

June 2013

**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** (FIGURE 1)

The Area 2012/13 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2012. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 6.29 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude with the eastern IFQ/CDQ TAC set at 3.31 million pounds and the western IFQ/CDQ TAC set at 2.98 million pounds.

Fishing operations in the western Aleutian Islands are now complete, with 2.95 million pounds (99%) of the combined IFQ and ACA allocation harvested. Catch per pot lift (CPUE) from observer samples is similar to past years at 20 crabs per pot. The regulatory closure date for the golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands is May 15, 2013.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab** (FIGURE 2)

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2012 and closed on May 15, 2013 in the Eastern Subdistrict and on May 31, 2013 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2012/13 snow crab TAC is 66.35 million pounds; 59.715 million pounds are apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 6.6 million pounds are apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Seventy vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 58.6 million pounds (98%) of IFQ and 6.6 million pounds (100%) of CDQ TAC. Catch rates are down slightly and average CPUE is 210 crabs per pot.

**Pacific cod**

**Prince William Sound** (FIGURE 3)

The GHL is calculated as 25 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC and increased slightly from last year to 1.78 million pounds (808 mt). The Prince William Sound state-waters season has an exclusive registration designation.

The state-waters jig season opens 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery which to date remains open.

The state-waters pot season opened at noon on February 11, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery. No vessels registered to fish with pot gear.

The state-waters longline season opened on March 28, concurrent with the IFQ Halibut season opening date. Twenty-five vessels have registered to fish with longline gear and harvested a total of 1.27 million pounds (576 mt).

**Cook Inlet** (FIGURE 4)

The GHL for the Cook Inlet Area is calculated as 3.75 percent of the ABC for the Central GOA and the 2013 GHL was set at 4.07 million pounds (1,850 mt). The GHL is allocated 75% to pot gear and 25% to jig gear. Pot vessels larger than 58 feet are limited to 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1. Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opens 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery which to date remains open.

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The state-waters pot season opened at noon on February 11, 24-hours after the closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska A-season pot fishery. The fishery closed to pot vessels greater than 58 feet in length on March 11. Total pot fishery harvest to date is 2.75 million pounds (1,250 mt) by 13 vessels.

### **Westward Region Pacific Cod**

#### **Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)**

The 2013 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area is 13.58 million pounds (6,160 mt) and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 6.79 million pounds (3,080 mt) each. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25% of the GHL before September 1. The Kodiak Area is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 17, seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closure and closed on April 2, 2013. Thirty-five vessels participated in the pot fishery and harvested 6.69 million pounds (3,030 mt).

The state-waters jig fishery opened at noon on March 15, 2013 to facilitate exploitation of the state-waters GHL by allowing concurrent federal and state-water seasons. To date, 79 vessels have harvested 495,000 pounds (224 mt) of the jig allocation.

#### **Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)**

The 2013 GHL is 9.5 million pounds (4,300 mt), with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount. The area is designated superexclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on March 15. The Western GOA parallel jig season that overlaps with the Chignik Area (state waters east of Kupreanof Point) closed March 14 at 11:59 p.m. One vessel has recently registered for the jig fishery and there have been no landings to date.

The state-waters pot season opened on March 7, seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closure and closed on March 29, 2013. Nineteen vessels participated and total harvest was 8.7 million pounds (3,950 mt).

#### **South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)**

The 2013 GHL is 15.586 million pounds (7,070 mt), with 85 percent targeted by pot gear. A 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the area has an exclusive registration designation.

The SAP state-waters jig fishery opened at noon on March 15, 2013 to facilitate exploitation of the state-waters GHL by allowing concurrent federal and state-water seasons. Thirty-six vessels have registered to fish and current harvest is 1.43 million pounds (650 mt).

The state-waters pot season opened at noon on March 9 (after two 24-hr weather delays) and closed on March 22, 2013. This season, thirty-eight vessels harvested a total of 13.38 million pounds (6,070 mt).

