

Agenda Item: B-2



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL JUNE 2001

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

Salmon Troll Fishery

(FIGURE 1) The 2001 winter troll fisheries began October 11, 2000 and continued through April 14, 2001. The winter fishery has a Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) of 45,000 chinook. The final harvest data indicate that approximately 22,500 chinook were harvested with approximately 12% of those being of Alaska hatchery origin. The recent five year average harvest to date is 25,000 fish.

The 2001 spring troll fishery began on April 16 and will continue through June 30. The spring fisheries are designed to target Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon. A total of twenty-six "experimental" troll areas and four hatchery terminal areas are currently open. The harvest data indicates that approximately 2,000 chinook salmon have been caught to date with approximately 32% being of Alaska hatchery origin. The Alaska hatchery percentage of the spring catch normally increases during June.

Golden king crab

(FIGURE 2)

The Aleutian Islands (Area O) opened to commercial fishing for golden king crabs on August 15, 2000 with guideline harvest levels (GHL) of 3.0 million pounds east and 2.7 million pounds west of 174° W. longitude. That portion of Area O east of 174° W. longitude closed to commercial fishing on September 24. Fishing effort west of 174° W. longitude has fluctuated throughout the season from one to eight vessels; recently eight vessels were participating. Catch rate had ranged from zero to 179,000 pounds per week and averaged 66,000 pounds per week since January 1, 2001. Through May 21, 2001, approximately 2.55 million pounds of golden king crabs had been landed from Area O west of 174° W. longitude and it was estimated that at the current catch rate, the GHL of 2.7 million pounds would be reached by 12:00 NOON May 28, 2001. Therefore the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery west of 174° W. longitude closed to commercial fishing at 12:00 NOON May 28, 2001.

The department evaluated delivery times and landing requirements for that closure time and date. Given fleet distribution during the 2000/2001 fishery and distance from the most westerly grounds in the registration area to delivery locations in the eastern Aleutian Islands, landing requirements were extended. Fishermen delivering golden king crab to processors in Dutch Harbor, Adak, or Akutan were allowed 96 hours after the closure rather than the norm of 72 hours. Fishermen delivering golden king crab to King Cove or points east of King Cove were also allowed additional time to reach those ports if they so requested. All other landing requirements remained unchanged.

Central Region Pacific Cod

FIGURE 3 The State managed Pacific cod fishery in the Cook Inlet Management Area opened 24 hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The GHL for this

prior to May 1. By regulation the area closes to pot gear on May 1, or when pot fishermen take 50 percent of the GHL, whichever occurs first. Therefore the fishery closed May 1. As pot fishermen did not harvest 50 percent of the GHL by that time, the fishery reopens by regulation to that gear type on June 15.

In Prince William Sound, no effort has been directed toward Pacific cod since it opened in State waters in mid-March. It appears that fishermen have elected instead to fish their halibut/sablefish IFQs during this time period, or are using their vessels to tender salmon. Several fishermen have also indicated that they are waiting for market conditions to improve.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Kodiak (FIGURE 5) The 2001 Kodiak Area GHL for state-managed Pacific cod is 10.6 million pounds. This is 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) for cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. Vessels over 58 feet can take no more than 25% of the guideline with pot gear prior to September 1. The fishery opened on March 11, seven days after the closure of the Central GOA to cod fishing. The 2001 fishery has taken 4.2 million pounds through May 26, with 833,000 pounds taken with jig gear and the remainder with pots. There are currently 119 vessels registered to fish.

Chignik

(FIGURE 6) The 2001 Chignik area GHL is 6.0 million pounds for state-managed Pacific cod. 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 11, seven days after the closure of the Central GOA to cod fishing. The 2001 fishery has had limited participation to date because of a lack of processing capability in the area. A floating processor was in the Chignik area the last 3 weeks of April and the local fleet geared up for that market. A plant in Chignik started buying fish later in May. Through May 26, there has been

the last 3 weeks of April and the local fleet geared up for that market. A plant in Chignik started buying fish later in May. Through May 26, there has been 2.1 million pounds landed of which about 200,000 came from jig gear and the remainder from pots. There are 21 vessels registered to fish.

