

Agenda Item: B-3



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
OCTOBER, 2002**

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

Salmon Troll Fishery

(FIGURES 1) The summer troll fishery for chinook salmon opened on July 1, 2002. The fishery was managed inseason with no predetermined closure date, but the initial target goal was to harvest 70 percent of the remaining treaty allocation. The initial summer fishery closed to the taking of chinook salmon on July 18, 2002 when it was predicted that the target catch was achieved. On August 9, 2002 trolling for all salmon outside specified terminal harvest areas was closed. The season reopened two days later, and chinook salmon retention was allowed. Chinook catch rates were the highest ever seen for the second chinook opening. Trolling for chinook salmon closed again on September 2, 2002 for the remainder

of the season. The summer troll season for other salmon species remained open until September 30, 2002. Overall, effort for chinook salmon was about 70 percent of the most recent 5-year average. For coho salmon, troll catch rates were relatively high with most of the areas at or above the 1994 level (which was the largest troll harvest since statehood at 3.5 million). Escapements for both chinook and coho salmon were very good.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab

(FIGURE 2) The 2002/2003 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened at noon on Thursday, August 15, 2002 with a guideline harvest level of 5.7 million pounds. Twenty two vessels registered in the fishery. The fishery is managed to allow for a harvest of 3.0 million pounds of golden king crab in the area east of 174° W longitude, and the remaining 2.7 million pounds available for harvest west of 174° W longitude. The fishery is managed inseason using processor production reports, fishery performance data collected by observers stationed on each vessel, and reports from fishermen. The commercial golden king crab fishery in that portion of Area O east of 174° W long. closed on September 7, 2002. Inseason catch reports indicated that the guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3.0 million pounds would be reached by that time. Actual harvest from the 19 participating vessels stands at 2.82 million pounds from 44 landings. That portion of Area O west of 174° W long. will remain open until further notice.

Petrel Bank (Western Aleutian Islands) Red King Crab

The Petrel Bank area of the western Aleutian Islands will open for commercial red king crab fishing at noon on October 25, 2002. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has established a GHL of 500,000 pounds of legal male red king crabs. The Petrel Bank area is defined as those waters of king crab Registration Area O west of 179° W long., east of 179° E long., and north of 51° 45' N lat.

Only those waters in the above described area that are 125 fathoms or less in depth will be open to fishing for red king crabs. The aggregate pot limit for the fishery is 1,250 pots total. Vessels less than or equal to 125 feet will be allowed to have 4/5 the number of pots that vessels greater than 125 feet will be allowed. Individual pot limits will be determined based upon the number of vessels registered and the 1,250 total pot limit. The maximum pot limit per vessel will be 40 pots for vessels less than or equal to 125' in overall length and 50 pots for vessels greater than 125' in overall length. Each vessel registered for the fishery must carry an observer during all fishing activities. Observer costs will be borne by the vessel.

Guideline Harvest Levels for 2002/2003 BSAI Crab Fisheries

The GHs or fishery closure announcements have been made by the department, based upon the summer NMFS trawl survey data. These will be discussed later in this meeting under Agenda item C-1(e).

Central Region Pacific Cod

Cook Inlet

(FIGURE 3) The state managed Pacific cod fishery in the waters of Cook Inlet opened on March 10, 2002, twenty-four hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The 1.57 million pound Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear. The GHL is calculated as 2.25% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area. The area initially closed for pot gear by regulation at noon on May 1, 2002. It is now open to both pot and jig gear. To date, 17 vessels have landed approximately 862,000 pounds of Pacific cod.

