



**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 groundfish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2020/21 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2020. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 6.61 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. For the 2020/21 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.65 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.96 million pounds. Ten percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. To date, 100% of the eastern area TAC, 3.65 million pounds, has been harvested by three vessels (Figure 1). In the western area, 79% of the IFQ TAC, 2.11 million pounds, has been harvested by three vessels. The 2020/21 ACA harvest is confidential and is not included in the reported harvest from the western area. AIGKC fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2021.

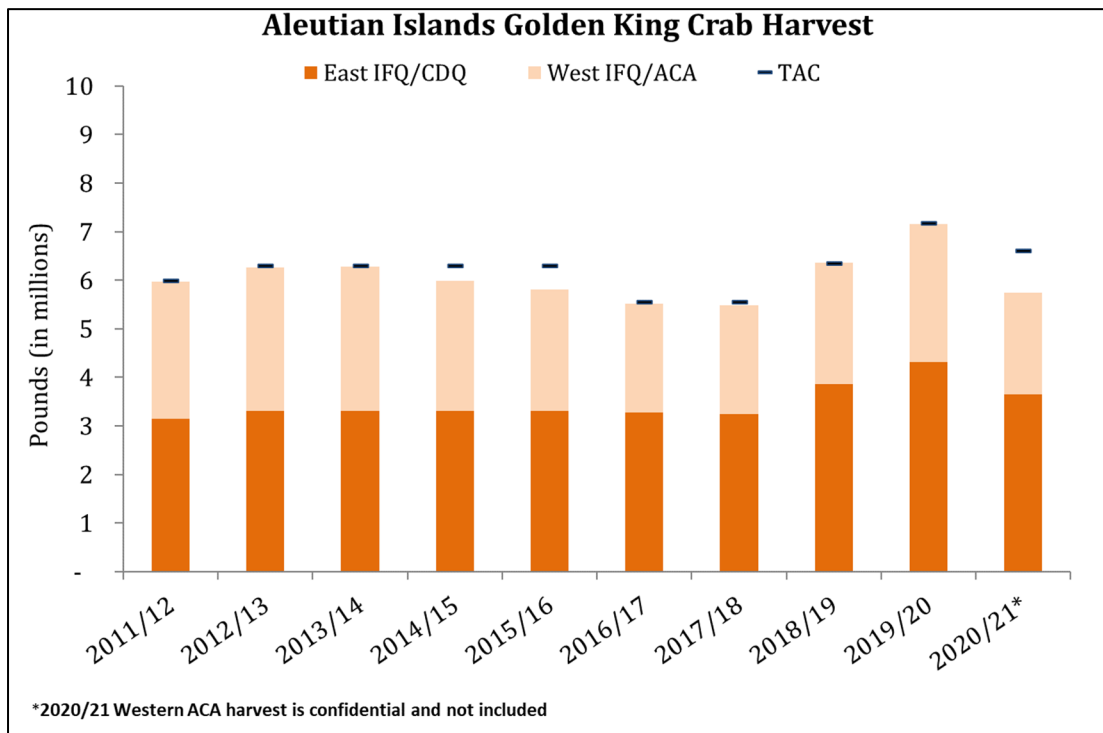


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2011/12 – 2020/21 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2020/21 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2020, in the western area (West of 166° W longitude) with a TAC of 2.348 million pounds. A portion of this TAC, 234,800 pounds, is allocated to CDQ fisheries. The eastern area will remain closed for the 2020/21 season. The fishery closed by regulation on March 31, 2021 and through April 1, 38 vessels landed 1.179 million pounds, 50% of the western area TAC (Figure 2). ADF&G received several requests from industry to extend the Tanner crab season. This request was declined due to concerns with possible overlap with the beginning of the molting/mating season and associated increases in discard mortality, as well as increased uncertainties in the stock assessment and TAC setting due to the cancelled 2020 trawl survey.

