



**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 salmon, scallop, crab and Pacific cod.

**Salmon Troll Fishery**

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2015. 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.

Total catch from the summer retention period was 165,218 Chinook salmon and 161,620 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon. Fish ticket reports indicate that 14% of the summer Chinook salmon harvest and 5% of the summer Coho salmon harvest occurred in the EEZ.

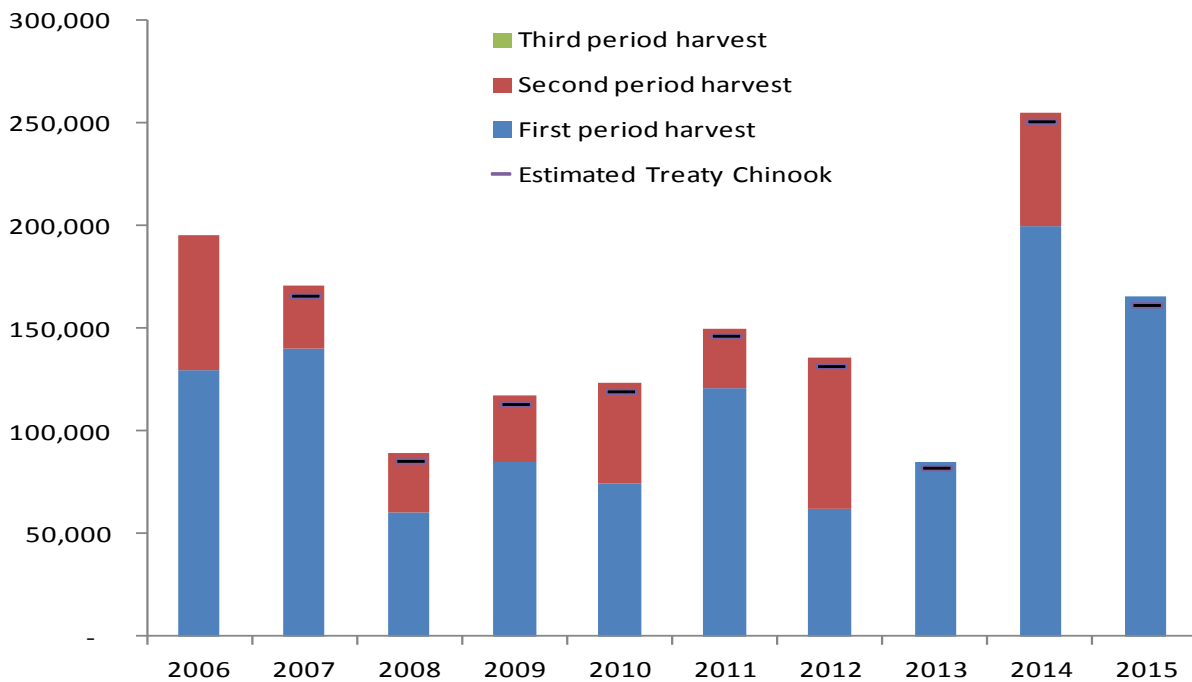


Figure 1. Chinook salmon harvest in the Southeast Alaska summer troll fishery, 2006 – 2015.

**Scallops**

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2015. The cumulative guideline harvest level

(GHL) for the 2015/16 season is 350,000 pounds of shucked meats, a 14% decrease from the 2014/15 cumulative GHL.

Total harvest to date is just over 250,000 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in the Shelikof and Northeast Districts of the Kodiak management area, the Unimak Bight District of the South Alaska Peninsula management area, the Bering Sea side of the Dutch Harbor management area, and in the Bering Sea management area.

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2015/16.