South Alaska Peninsula

(FIGURE 7) The 2001 South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL is 13.4 million pounds for state-managed Pacific cod. 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 6, seven days after the closure of the Western GOA to cod fishing. The 2001 fishery did not take off at the opening because the fleet remained inactive while negotiating the price. The strike broke March 18. The fishery with pot gear closed April 13 and the harvest tallied 10.4 million pounds. Fishing with jig gear began in mid April and effort has been increasing since the time. The fishery is expected to close in early June. The harvest from jig gear was 1.9 million pounds through May 26 for a season accumulative of 12.4 million pounds from both gear types. There are 126 vessels registered to fish in the South Alaska Peninsula area.

Southeast

During this reporting period about 42,000 pounds of demersal shelf rockfish and black rockfish were landed as bycatch from the Region's halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries.

The directed lingcod fishery opened the 16th of May. No directed landings data is available at this time as fish tickets are currently being entered, however Southeast lingcod bycatch landings for this period totaled about 30,000 pounds.

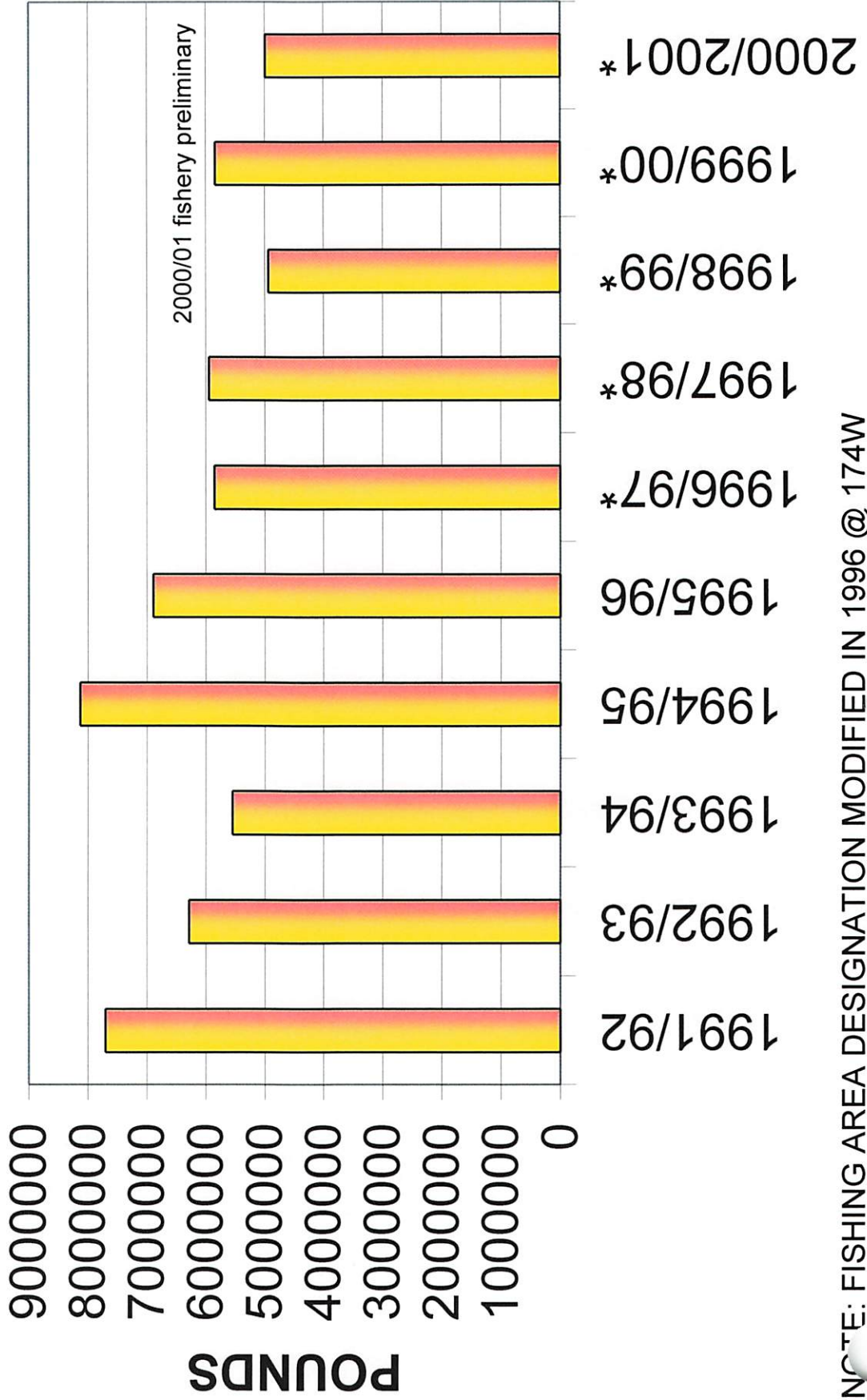
Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Winter Troll Fishery, 2001
 (October 11, 2000 through April 14, 2001)