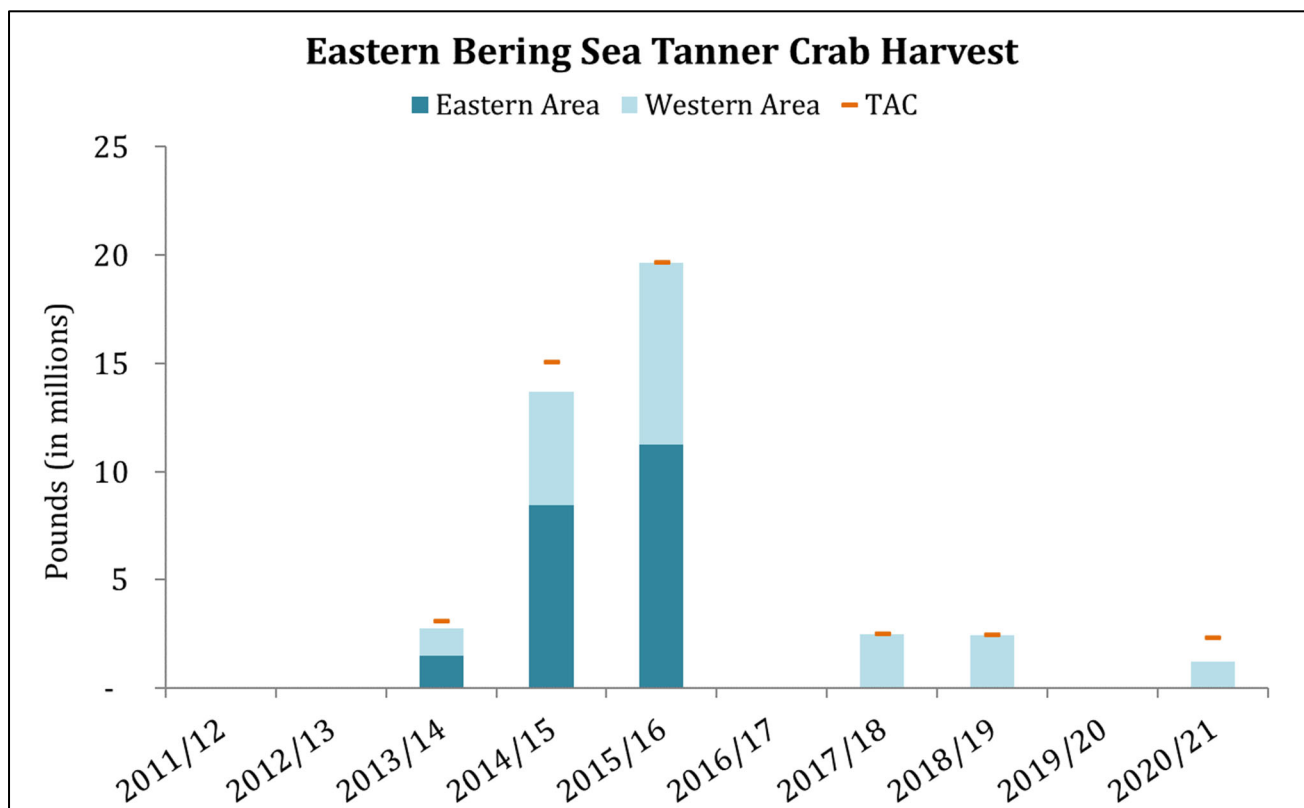


Figure 2. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC, 2011/12 – 2020/21 seasons.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2020 and will remain open through May 15, 2021 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and through May 31, 2021 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2020/21 snow crab TAC is 45.0 million pounds. Ten percent of the Bering Sea snow crab TAC is allocated to CDQ fisheries. To date, 59 vessels have harvested 28.251 million pounds in the IFQ fishery (70% of the IFQ TAC), and 14 vessels have harvested 3.842 million pounds in the CDQ fishery (85% of the CDQ TAC) (Figure 3).