Registration Area	GHL (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 2015/16 season</i>		
COOK INLET	10,000	3,933	30	
KODIAK	Northeast District	55,000	93,929	25
	Shelikof District	75,000	19,107	50
	Southwest District <sup>1</sup>	25,000	12,000	50
	Semidi District <sup>1</sup>	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
ALASKA PENINSULA	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	<i>monitored inseason</i>	
	Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	15,000	12,000	50
DUTCH HARBOR	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	5,000	5,000	10
BERING SEA	7,500	260,000	500	

<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

### Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

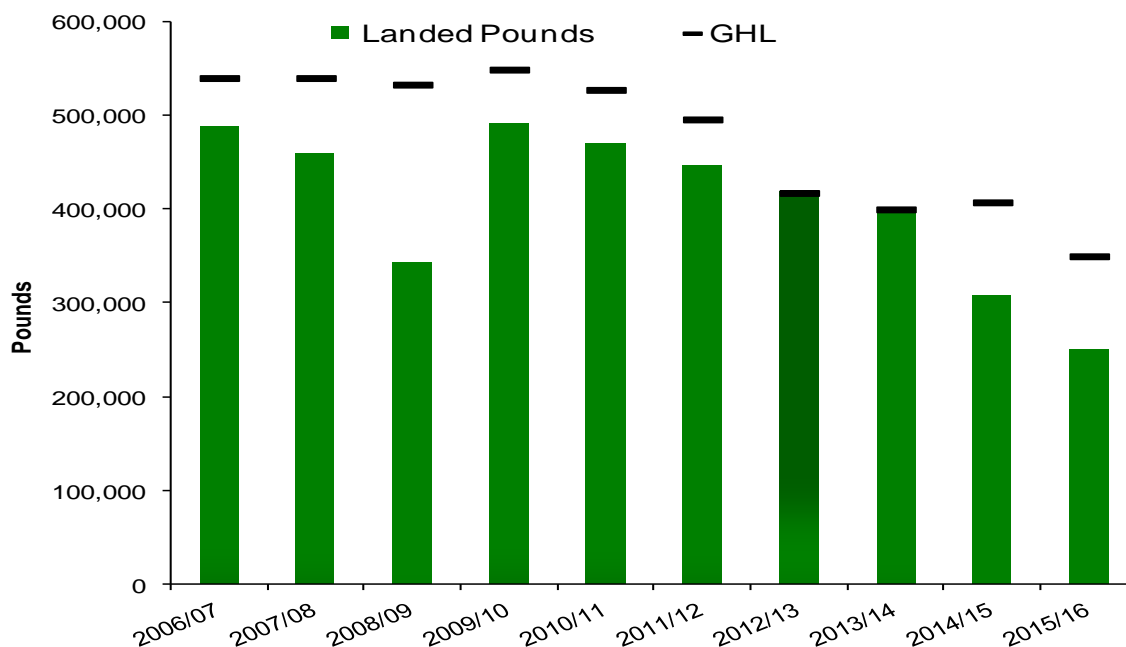


Figure 2. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2006/07 – 2015/16.

**Norton Sound red king crab**

The 2015 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries opened on June 29, 2015 with a total GHL of 394,600 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent of the quota and the remaining 365,005 pounds were allocated to the open access fishery. Catch rates were high and average catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 17 crabs per pot. The Norton Sound season lasted 26 days (compared to 40 in 2014), closing on July 24, 2015. This was the shortest season since the area became superexclusive in 1994. Thirty-six permit holders harvested 102% (371,520 pounds) of the open access quota and six permit holders harvested 100% (29,595 pounds) of the CDQ quota. The average price paid (including CDQ catch) was \$5.40 per pound, the third highest amount ever paid. The exvessel value of the fishery was \$2.13 million.