Prince William Sound

The 2002 Prince William Sound (PWS) state managed Pacific cod season opened March 16th with a 1.9 million pound GHL allocated 60% to pot gear and 40% to jig gear. The GHL is calculated as 25% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. To date, there has been no participation in the fishery.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Kodiak (FIGURE 5)

The 2002 Kodiak Area GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod season is 8.7 million pounds. This is 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. No more than 25% of the guideline can be taken by vessels over 58 feet with pot gear prior to September 1, 2002. The fishery opened on March 16, 2002 which was seven days after the Central Gulf of Alaska was closed to cod fishing. A total of 88 vessels are registered to fish. Fishing with pot gear initially closed May 4, 2002. The fishery reopened to pot gear September 1. The 2002 fishery has taken 5.13 million pounds through September 16, 2002, with 2.98 million pounds coming from pot gear and 1.15 million pounds coming from jig gear.

Chignik (FIGURE 6)

The 2002 Chignik area GHL is 4.9 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The season opened on March 1, 2002 with 29 vessels registered to fish. Through September 16, 2002 landings totaled 4.1 million pounds with 92 percent of the harvest attributable to pot gear and the remainder from jig gear. Fishing with both gears remains open.

South Alaska Peninsula (FIGURE 7)

The 2002 South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL is 12.4 million pounds for the state-waters Pacific cod season. This is 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The fishery opened March 5, 2002 seven days after the closure of the Western GOA to cod fishing. Fishing with pot gear closed March 24, 2002 and the harvest totaled 10.7 million pounds. Fishing with jig gear began in early March and effort steadily increased after that time. The fishery closed April 26, 2002. The harvest from jig gear totaled 2.1 million pounds. The final catch was 12.8 million pounds from both gear types. There were 114 vessels registered to fish in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

State Pacific Cod Enforcement

The Alaska Department of Public Safety's Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection conducts targeted patrols during the Pacific cod fisheries. In the northern Gulf of Alaska and Westward areas, patrols were made on the fishing grounds, and shoreside processing facilities were inspected. However, the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement was unable to get specific data in time to include that in this report.

Southeast Groundfish

The Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) (i.e., Clarence Strait) sablefish quota was 696,000 round pounds for 2002. The quota share for each of the 29 permit holders was 24,000 round pounds. The SSEI sablefish longline fishery opened at 8:00 a.m., Saturday June 1, 2002 and closed at 12:00 noon August 15, 2002. Final catch was about 552,000 pounds. The SSEI sablefish pot gear fishery opened at 8:00 am September 1, 2002 and will close at 12:00 noon November 15, 2002. The estimated total catch for Clarence Strait now stands at

approximately 651,000 pounds, both gears combined, or just over 93 percent of the quota.

The Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) (i.e. Chatham Strait) fishery opened at 8:00 AM, Sunday, September 1 and closes at 12:00 noon, Friday, November 15, 2002. The fishery is based on a per vessel allocation, with the overall base quota for the season set at 2,184,000 round pounds. There are currently 111 permits for this fishery; therefore the individual permit quota will be 19,600 round pounds. Catch to date is approximately 2.14 million pounds, or 98 percent of the goal.

**Figure 1. SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL TROLL FISHERY
SUMMER SEASON CATCH AND EFFORT
CHINOOK, COHO AND CHUM SALMON FISHERIES**

CHINOOK SALMON	OPENING DATES	TOTAL CATCH	PERMITS
	July 1-6	77,679	570
	July 7-13	52,238	513
	July 14-18	56,925	479
	Summer Total	186,842	

COHO SALMON	OPENING DATES	TOTAL CATCH	PERMITS
	July 1-6	32,620	570
	July 7-13	60,037	513
	July 14-18	80,596	479
	July 21-27	88,586	271
	July 28-Aug 3	158,813	388
	August 4-10	130,675	365
	Summer Total	551,327	

CHUM SALMON	TIME PERIOD	TOTAL CATCH	PERMITS	PEAK CATCH
Eastern Channel/Deep Inlet	July 1-August 14	69,575	35-71/week	July 28-August 10
West Behm Canal	July 1-August 9	22,787	2-8/week	July 21-August 10

Note: Neets Bay SHA is closed from June 20 through September 24, 2002.

All data through 9/12/2002

Data is preliminary, especially for recent weeks. The second chinook retention period was open for 22 days, closing on September 2nd. The fishery remained open through September 30th for all species except chinook.