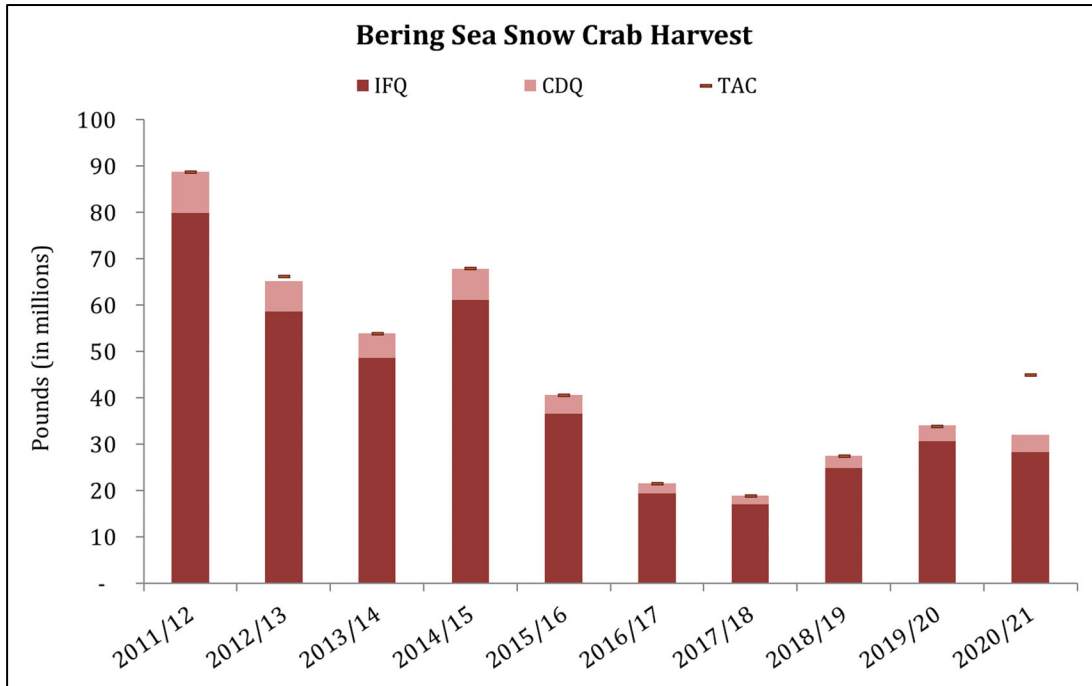


Figure 3. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest, 2011/12 – 2020/21 seasons.

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 and 2021 GHLs are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod Guideline Harvest Level				
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation	Gear	2021 GHL (pounds)	2021 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%	Jig/Pot	164,107	74
		Longline	929,937	422
Chignik	8.75%	Jig	263,428	119
		Pot	2,370,849	1,075
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	Jig	1,881,626	853
		Pot	1,881,626	853
Cook Inlet	3.75%	Jig	169,348	77
		Pot	959,639	435
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%	Jig	792,267	359
		Pot	4,489,514	2,036
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 10%	Jig	100,000	45
		Pot	27,292,000	12,379
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict*	Aleutian Islands - 39%	All	15,000,000	6,804

*AI Subdistrict GHL is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)

Prince William Sound: The 2021 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.094 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 January 23, 2021 and remains open. The state-waters season for longline gear opened on March 6, 2021 and closed on March 20 with a total harvest of 877,891 pounds (Figure 4). If there is GHL remaining after September 1, 2021, the longline fishery may reopen.