**Norton Sound open access and CDQ summer fishery**

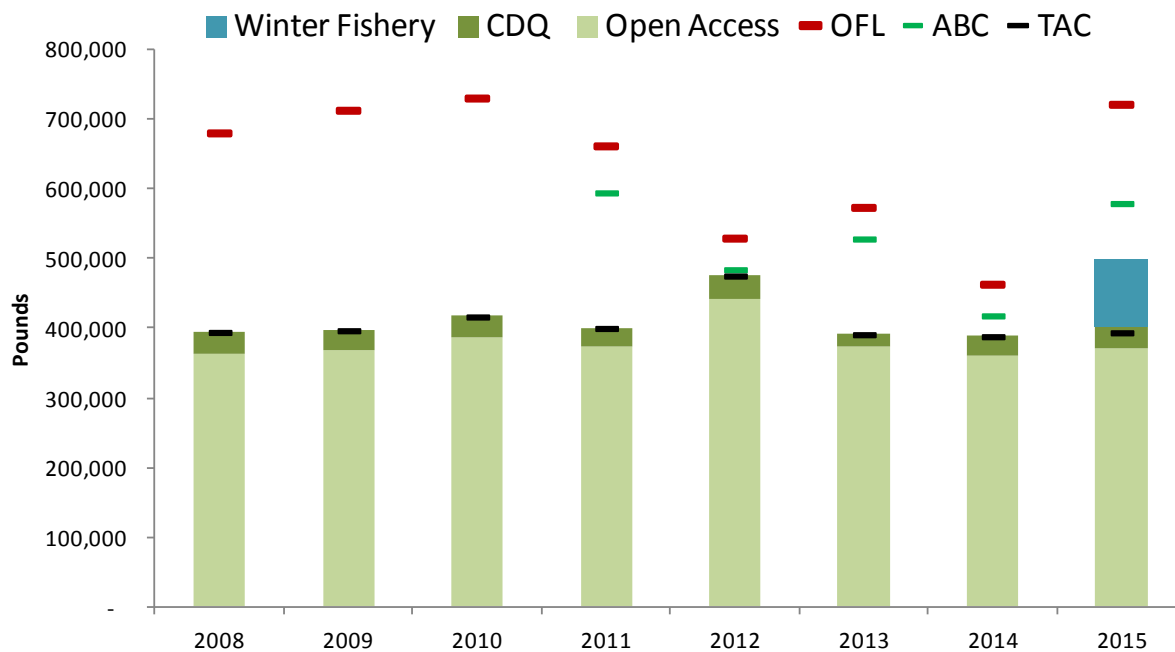


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2008 – 2015.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2015/16 Area 0 (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2015. The total allowable catch (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. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the CDQ (eastern) and Adak Community Allocation (ACA-western) fisheries. Three vessels are currently participating in the eastern area and harvest to date is 2.14 million pounds. Two vessels are fishing in the western area and harvest remains confidential.

