

**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 include those for crab and groundfish.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2013/14 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2013. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 6.29 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds, with the IFQ TAC set at 2.979 million pounds. The Eastern Aleutian Islands IFQ and CDQ quotas have been fully harvested and the fishery is now closed.

The Western TAC is 2.98 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.682 million pounds. Total harvest for the combined IFQ and Adak Community Allocation fisheries is 1.78 million pounds (60% of TAC). The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open until the TAC is achieved or through May 15, 2014, whichever occurs first.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

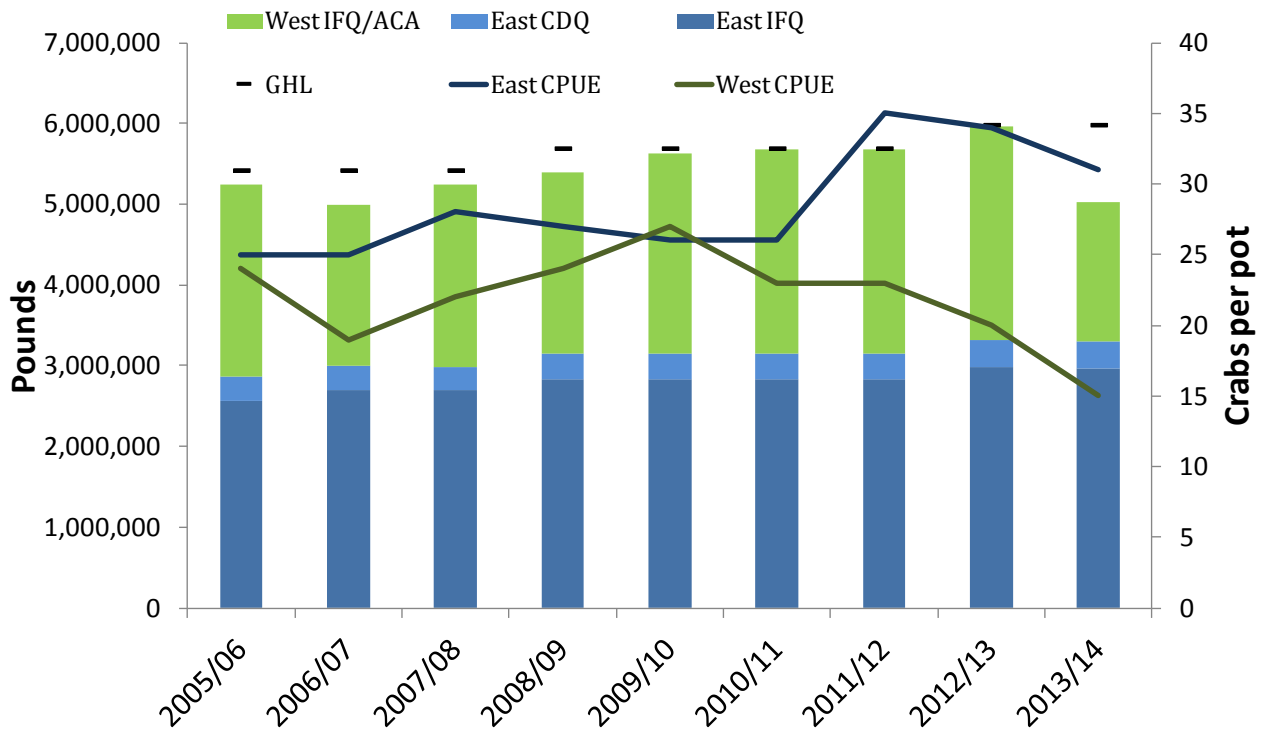


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2005/06 – 2013/14.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab**

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2013 and will remain open through May 15, 2014 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2014 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2013/14 snow crab TAC is 53.98 million pounds. Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Total harvest in the IFQ and CDQ fisheries is 22.51 million pounds (42% of TAC).

Catch per pot lift (CPUE) dropped slightly last week and is slightly lower than last season at this time. Captains are reporting substantial sorting of juvenile and dirty crab. The majority of deliveries are still going to St. Paul, and northern deliveries are expected to continue through late February/early March. There have been no reports of sea ice near the fishing grounds and the St. Paul harbor is clear. The ice edge is just south of St. Matthew Island and is expected to move to 20 to 30 nm to the southwest by this weekend; still well above the fishing grounds.