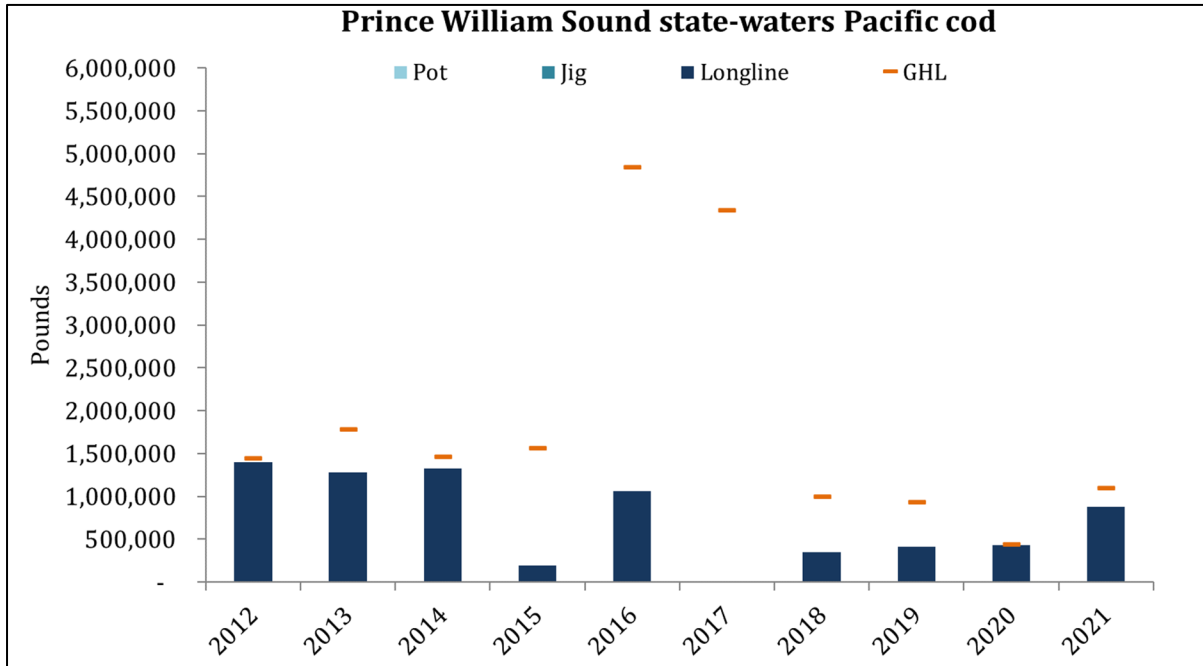


Figure 4. Prince William Sound Pacific cod GHL and harvest by gear, 2012 – 2021. Excludes jig and pot gear harvest that is confidential.

Chignik: The 2021 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 2.634 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters pot season opened on March 1, 2021 and the state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15, 2021; both fisheries remain open. Through March 29, 1.696 million pounds have been harvested by pot vessels and there has been no effort in the jig fishery (Figure 5).