Figure 1

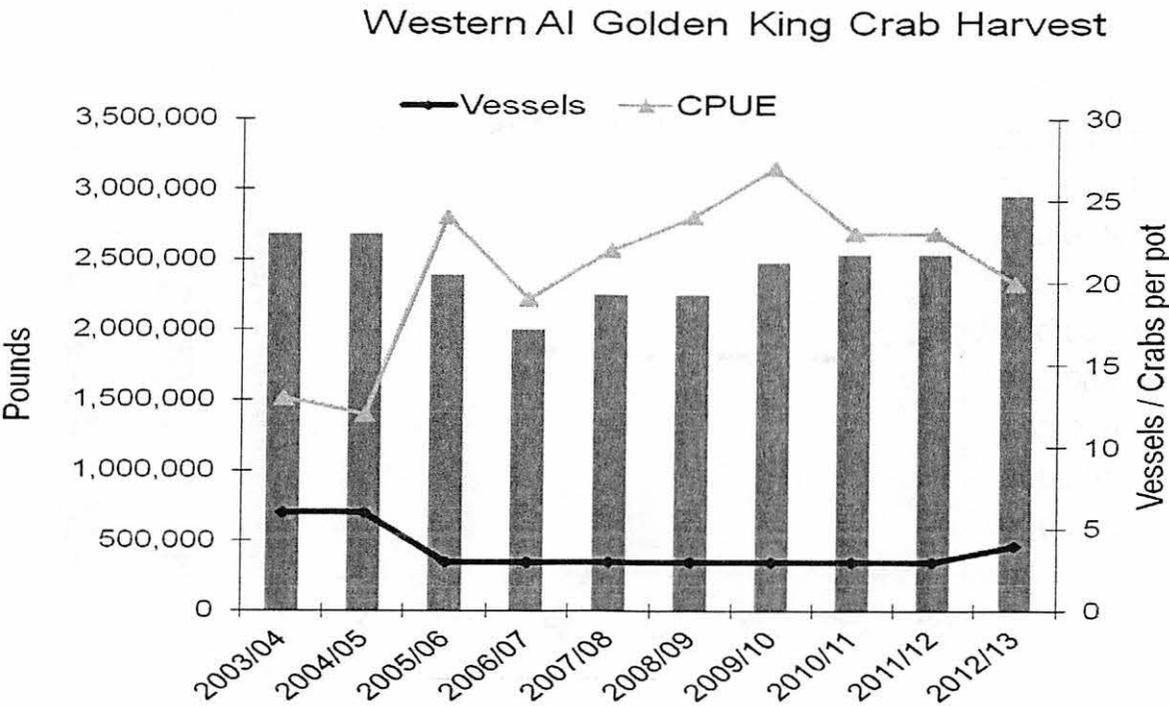


Figure 2