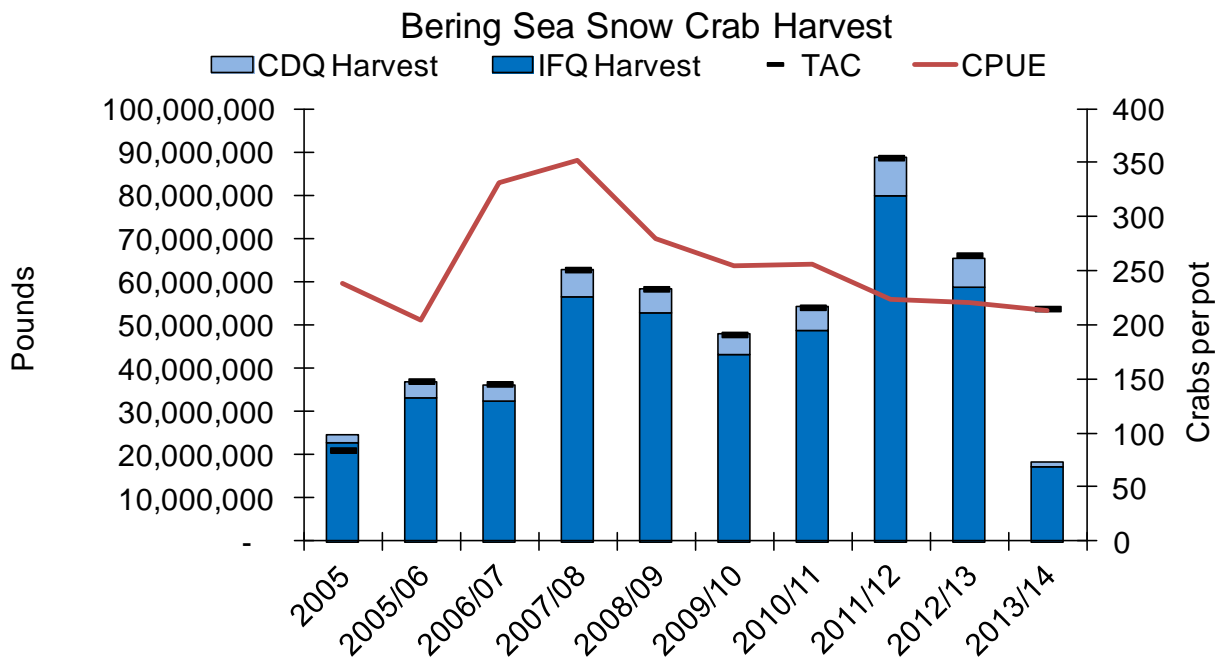


Figure 2. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, 2005 – 2013/14.

To protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock, the snow crab fishery is not open in the following ADF&G statistical areas: 675730, 675800, 685730, 695730, 685700, 695700, 695701, 705701, 705703, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, the northwest half of 685630, and the portions of 735830 and 745830 that are south of 58°39' N lat.

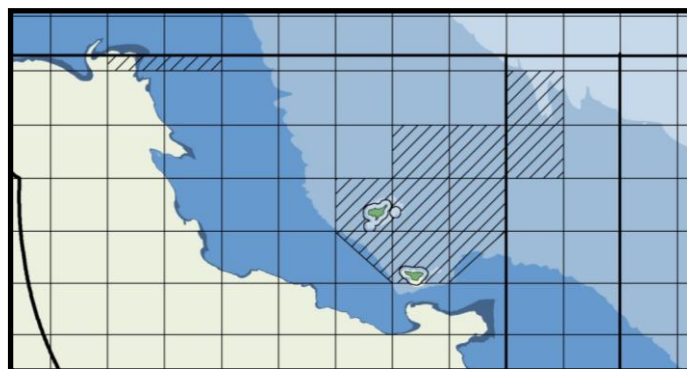


Figure 3. Closed areas to protect Pribilof blue king crab stock from overfishing in 2013/14.

**Bering Sea Tanner crab**

The Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2013 and will remain open through March 31, 2014. The fishery is managed east and west of 166° N lat.; the 2013/14 TAC is 1.463

million pounds in the Eastern Subdistrict and 1.645 million pounds in the Western Subdistrict. CDQ fisheries are allocated 10% of each of the Eastern and Western Subdistrict TACs. Tanner crab may be retained as bycatch (up to 5%) in either the directed Bristol Bay red king crab or Bering Sea opilio crab fisheries. Total harvest in the Eastern Subdistrict is 1.2 million pounds (82% of TAC) and 142,000 pounds in the Western Subdistrict (9% of TAC). One vessel is currently registered for the directed Tanner crab fishery and Western Subdistrict Tanner crab may be retained as bycatch in the directed snow crab fishery.

Closed areas to protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock that apply during the snow crab fishery are in effect for the Tanner crab fishery.