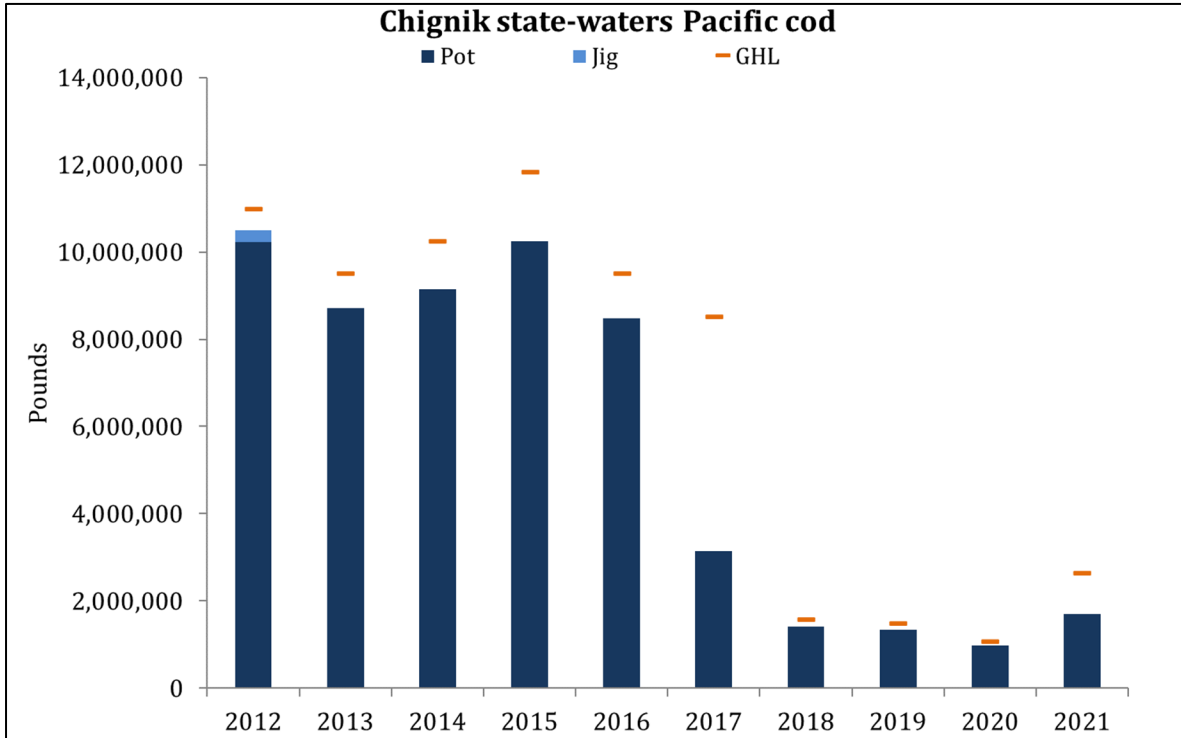


Figure 5. Chignik Pacific cod GHL and harvest by gear, 2012 – 2021.

Kodiak: The 2021 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 3.763 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (1.88 million pounds each). Harvest by pot vessels greater than 58 feet in length is restricted to 50 percent of the overall pot allocation, or 0.98 million pounds. The state-waters pot season opened on January 29, 2021 and closed to vessels >58 feet on February 18 and to the remaining pot vessels on February 27. Total harvest by pot vessels was 1.897 million pounds. The jig fishery opened on January 1, 2021 and remains open. Through March 29, 380,136 pounds have been harvested in the jig fishery.