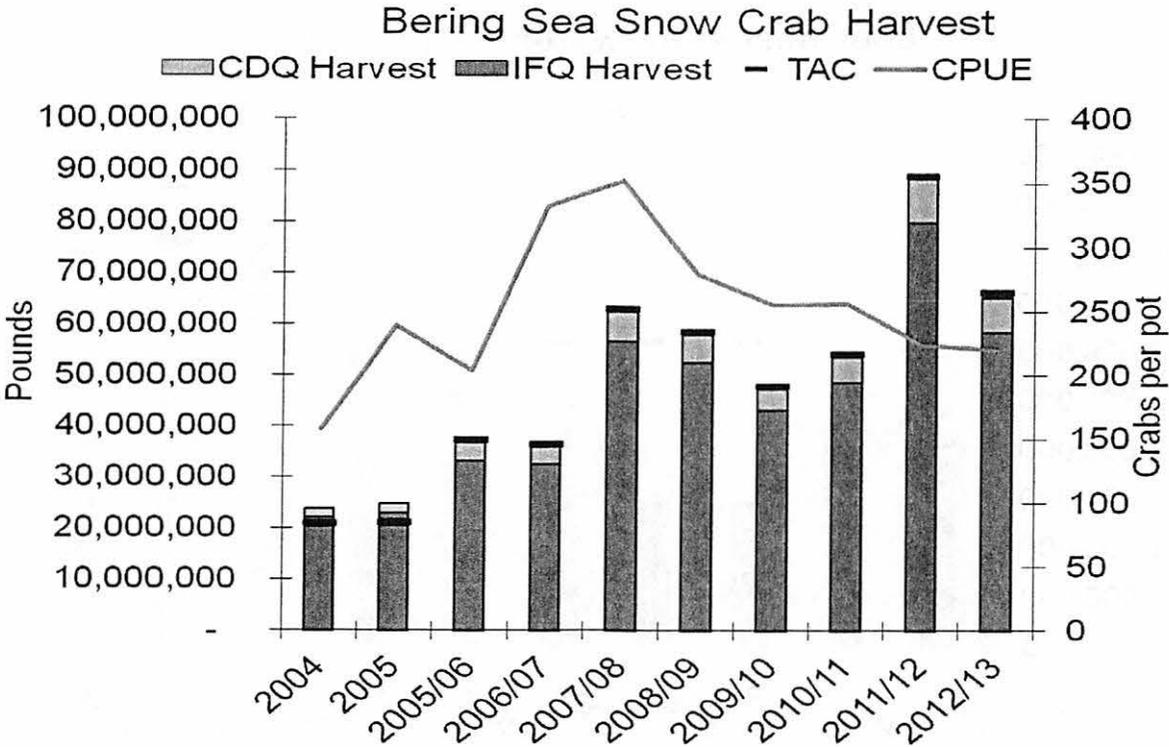


Figure 3

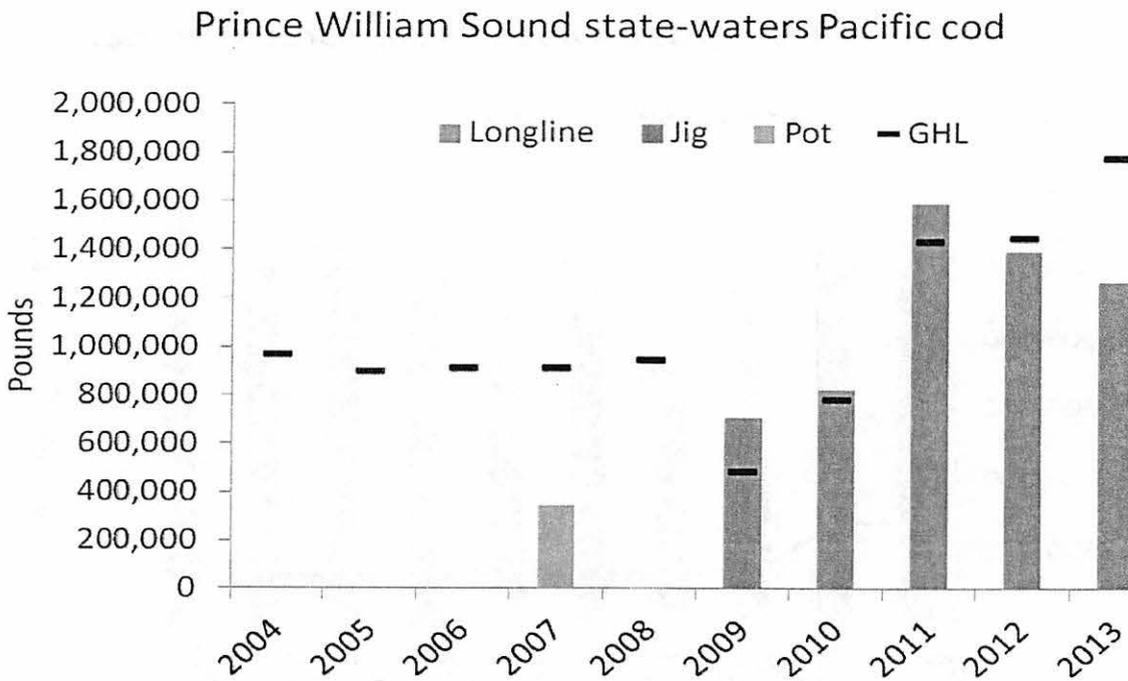