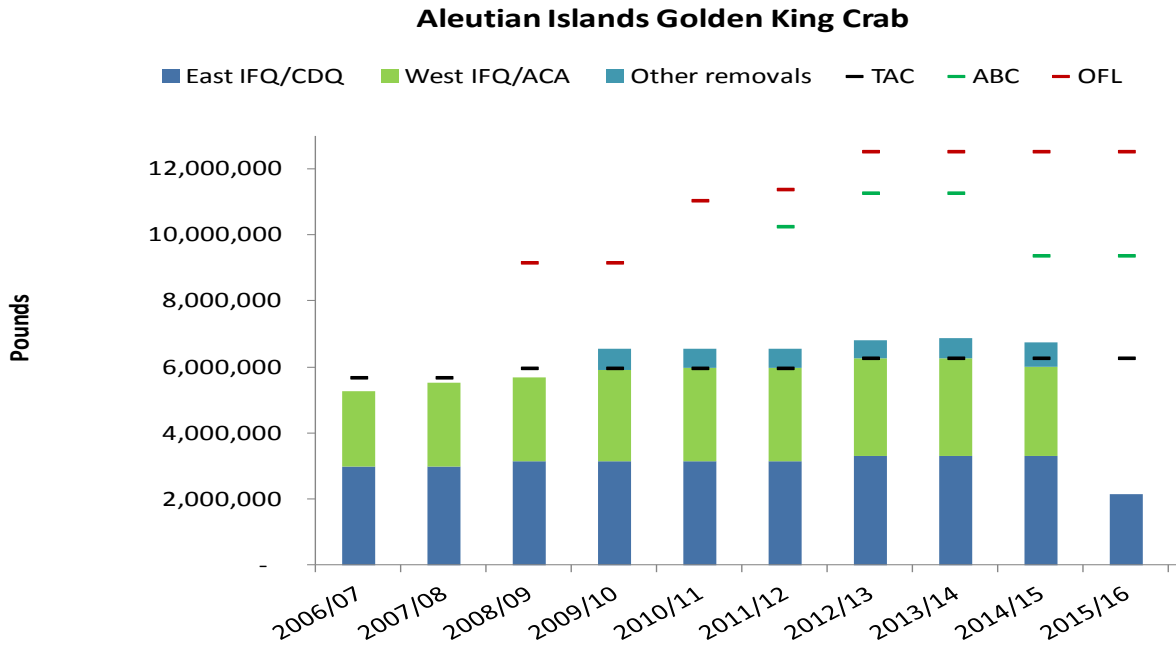


Figure 4. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2006/07 – 2015/16.

### Bristol Bay red king crab

The 2015/16 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will open October 15, 2015. The total TAC is 9.974 million pounds, a slight decrease from the 2014/15 TAC (9.986 million pounds). Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to CDQ quota and the remaining 8.976 million pounds is allocated to the IFQ fishery.

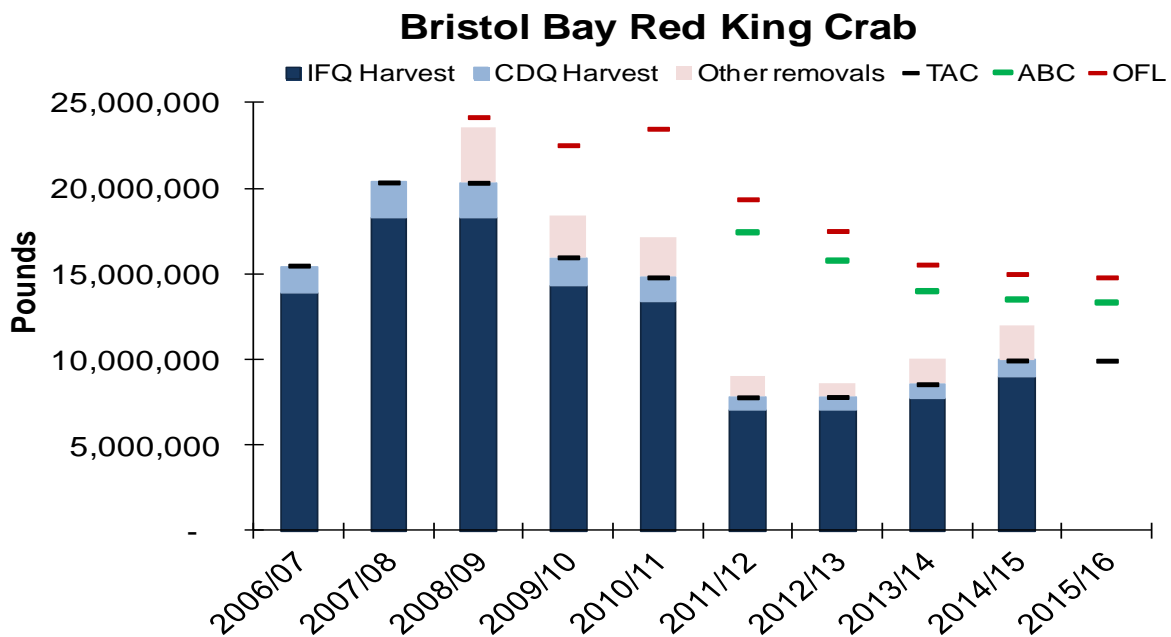


Figure 5. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC, 2006/07 – 2015/16.

### St. Matthew Island blue king crab

The 2015/16 St. Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery will open on October 15, 2015 with a total TAC of 411,000 pounds. Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and the remaining 369,900 pounds is allocated to the IFQ fishery.