### Bering Sea Tanner Crab

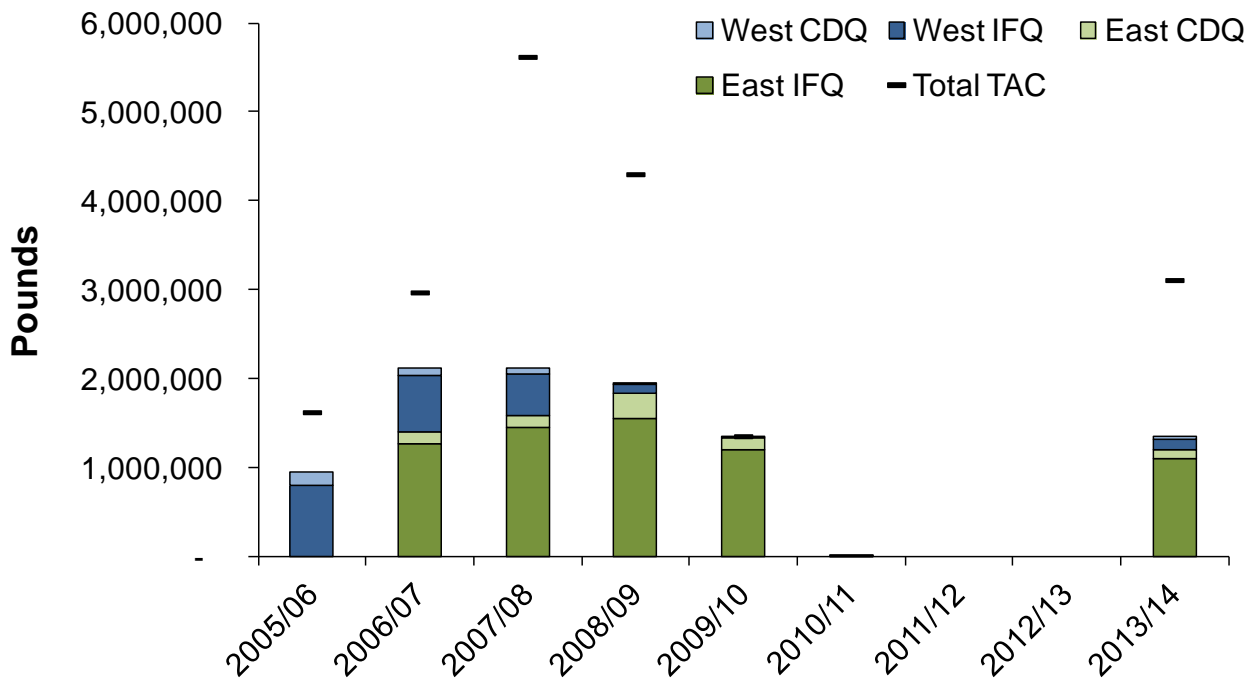


Figure 4. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2005/06 – 2013/14.

### Central Region Pacific Cod

#### Prince William Sound

The state-waters jig and pot seasons open 24 hours after the closure of their respective CGOA federal A-season jig and pot sector fisheries. The state-waters longline season will open seven days after the closure of the CGOA <50' HAL sector or concurrent with the IFQ Halibut season opening date, whichever occurs later. The 2014 GHL is 1.46 million pounds (662 mt) and is calculated as 25 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. The Prince William Sound state-waters season has an exclusive registration designation. Once a vessel has registered to fish in an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod, that vessel may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during the year (but may register for nonexclusive Pacific cod fisheries).

Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod

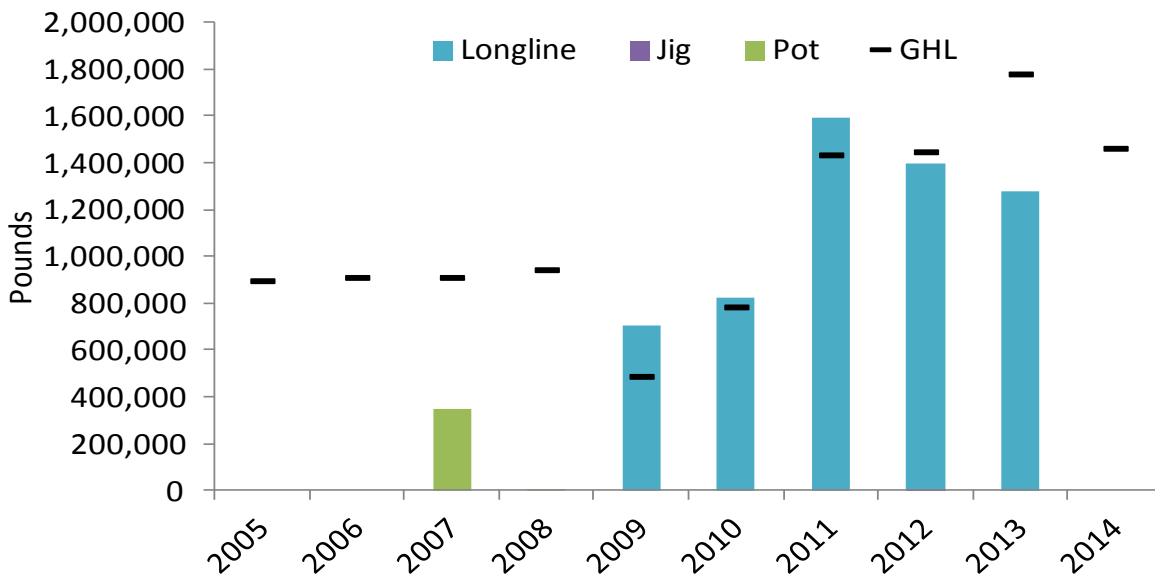


Figure 5. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2005- 2014.