FIGURE 2

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST, 2002/2003 SEASON

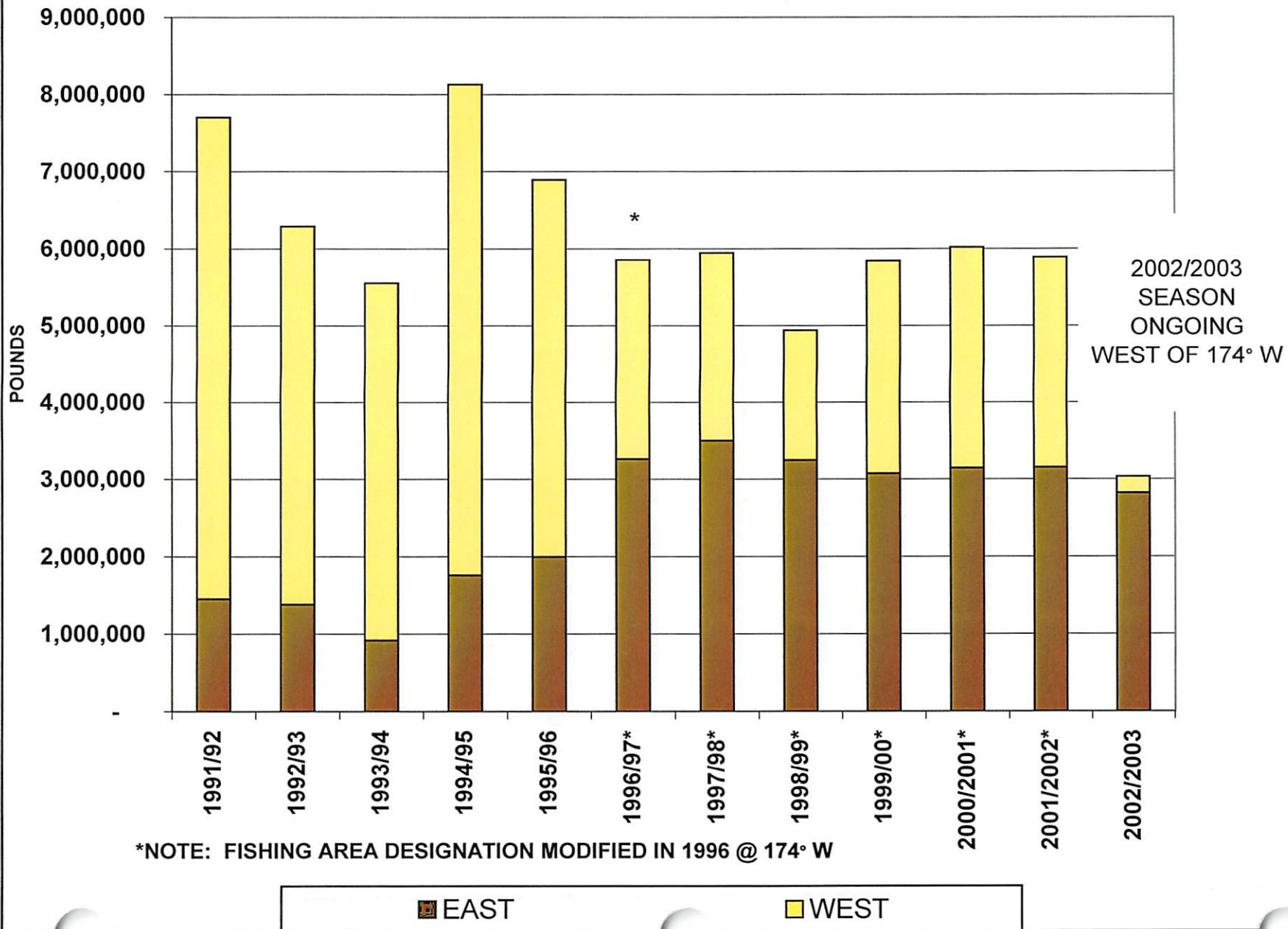


FIGURE 3. Prince William Sound harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for Pacific cod fisheries through 31 Aug 2002.
 Censored for confidential reports or records, and data has been summarized where possible.