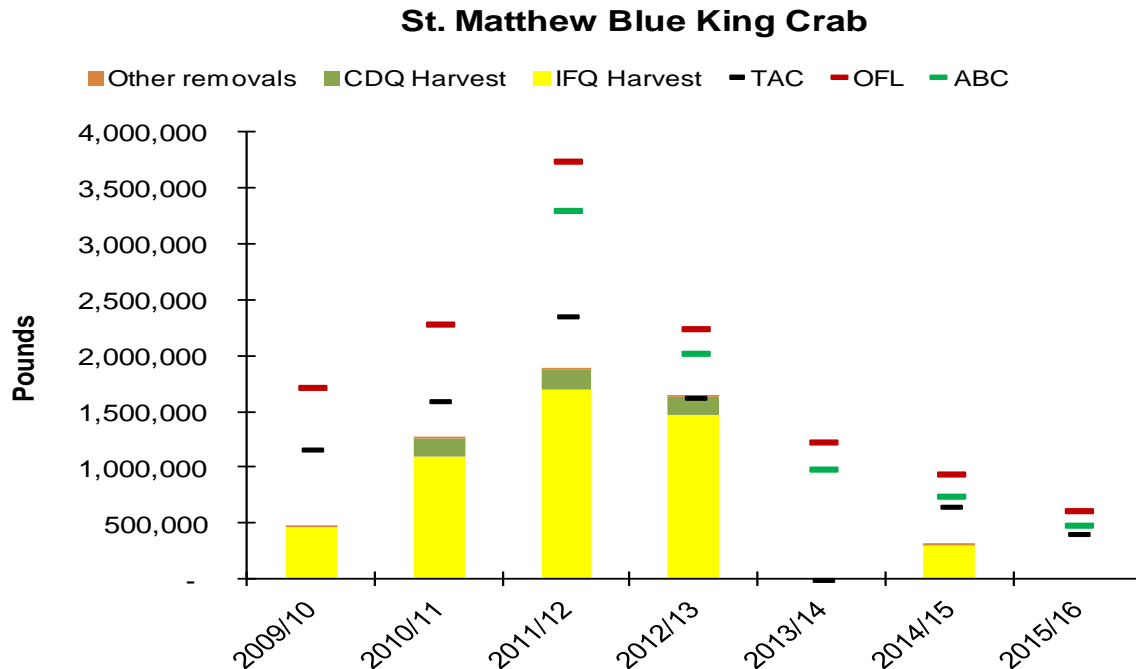


Figure 6. St. Matthew Island blue king crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC, 2009/10 – 2015/16.

### Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab

Pribilof District blue king crab must meet a minimum threshold of 13.2 million pounds of total mature biomass (TMB) in two consecutive years for the fishery to open. Both the 2014 and 2015 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore, the fishery will remain closed.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding precision of Pribilof District red king crab abundance estimates. Given the high uncertainty surrounding the red king crab abundance estimate and high potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed.

### Bering Sea Tanner crab

Bering Sea Tanner crab is managed east and west of 166° W long, with a separate TAC for each area. Biomass estimates of mature male Tanner crab east and west of 166° W long are above the long-term average. The TACs are apportioned as follows:

	East of 166° W long (EBT)	West of 166° W long (WBT)
Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	10,144,800 pounds	7,556,400 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	1,127,200 pounds	839,600 pounds
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,272,000 pounds</b>	<b>8,396,000 pounds</b>

The EBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters from 163° to 166° W long. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered vessel for Bristol Bay red king crab.

The WBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters west of 166° W long. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. In the directed Tanner crab fishery west of 166° W long, snow crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel registered for the WBT fishery. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both WBT and EBT fisheries.

To protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock, the WBT fishery will not open in waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 56°30' N, 170° W; 57° N, 171° W; 58° N, 171° W; 58° N, 168° W; 57° N, 168° W; 56°30' N, 169° W; 56°30' N, 170° W. The associated closed ADF&G statistical areas are: 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of the closed area will be provided at the time of registration.