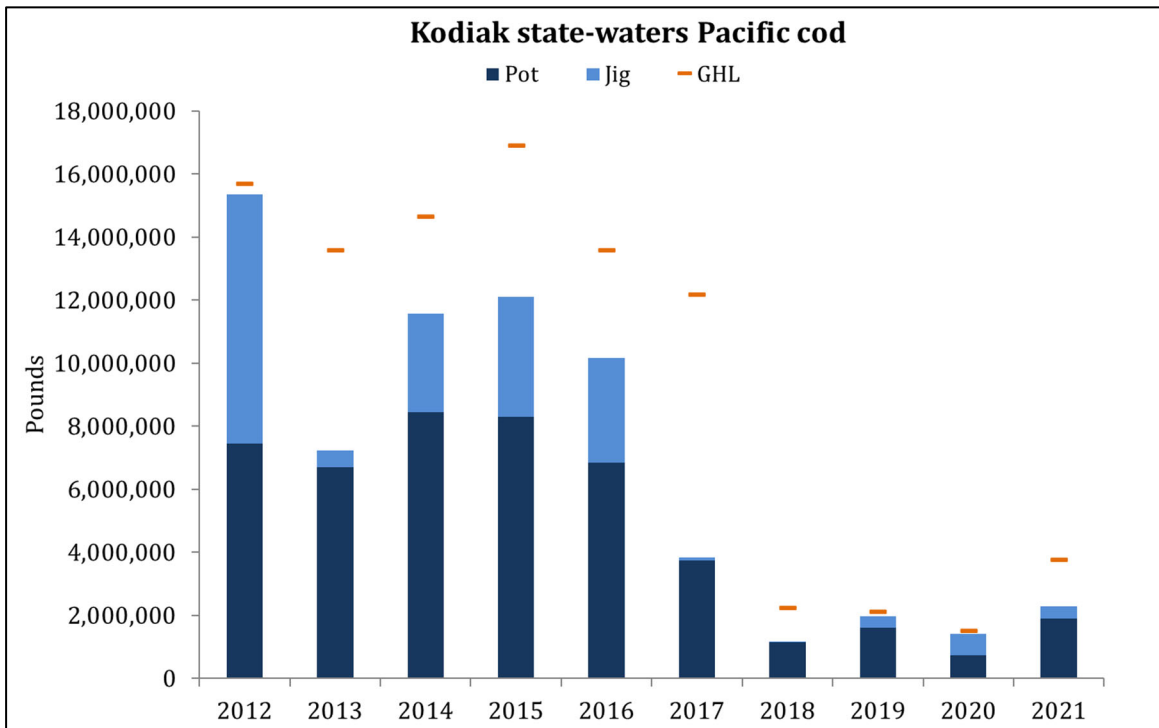


Figure 6. Kodiak Pacific cod GHL and harvest by gear, 2012 – 2021.

Cook Inlet: The 2021 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.129 million pounds with 0.960 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 0.169 million pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot season opened on January 23, 2021 and remains open with 0.944 million pounds harvested to date. The jig fishery is currently closed and opens by regulation 24 hours following the closure of the initial federal jig gear season for Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Area.

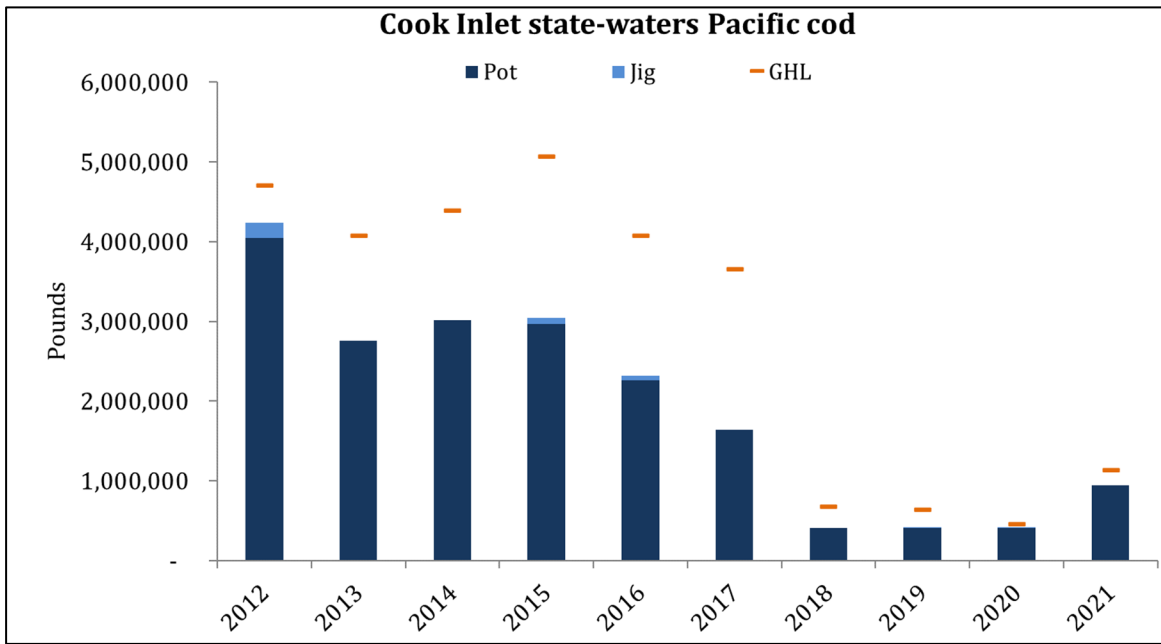


Figure 7. Cook Inlet Pacific cod GHL and harvest by gear, 2012 – 2021. Excludes jig and pot gear harvest that is confidential.