Pacific Cod PARALLEL SEASON* - STATE WATERS						
Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	1	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	2	confidential	confidential
Longline (61)	47	98	575,712	15	27	13,139
Pots (91)	7	107	307,937	0	0	0
Totals	55	205	883,649	17	27	13,139
Status	Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 9			Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 9		

*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)		1.57 mil.			1.9 mil.	
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	7	15	18,163	0	0	0
Pots (91)	10	152	843,769	0	0	0
Totals	17	167	861,932	0	0	0
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status	Opened - Closed noon 3/10 - Open			Opened - Closed noon 3/16 - Open		
State seasons: Pots (91)	Opened - Closed noon Mar 10 - noon 5/1 June 15 - noon August 5 Sept 1 -			Opened - Closed noon 3/16 -		
Status	Open			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 only directed fishery harvest.



**Figure 4. 2002 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK**

UPDATED: 9/16/02



KODIAK				CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA					
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig			
	88	27	61	29	13	16	114	49	64			
2002 GHL:	8.7 million pounds			4.9 million pounds			12.4 million pounds					
ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1. Jigs = 4.35 million, Pots = 4.35 million, >58' pots 2.17 before Sept. 1.			85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 4.2 million Jigs = 630,000			85% Pots Pots limited to 10.5 million pounds					
DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/3 to 3/9	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Fishery not open	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	46	1,084,237	Confidential	Confidential
3/10 to 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Fishery open 3/16	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	76	2,552,722	5	13,047
3/17 to 3/23	19	309,586	7	8,882	8	486,382	0	0	148	7,030,163	Confidential	Confidential
3/24 to 3/30	20	501,690	6	2,127	5	278,233	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	18	97,096
3/31 to 4/6	15	613,718	11	19,460	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	16	46,528
4/7 to 4/13	18	737,769	14	46,400	9	356,335	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	76	482,977
4/14 to 4/20	15	693,777	8	26,548	18	299,710	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	69	442,712
4/21 to 4/27	24	670,045	23	69,343	15	398,392	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	139	1,006,496
4/28 to 5/4	21	453,630	25	98,700	17	400,375	18	90,141	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/5 to 5/11	fishery closed	fishery closed	34	225,771	19	476,307	17	101,983	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/12 to 5/18	fishery closed	fishery closed	31	166,946	21	615,310	15	87,515	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/19 to 5/25	fishery closed	fishery closed	35	150,378	18	415,108	5	29,922	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
5/26 to 6/1	fishery closed	fishery closed	13	98,543	4	77,508	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/2 to 6/8	fishery closed	fishery closed	26	141,146	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/9 to 6/15	fishery closed	fishery closed	11	25,307	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/16 to 6/22	fishery closed	fishery closed	7	18,718	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/23 to 6/29	fishery closed	fishery closed	6	23,387	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
6/30 to 7/6	fishery closed	fishery closed	8	12,387	0	0	Confidential	Confidential	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/7 to 7/13	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/14 to 7/20	fishery closed	fishery closed	5	13,897	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/21 to 7/27	fishery closed	fishery closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
7/28 to 8/3	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/4 to 8/10	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/11 to 8/17	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/18 to 8/24	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
8/25 to 8/31	fishery closed	fishery closed	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/1 to 9/7	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/8 to 9/14	Confidential	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
9/15 to 9/21	6	85,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed	fishery closed
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	138 (Total combined)	4,065,284	270	1,147,940	134 (Total combined)	3,803,660	55	309,561	270 (Total combined)	10,667,122	323	2,088,856
			5,213,224				4,113,221				12,755,978	