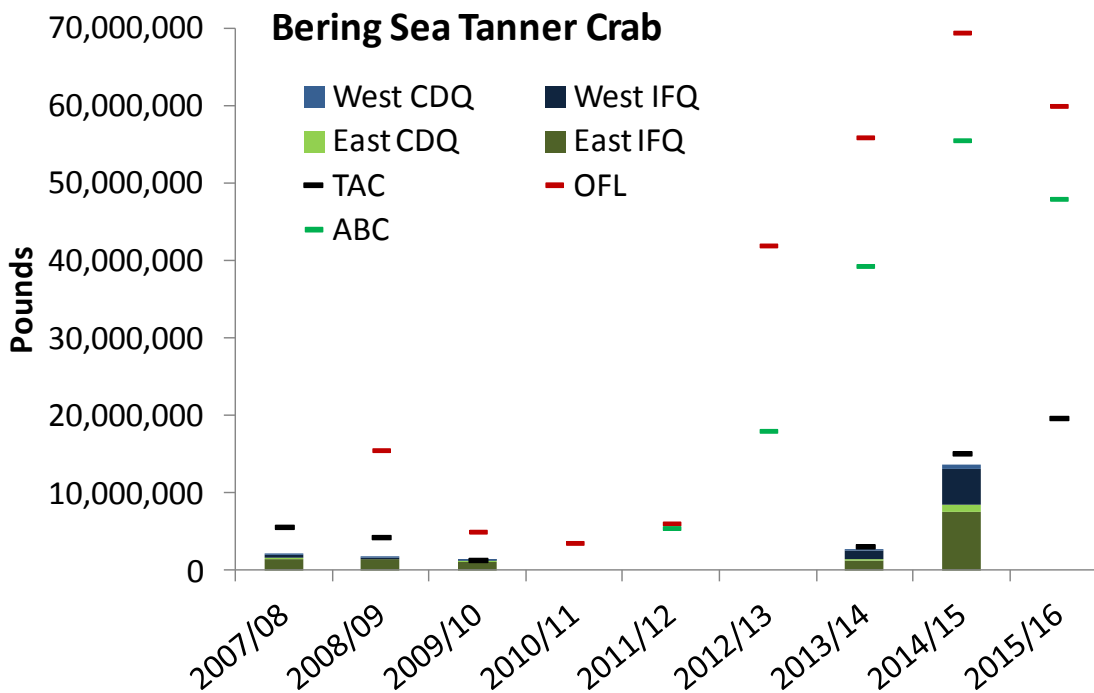


Figure 7. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2007/08 – 2015/16.

### Westward Region Pacific Cod

#### Chignik Pacific Cod

The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15, 2015 and remains open. Through July 31, 2015 minimal state-waters Pacific cod jig harvest occurred. The 2015 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific

cod GHL for jig gear is 1,182,890 pounds. Effective August 15, pot or jig gear may be used to harvest the remaining Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL; to date no harvest has occurred.

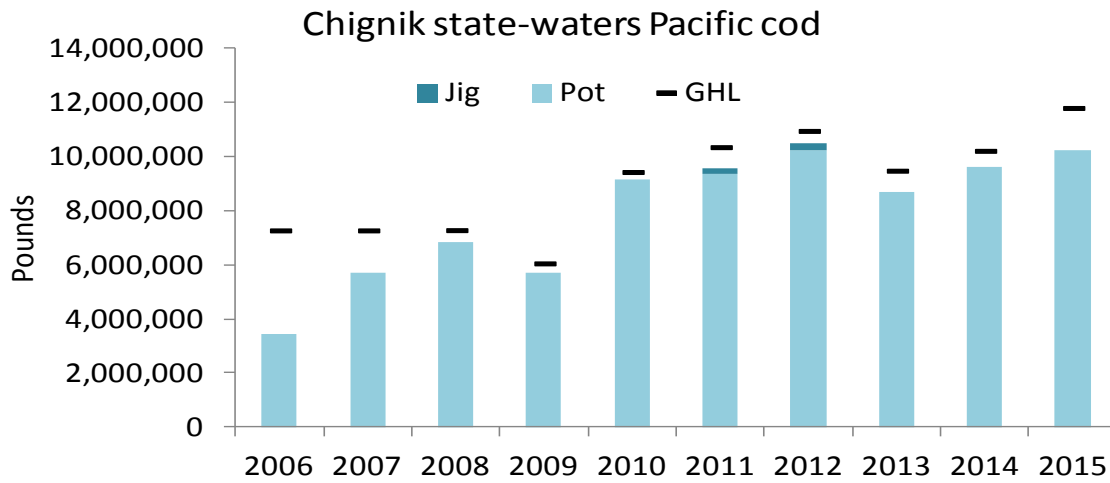


Figure 8. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006-2015.