**Cook Inlet**

The state-waters jig and pot seasons open 24 hours after the closure of their respective CGOA federal A-season jig and pot sector fisheries. The GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the ABC for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area and 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. The 2014 GHL is 4.39 million pounds (1,991 mt). Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod

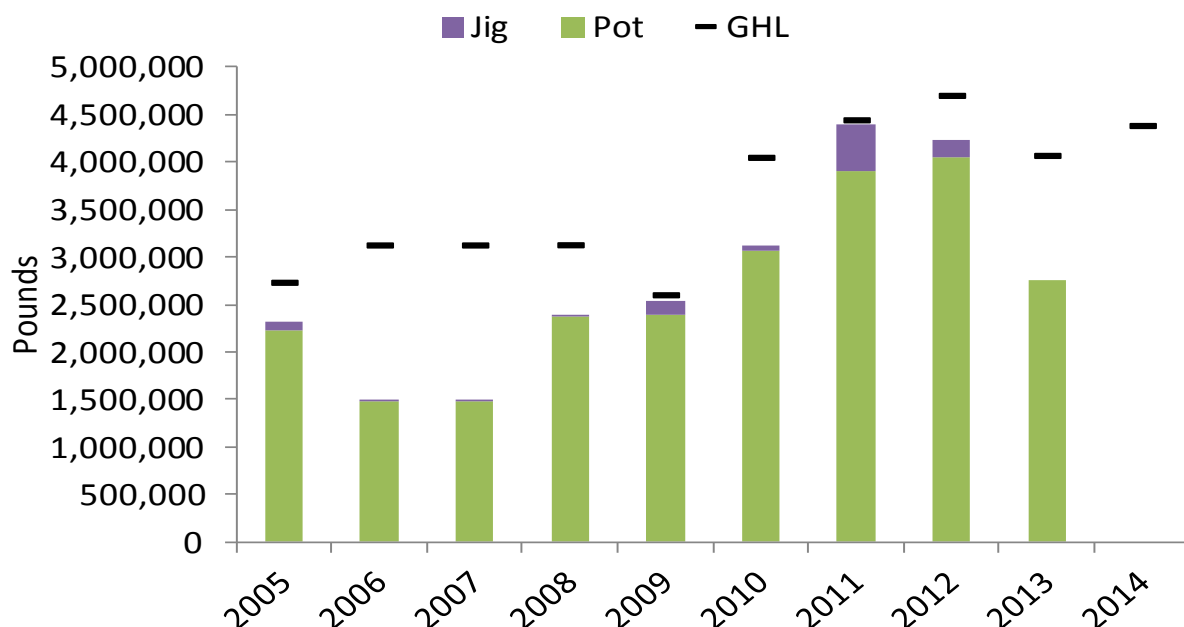


Figure 6. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2005- 2014.

**Westward Region Pacific Cod**

**Kodiak Pacific Cod**

State-waters pot fishery in the Kodiak area will open 7 days after the CGOA Federal A-season pot fishery close. State-waters jig fishery will open 48 hours after the CGOA federal A-season jig fishery closes or on/after March 15, based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining federal Pacific cod quota. The 2014 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 14.63 million pounds (6,636 mt), or 12.5 percent of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 7.32 million pounds (3,320 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 exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