CONFIDENTIAL = less than 3 boats; data combined with following week

Figure 5. KODIAK STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

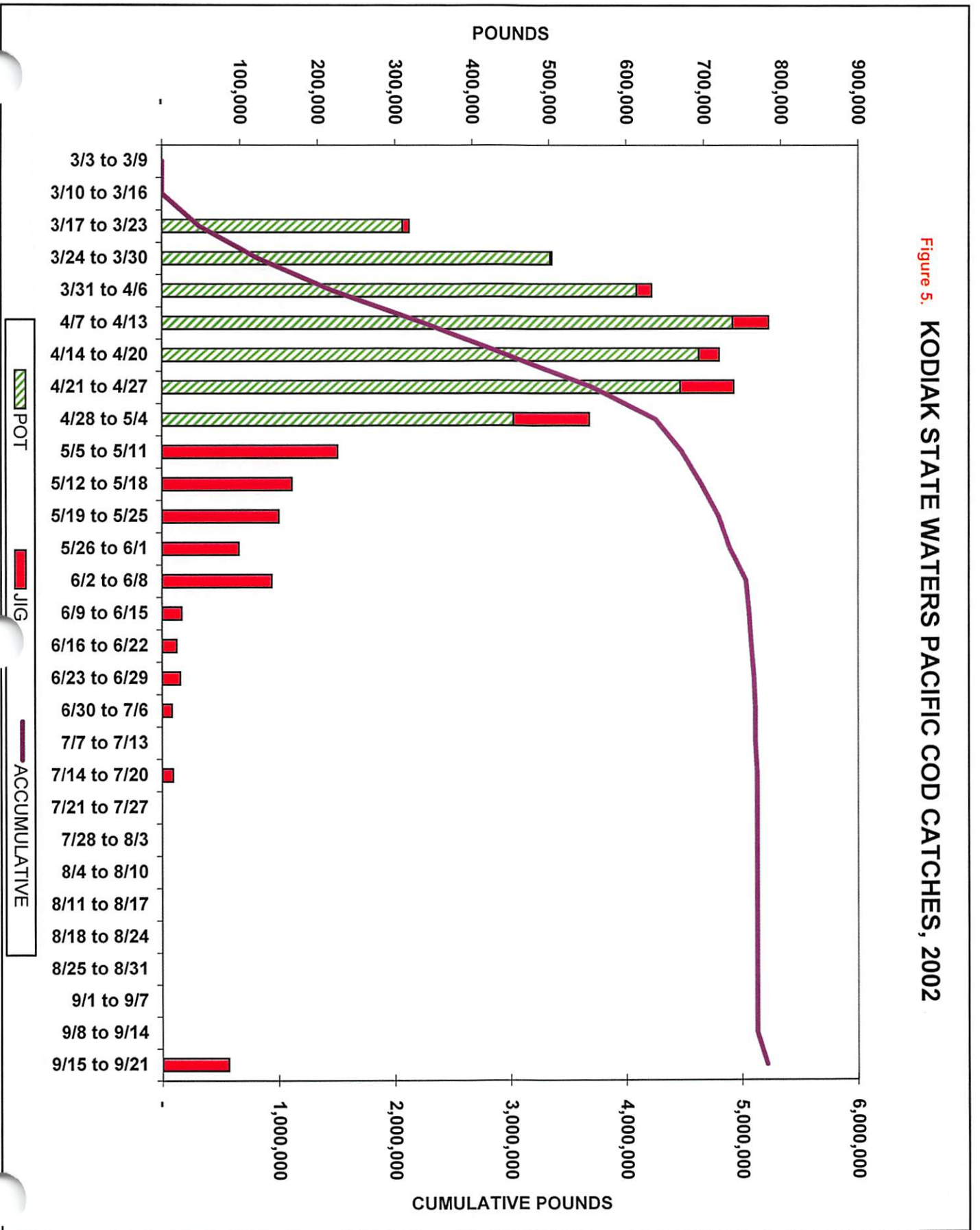