South Alaska Peninsula: The 2021 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 5.282 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters pot season opened on March 9, 2021 after a two-day weather delay and closed on March 15. The jig fishery opened on March 15, 2021 and harvest remains confidential. To date, 4.053 million pounds have been harvested by pot gear (Figure 8).

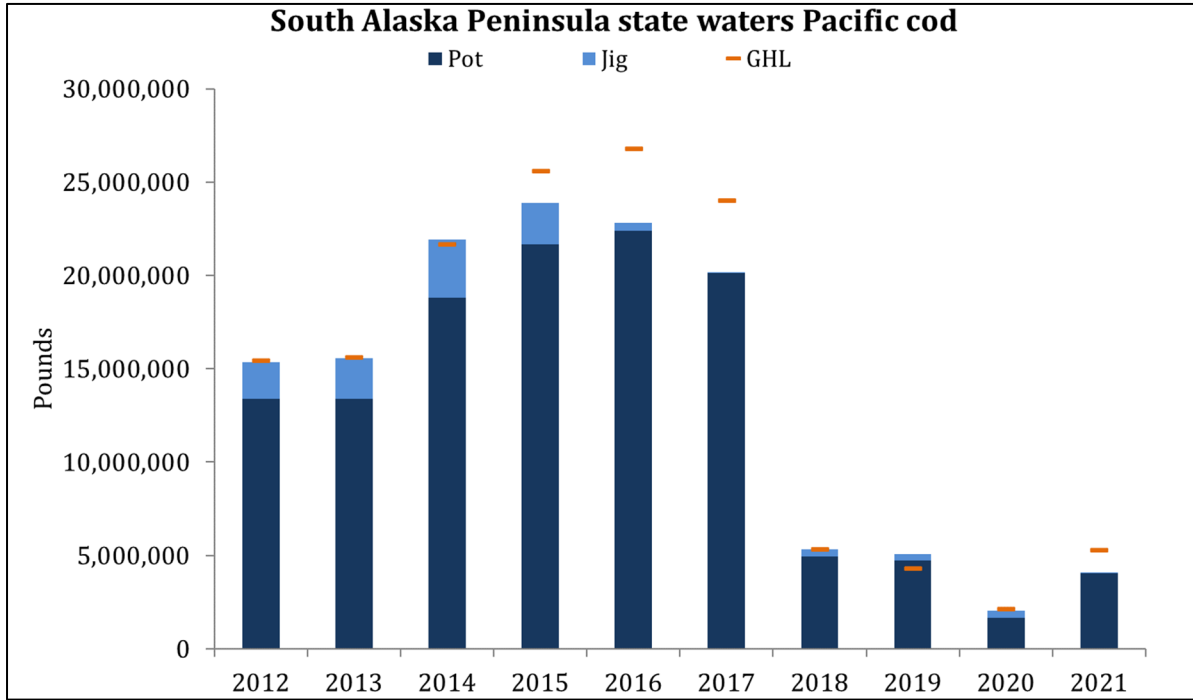


Figure 8. South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod GHL and harvest by gear, 2012 – 2021.

Dutch Harbor: The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot fishery opened on February 2, 2021 with a GHL of 27.292 million pounds and closed on March 25, with a harvest of 27.585 million pounds. The Dutch Harbor jig fishery is scheduled to open May 1, 2021 with a GHL of 100,000 pounds. By regulation, the fishery closes December 31, 2020 (or when the GHL is achieved). Since the pot fishery GHL was achieved for 2021, the 2022 GHL will increase to 11% of the Bering Sea Pacific cod ABC.