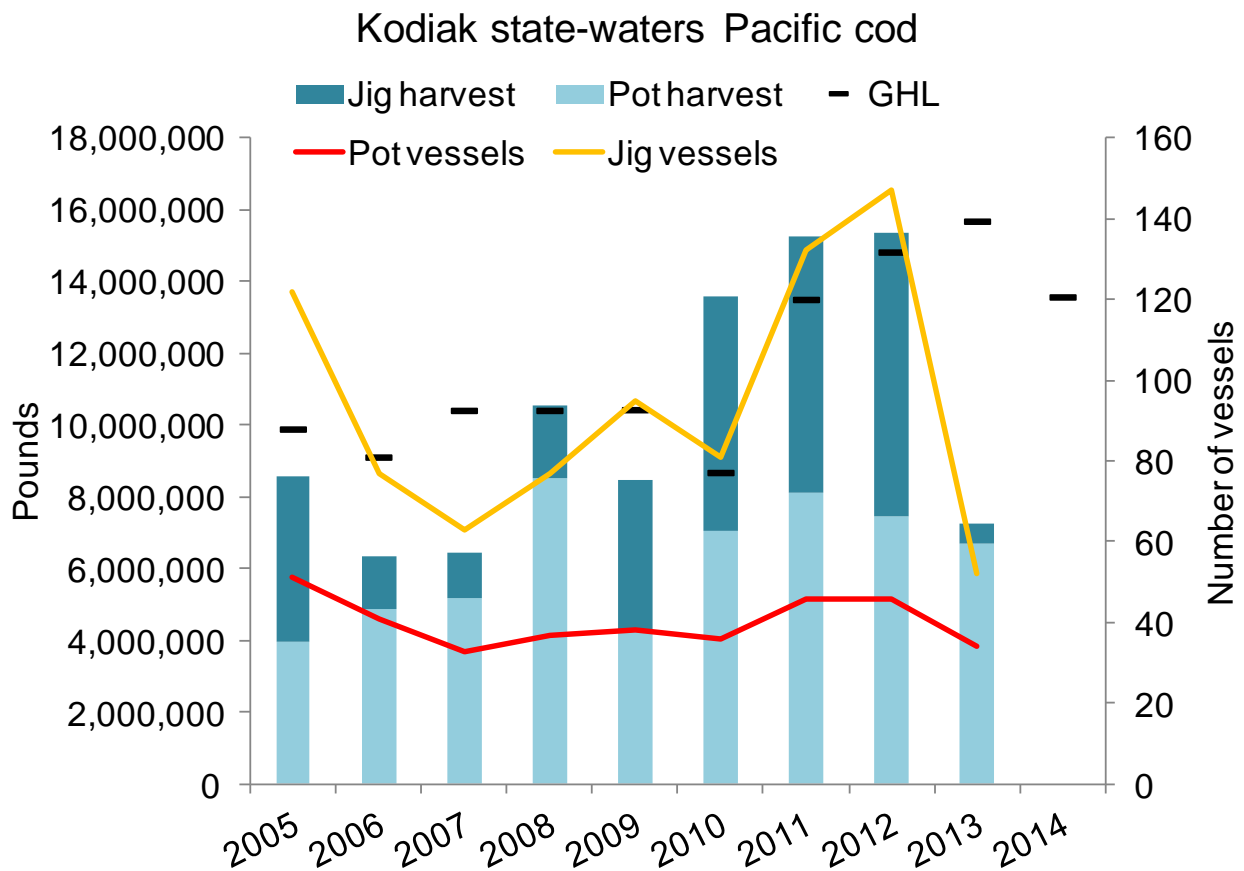


Figure 7. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2005- 2014.

**Chignik Pacific Cod**

State-waters jig fishery in Chignik will open on March 15. The state-waters pot season opens seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closes or on March 7, whichever is later. The 2014 GHL is calculated as 8.75 percent of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC and is set at 10.243 million pounds (4,646 mt), with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount. The area is designated superexclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessels that register for a superexclusive Pacific cod fishery may not register for any other state-waters Pacific cod season during the year (including nonexclusive Pacific cod fisheries).

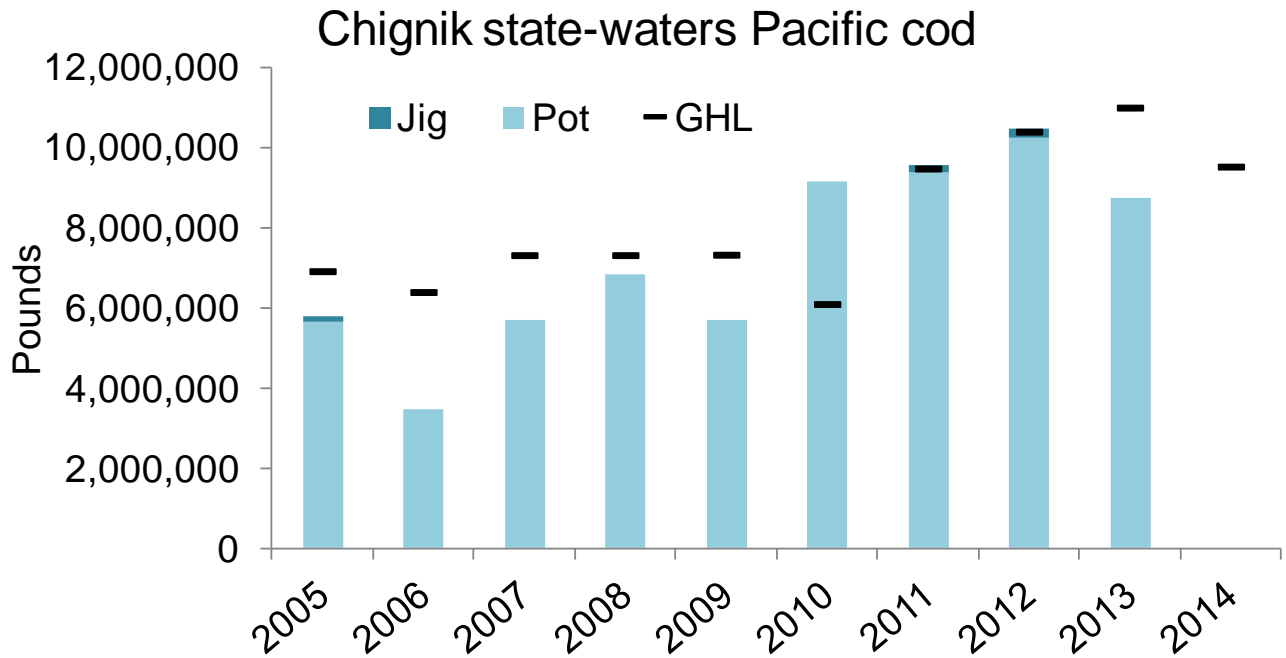


Figure 8. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2005- 2014.

