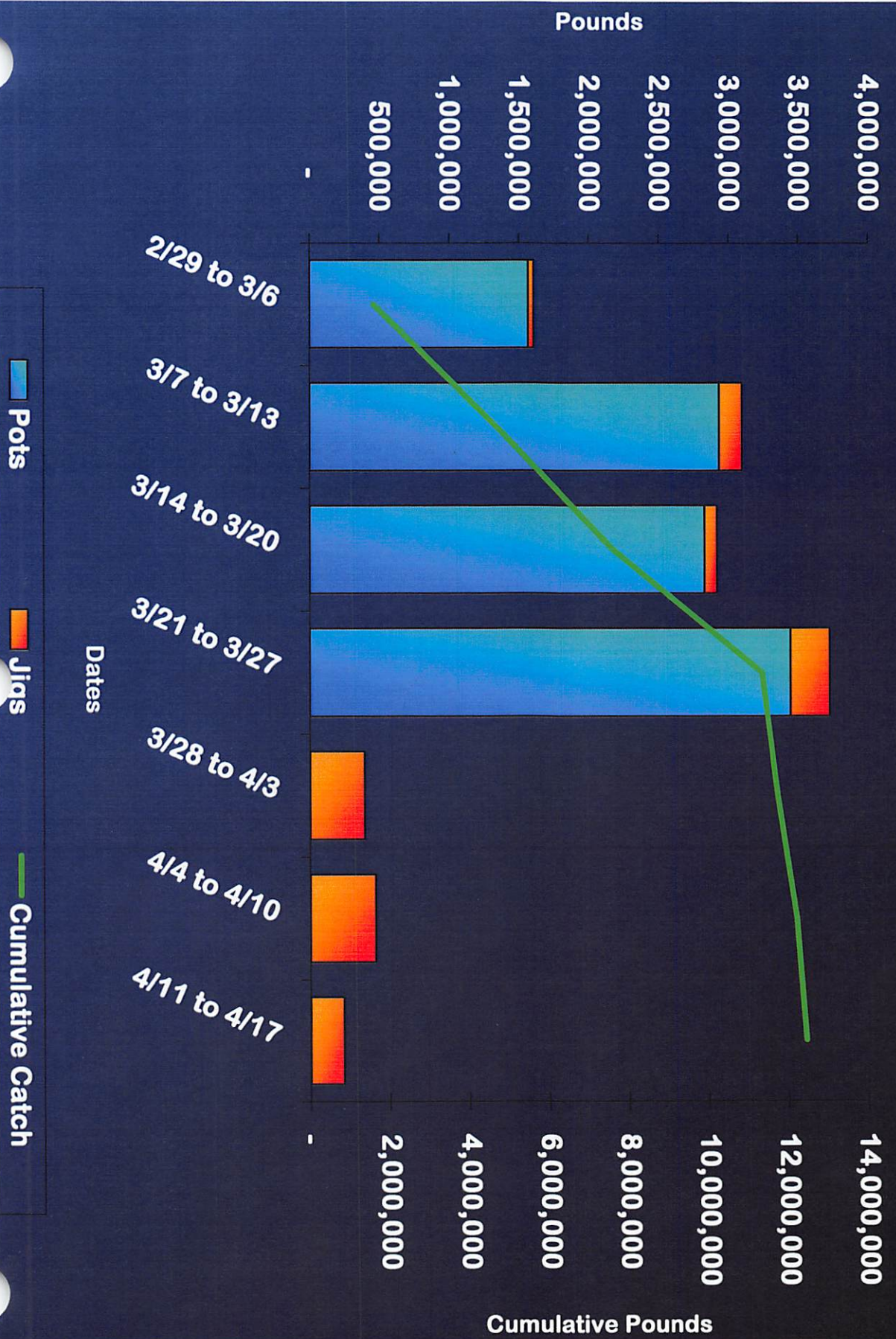
2004 Kodiak Pacific Cod Catches



2004 Chignik Pacific Cod Catches



2004 S.A.K.-Pen Pacific Cod Catches



Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 7