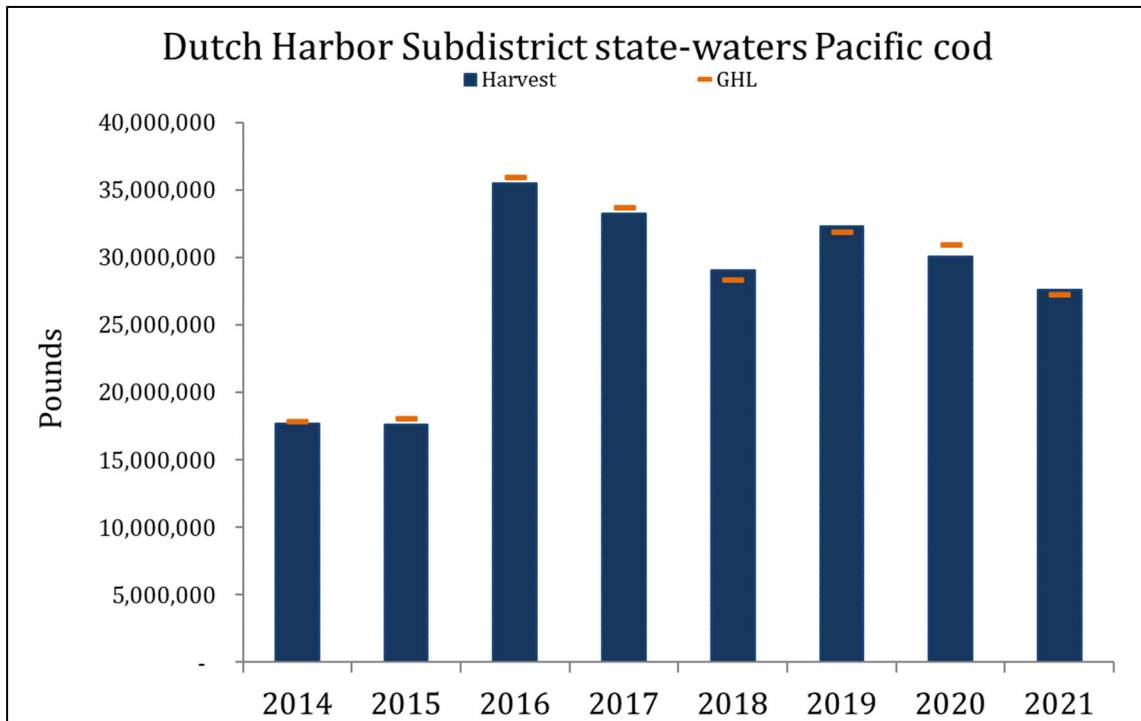


Figure 8. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2014 – 2021.

Aleutian Islands: Because the 2020 GHL was achieved, the 2021 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL was increased from 35% to 39% of the Aleutian Islands ABC; however, the GHL is capped by regulation at 15 million pounds. The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict opened with a GHL of 15 million pounds on January 25, 2021 to vessels 100 feet or less overall length (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. Additionally, the subdistrict opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear on March 15. To date, 13.2 million pounds (88% of the GHL) has been harvested; this includes deliveries and estimates of catch onboard vessels as of April 2, 2021.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

On March 8, 2021, the Board of Fisheries (Board) approved postponing its 2021/2022 meeting cycle until 2022/23 rather than double up on two years of meetings as initially proposed. The upcoming 2020/2021 meetings include those for Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish, Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish, and Statewide Shellfish (except Prince William Sound, Southeast, and Yakutat, but including Prince

William Sound shrimp). Emerging issues for these meetings may be submitted as agenda change requests by August 23, 2021.

The Board held a special meeting on March 16 to respond to a special request to close the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. The Board denied the request and the fishery will remain opened as defined in state regulation.