Figure 4

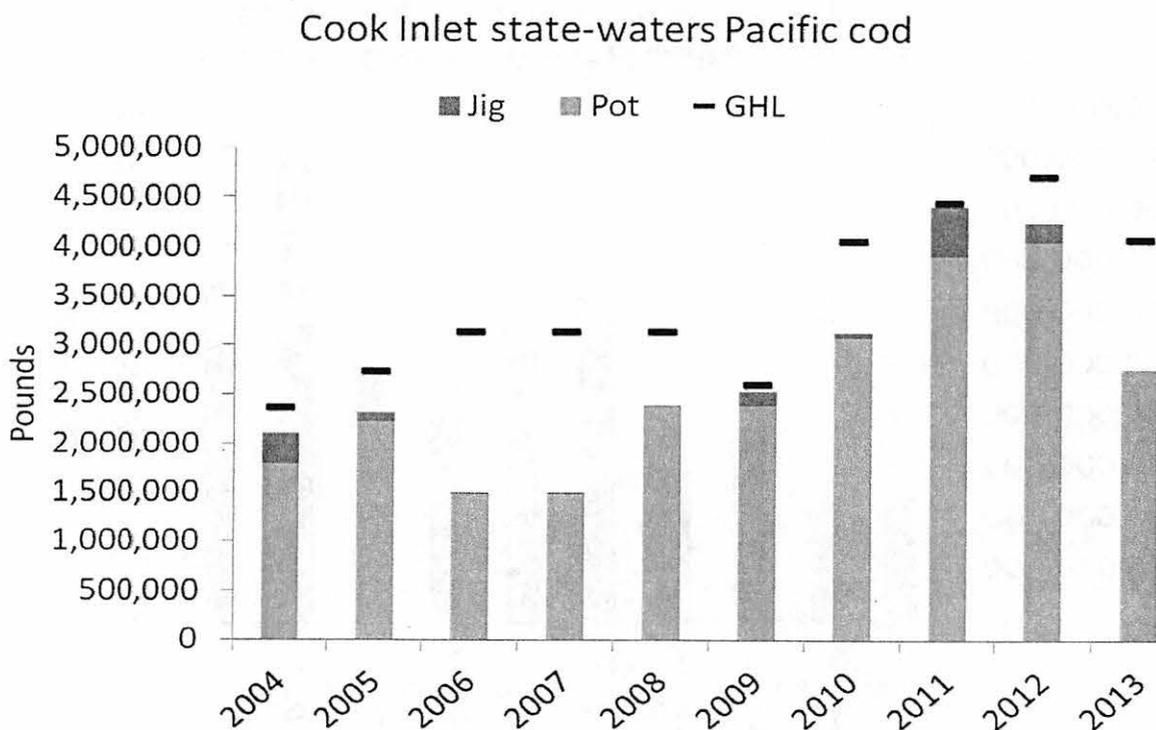


Figure 5

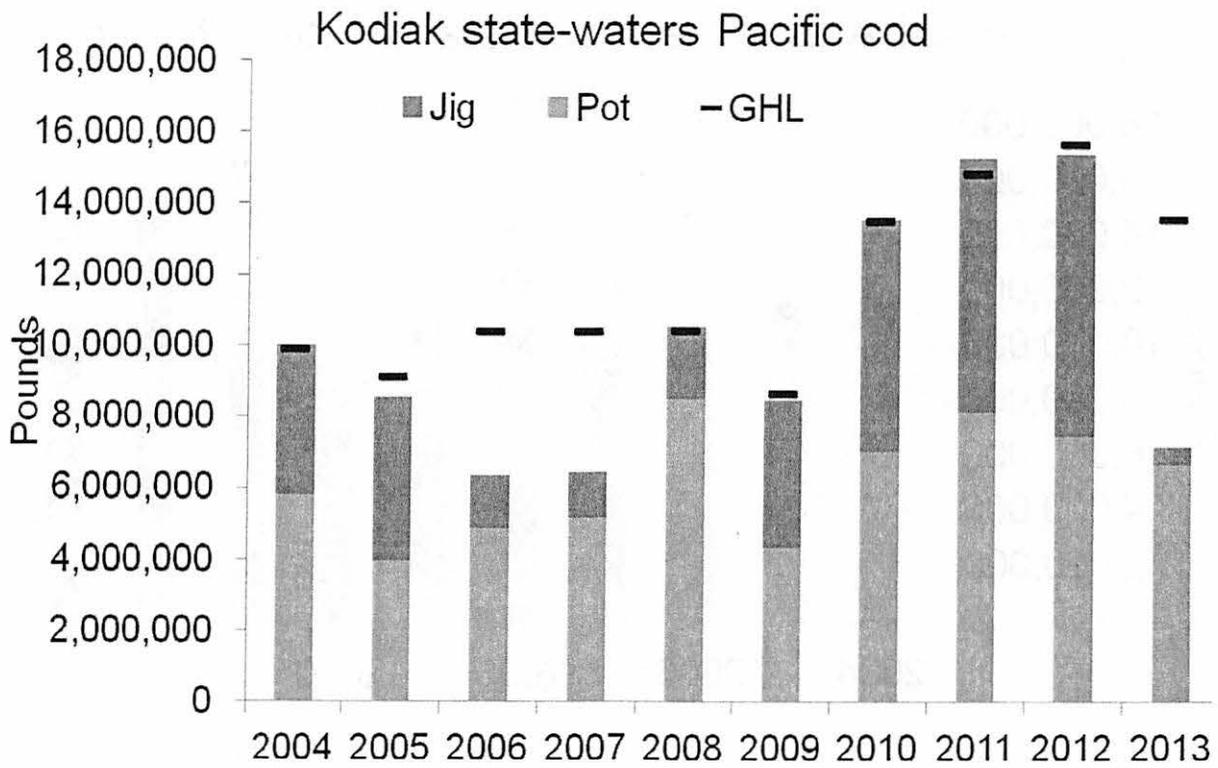