Figure 6. CHIGNIK STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

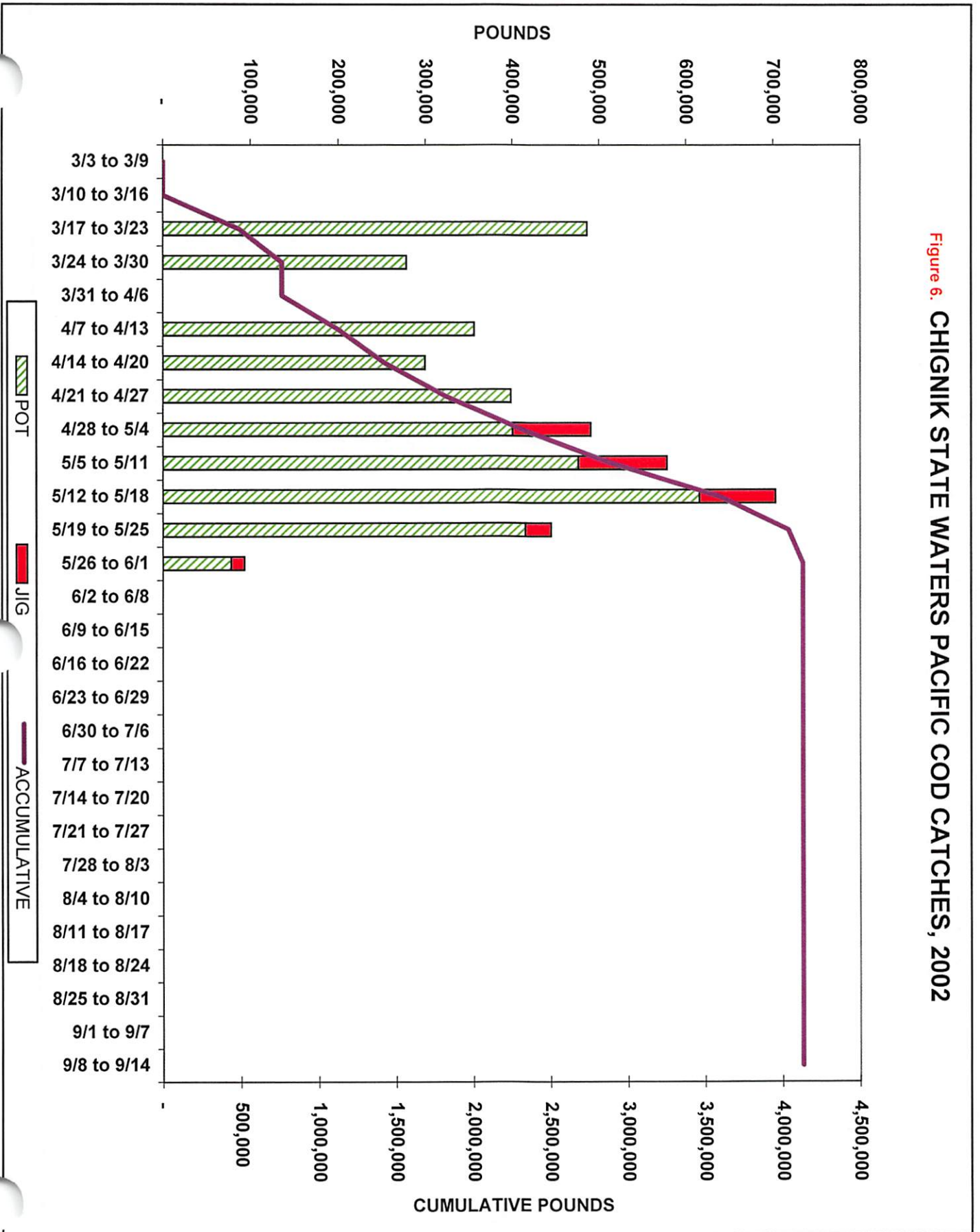


Figure 7. SOUTH AK PENINSULA STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD CATCHES, 2002