### Kodiak Pacific Cod

The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 04, 2015 concurrent with the federal jig sector fishery in federal waters and remains open. Total jig harvest to date is 3.8 million pounds (45% of GHL) by ninety-seven vessels.

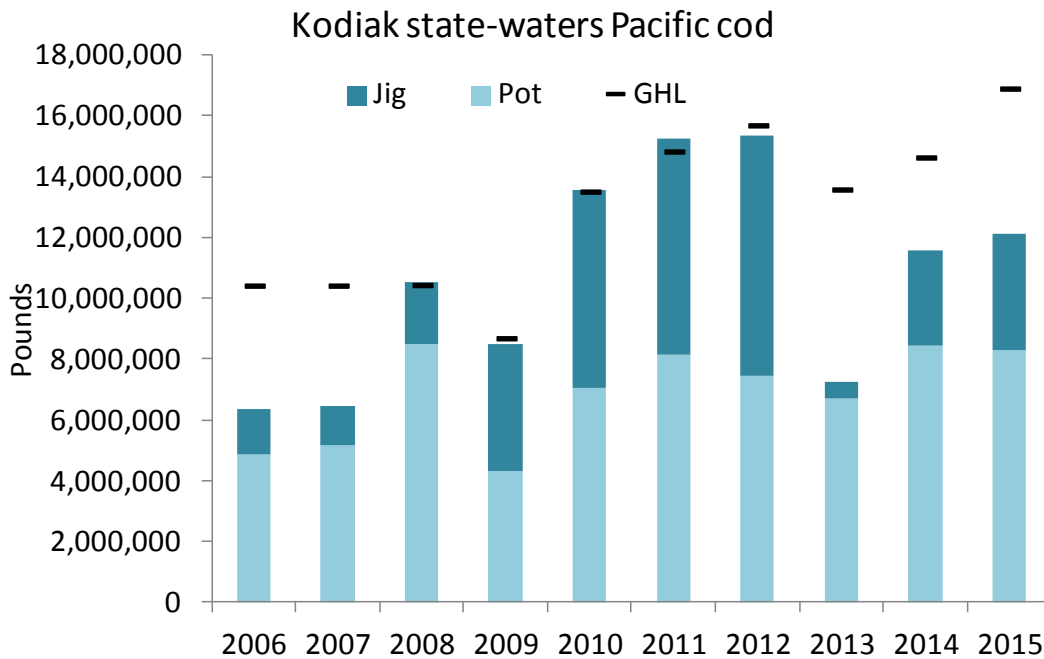


Figure 9. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006-2015.

### South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod

The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 18, 2015 and remains open. Total jig harvest to date is 2.22 million pounds (58% of GHL) by thirty-five vessels.