Figure 6

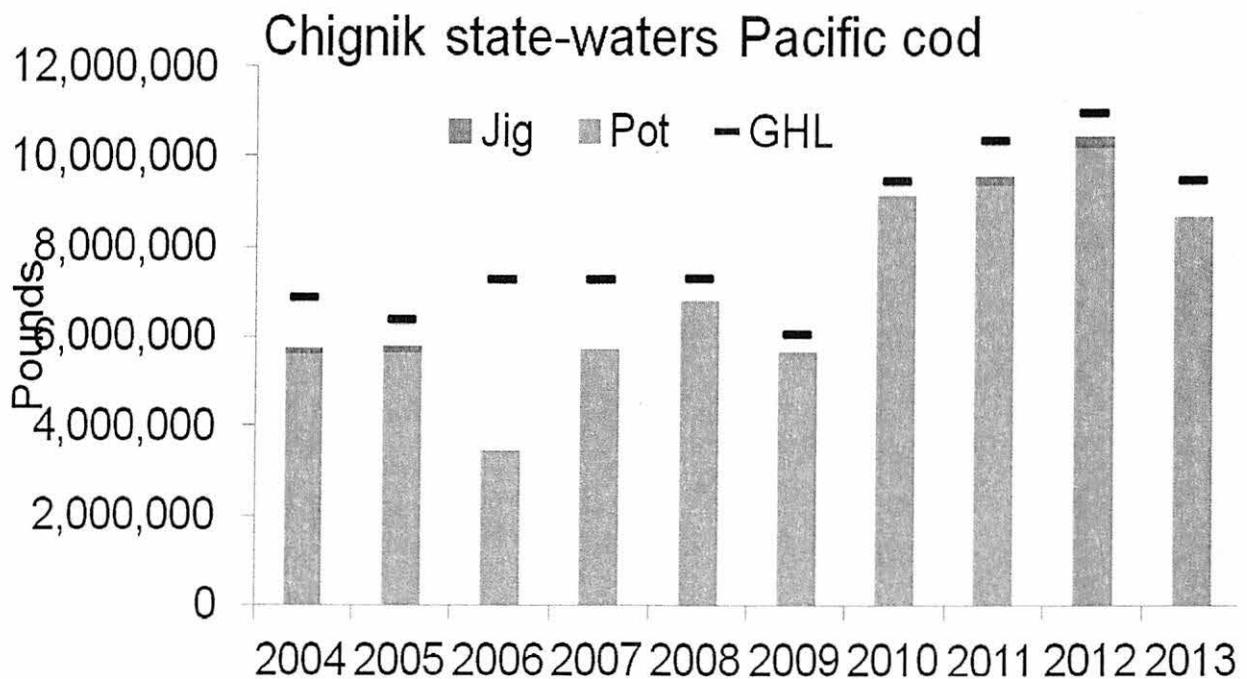


Figure 7