#### South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod

The state-waters pot season will open on March 7, 2014. State-waters jig fishery opens 48 hours after the WGOA federal A-season jig fishery closes or on/after March 15, based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining federal Pacific cod quota. The 2014 GHL is 21.657 million pounds (9,823 mt) or 30% of the Western GOA Pacific cod ABC. Eighty-five percent of the GHL is allocated to pot vessels. A 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the area has an exclusive registration designation.

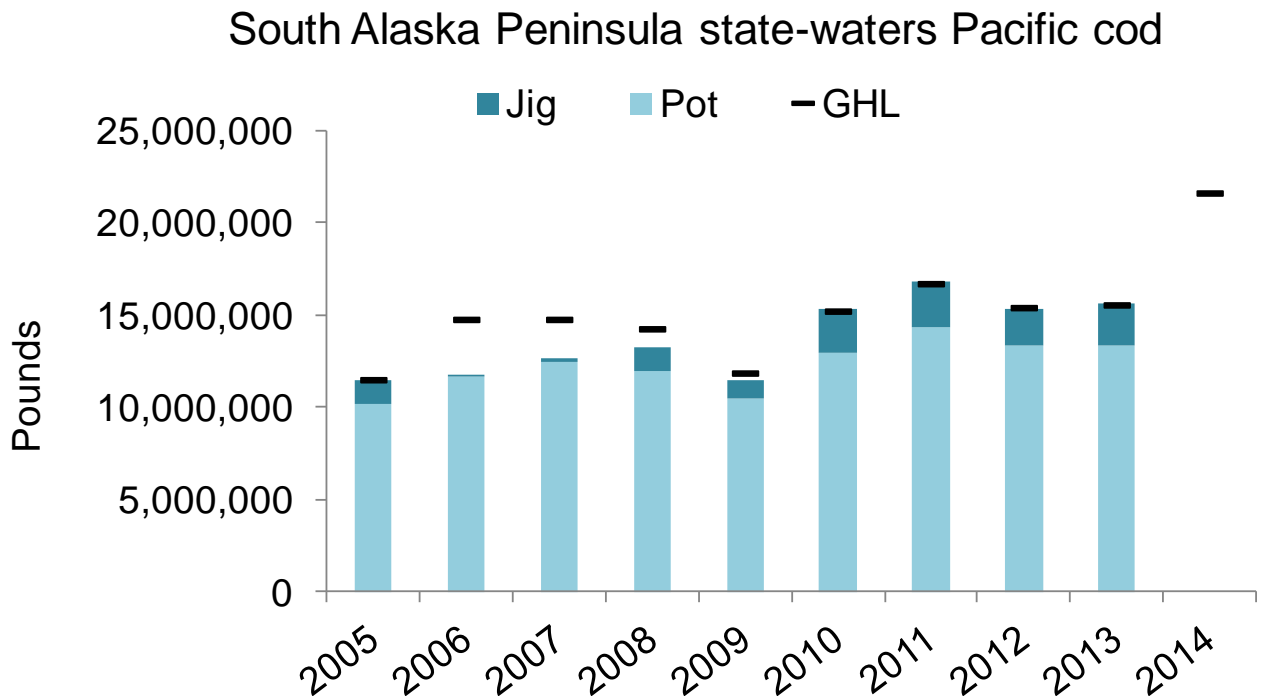


Figure 9. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2005- 2014.

**Dutch Harbor Pacific Cod**

The 2014 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod GHL is 17.86 million pounds (8,103 mt) and is calculated as 3 percent of the combined BSAI Pacific cod ABCs. The DHS is comprised of the state waters of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area east of 167° W long., west of 164° W long., and south of 55° 30 N lat. The state-waters season will open at noon on February 11, 2014; seven days after the initial federal Pacific cod season closure for the BSAI <60' hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel sector. The fishery is only open to vessels using pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessels may not operate more than 60 pots and buoy identification tags are required. The DHS is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