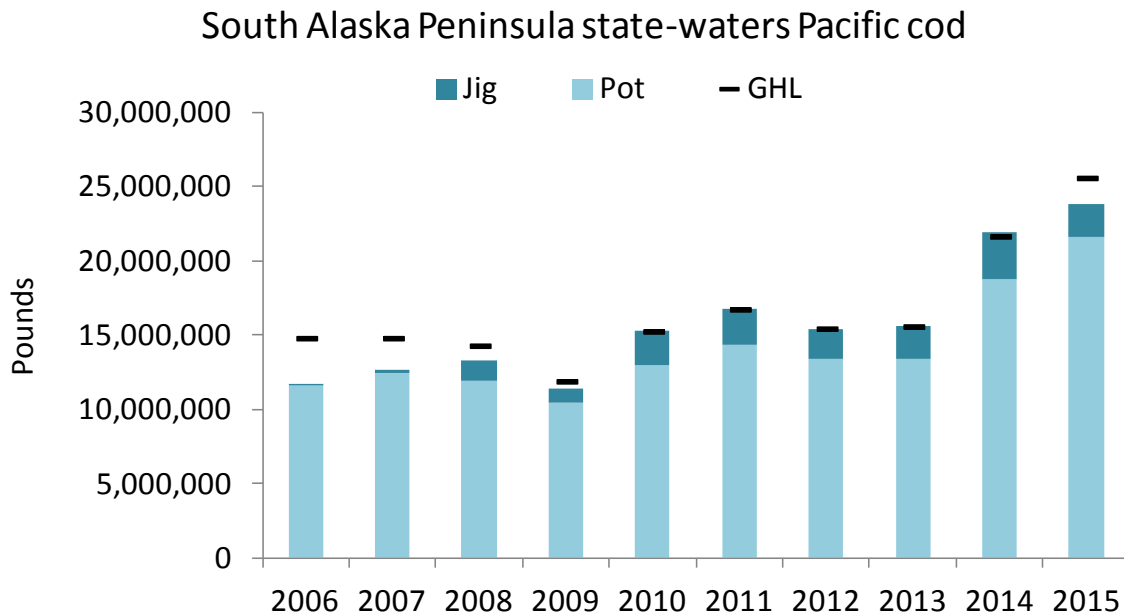


Figure 10. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006-2015.

### Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Board may consider out-of-cycle proposals through an Agenda Change Request (ACR) and state regulations (5 AAC 39.999) define the guidelines by which an ACR may be accepted. The Board considers ACRs at its first meeting in the fall (Work Session: October 21 - 22, in Anchorage). The only action for the Board is to determine whether to accept an ACR and to determine which future meeting it will be deliberated.

The Board received four ACRs this year for Bering Sea crab fisheries; three for Bering Sea crab and one for Norton Sound red king crab.

- ACR 1 –** Increase the allowable level of incidental harvest of *C. bairdi* crab from 5% to 40% of the weight of red king crab onboard while directed fishing for Bristol Bay red king crab east of 166° W longitude (5 AAC 35.506).
- ACR 2 –** Increase the allowable level of incidental harvest of *C. opilio* crab from 5% to 40% of the weight of *C. Bairdi* crab onboard while directed fishing for Bering Sea *C. bairdi* crab west of 166° W longitude (5 AAC 35.506).
- ACR 3 –** Amend the *Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Crab Fisheries Management Plan* to allow a vessel operator to deploy baited pots in another Bering Sea rationalized crab fishery, for which the vessel is not registered, while the vessel operator delivers crab from another Bering Sea rationalized crab fishery (5 AAC 39.670).



**ACR 4 –** Establish an aggregate pot limit of no more than 20 pots per permit holder for the Norton Sound Section winter through the ice commercial fishery (5 AAC 34.925).

ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC COD

The following comprise several of the Pacific cod proposals that the Board will review at its November 30–December 1, 2015, in Anchorage.

**Comment Deadline: November 19, 2015.** Comments can also be submitted at the meeting. The bolded proposals indicate proposals that affect parallel or federal cod fisheries; the remainder pertains to regulations in state water GHL fisheries.

*Chignik Pacific Cod (9 proposals)*

- 1 Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 2 Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 3 Apportion the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.
- 4 Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 5 Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 6 Include a change in designation of Chignik Area from a superexclusive registration area to a nonexclusive registration area after October 30 in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 7 Change pot storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.
- 8 **Limit the number of pots in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area to 60 per vessel.**
- 9 **Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area.**

*South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (4 proposals)*

- 10 **Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.**
- 11 **Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.**
- 12 Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.

- 13 Resolve conflict in pot storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.

*Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (8 proposals)*

- 14 **Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area.**
- 15 **Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.**
- 16 **Increase guideline harvest level for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery from three percent to seven percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.**
- 17 Increase the vessel size limit from 58 to 125 feet overall length for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 18 **Align Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management.**
- 19 Modify vessel size limit for longline vessels in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod B season based on remaining guideline harvest level.
- 20 Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 21 Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection.

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

March 8–12, 2016, Anchorage

*Groundfish (7 proposals)*

- 213 Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock.
- 214 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 **Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel walleye pollock fishery using trawl gear.**
- 194 **Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear.** *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*
- 216 **Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.**
- 217 **Establish fishing season for walleye pollock that does not conflict with salmon season.**
- 218 **Establish state-waters walleye 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.**