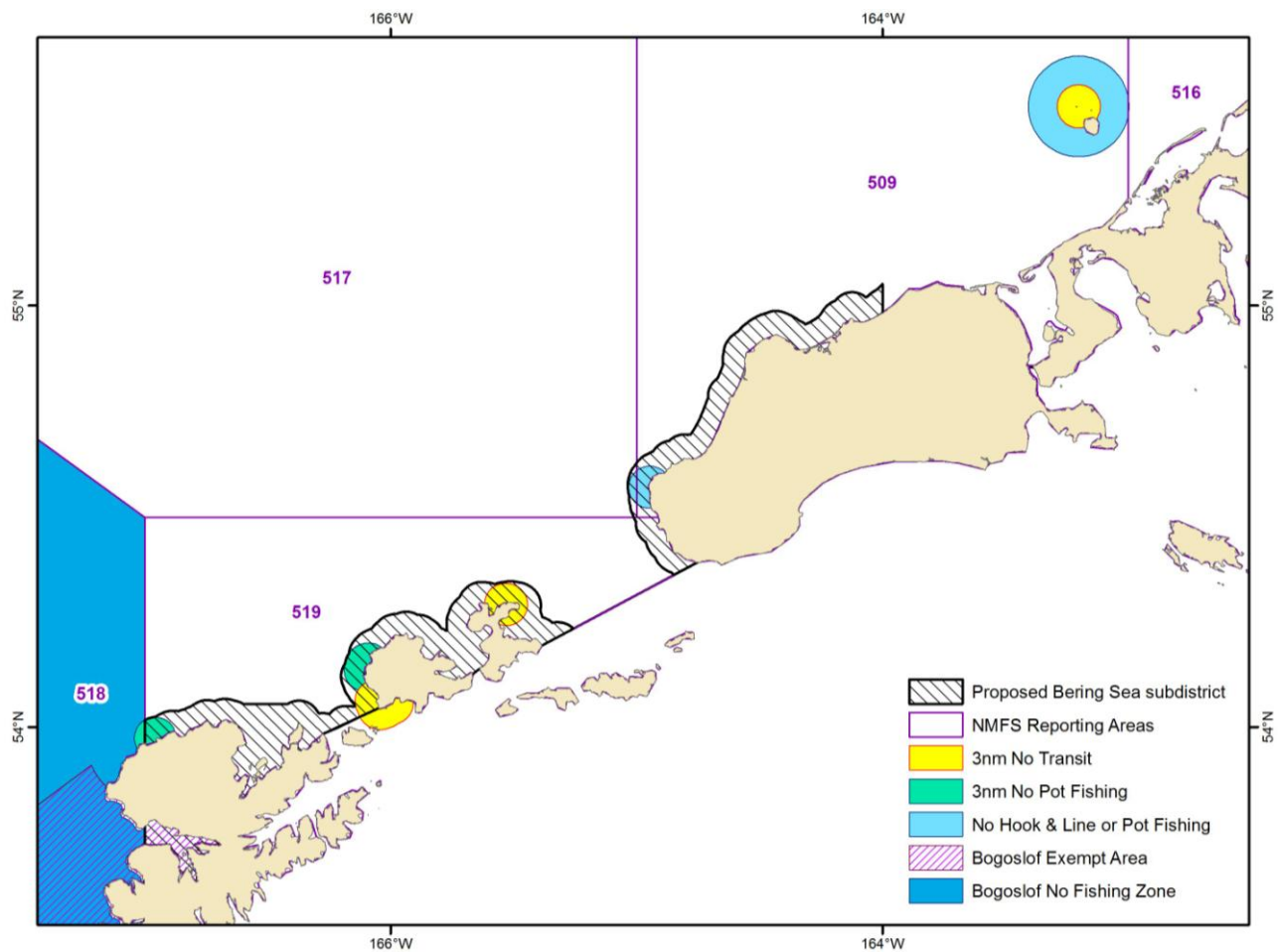
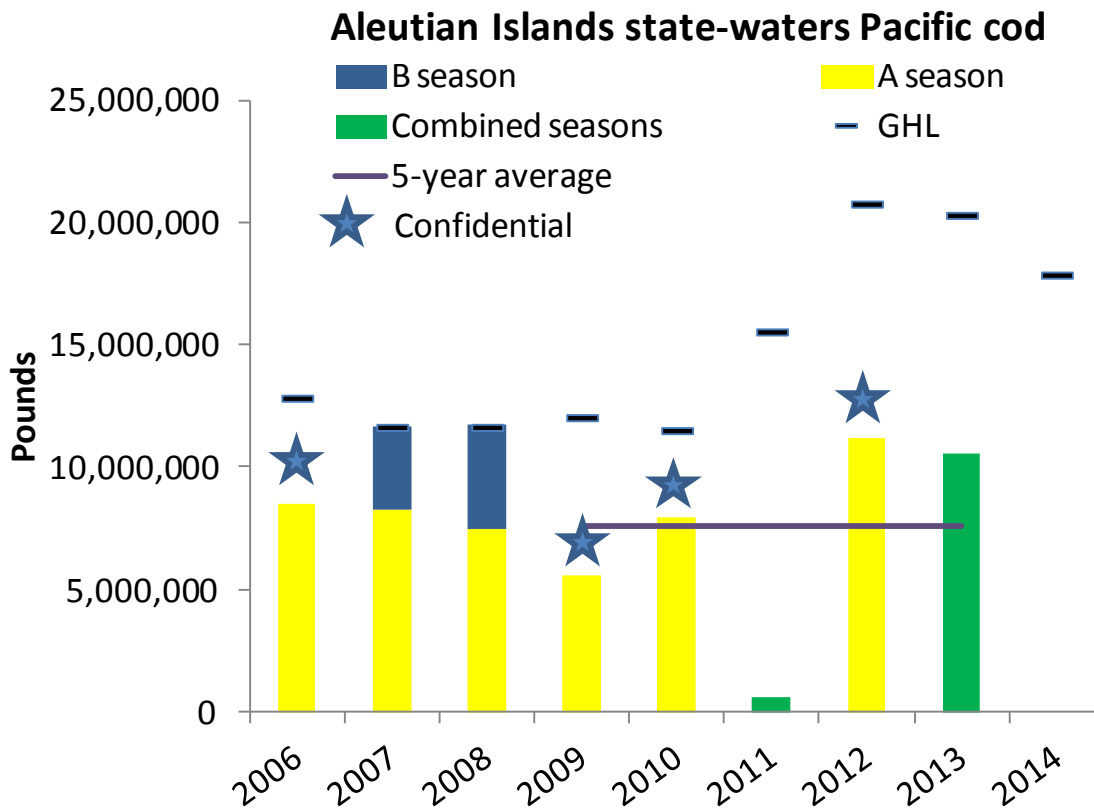


Figure 10. Bering Sea Subdistrict state-water Pacific cod fishery and SSL closure areas.

**Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod**

The 2014 GHL for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 17.86 million pounds (8,103 mt). The GHL is apportioned 70 percent in the A season (12.5 million pounds) and 30 percent for the B season (5.36 million pounds). The A season opened January 1, between 175° W long. and 178° W long. to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Beginning noon March 4, the state-waters A season will be expanded to include all state waters

west of 170° W long. and will open to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet OAL or less using trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear.



**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo>

Kodiak Finfish, January 7 – 11, 2014, Kodiak

*C=Carried, F=Failed, C/A= Carried as Amended, N/A=No Action*

<b>Statewide scallops</b>		
C/A (7-0)	369	Implement management plan for open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska. <i>Amended with language found in RC 65.</i>
<b>Kodiak Area Groundfish</b>		
N/A	43	Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58' in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik Management Areas. <i>Proposer withdrew support (RC 91)</i>
-	44	Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik Management Areas. <i>Tabled to Statewide meeting in March 2015.</i>



N/A	45	Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik Management Areas. <i>No action based on action taken under Proposal 44.</i>
F (0-7)	101	Close Alitak Bay to trawl gear.
C (4-3)	102	Prohibit nonpelagic trawling in state waters of the Kodiak Management Area

Working group for pollock fishery consideration. Member Jeffrey will lead a group to work with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and ADF&G staff, and local community and industry representatives, to review establishing a state waters pollock fishery. Member Jeffrey intends to return to the Board at the March 2015 meeting with a report and recommendations for Proposal 44.

### **Statewide King and Tanner Crab, and Supplementary Items**

March 17 – 21, 2014, Anchorage Sheraton

#### Norton Sound Crab

346 Adjust harvest rates and trigger points based on changes in abundance model.

#### Aleutian Islands Crab

348 Increase harvest limit for Aleutian Islands golden king crab by 15%.

*The harvest levels for the Registration Area O golden king crab fishery are as follows:*

*(1) east of 174 degrees W. long.: **3.81** [3.31]million pounds; and*

*(2) west of 174 degrees W. long.: **3.43** [2.98]million pounds.*

349 Modify Aleutian Islands golden king crab season.

*(b) Male golden king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon **May 15** [AUGUST 15] through 11:59 p.m. **February 15** [MAY 15]*

350 Establish districts for western Aleutian Islands red king crab.

*“The portion of Area O between 171 and 179 degrees west longitude shall be defined as the “Adak District” and the portion of Area O west of 179 degrees west longitude shall be defined as the “Petrel District”.*

351 Establish management measures for Adak red king crab fishery.

*Daytime fishing hours, logbooks, daily reporting*

352 Close federal waters between 171° W long and 179° W long to fishing when red king crab GHL in state-waters is less than 250,000 pounds.

353 Establish registration deadline for Adak red king crab.

354 Open Adak red king crab fishery by emergency order July 1.

- 355 Exempt persons and vessels participating in Adak red king crab fishery from participating in certain other fisheries.
- 356 Add Adak as tank inspection location for red king crab.
- 357 Amend description of Aleutian Islands king crab registration area.  
*Proposal clarifies coordinates of eastern boundary (Scotch Cap Light).*

Bering Sea Crab

- 358 Revise St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery harvest strategy.  
*Would change the regulatory threshold for opening and fishery harvest rate.*
- 359 Allow groundfish pots in St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.
- 360 Eliminate king crab pot marking for Registration Area Q (St. Matthew).
- 361 Modify gear marking requirements for longline pots in the Bering Sea golden king crab fishery.
- 362 Specify vertical placement of escape rings and update definition of escape ring placement in Bering Sea Tanner and snow crab fisheries.

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Crab (1 proposal)

- 363 Clarify vessel check-out provisions in rationalized crab fisheries.

Supplemental Issues

- 370 Amend statewide groundfish possession requirements so that the retainable bycatch level of a species of groundfish is assessed only at the time of delivery.

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*Prepared by Karla Bush*