April 8 - 14 (Week 15)							
Troll Year	Total Catch to Date	Total Catch	Permits Fished	Landings	Catch per Landing	Average Weight (lbs)	Average Price/lb (from fish tickets)
2001	22,524	2,691	154	237	11.4	17	\$ 3.69
2000	32,223	4,816	172	292	16.5	15.7	\$ 3.10
5-year average 1996-2000	24,914	3,618	132	205	16.7	15.4	\$ 2.98

Note: Data for troll year 2001 is preliminary

FIGURE 2

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST



*NOTE: FISHING AREA DESIGNATION MODIFIED IN 1996 @ 174W

Figure 3. Central Region State Water Pacific Cod Fisheries through May 31, 2001.

This summary has been censored for confidential reports or records.

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)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	2	confidential	confidential
Longline (61)	34	62	267,644	11	23	129,903
Pots (91)	6	98	314,098	3	confidential	confidential
Totals	40	160	581,742	16	48	159,096
Status		Closed			Closed	
Federal seasons: Central Gulf *Longline closed noon 2/26		Opened - Closed Jan 1 - Mar 4 *Remaining gear closed noon 3/4/01			Opened - Closed Jan 1 - Mar 4	

*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)		1.92 mil.			2.62 mil.	
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	0	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Pots (91)	9	77	349,928	0	0	0
Totals	9	77	349,928	0	0	0
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status		Opened - Closed noon 3/5- Open			Opened - Closed noon 3/11- Open	
State seasons: Pots (91) Status		Opened - Closed noon 3/5-noon 5/1 Closed			Opened - Closed noon 3/11- 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.

**2001 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD CATCH BY WEEK**

UPDATED: 5/29/01

VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	KODIAK		
	Total	Pot	Jig
	119	36	83

VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	CHIGNIK		
	Total	Pot	Jig
	21	14	7

VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA		
	Total	Pot	Jig
	126	61	65

2001 GHIL:	10.6 Million
------------	--------------

2001 GHIL:	6.0 Million
------------	-------------

2001 GHIL:	13.4 Million
------------	--------------

ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots
--------------	--------------------

ALLOCATIONS:	85% Pots, 15% Jigs
--------------	--------------------

ALLOCATIONS:	85% Pots, 15% Jigs
--------------	--------------------

Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHIL before Sept. 1.

DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/11 to 3/17	21	342,468	9	4,488
3/18 to 3/24	36	419,983	9	3,887
3/25 to 3/31	38	437,592	21	23,045
4/1 to 4/7	13	271,244	15	25,498
4/8 to 4/14	14	298,573	17	24,792
4/15 to 4/21	22	523,290	40	93,436
4/22 to 4/28	18	443,093	44	122,294
4/29 to 5/5	19	279,493	32	89,506
5/6 to 5/12	15	189,980	46	158,391
5/13 to 5/19	16	174,644	38	123,576
5/20 to 5/26	5	26,170	45	164,742
CUMULATIVE CATCH	217	3,406,530	316	833,655
	(Total combined)		4,240,185	

DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/11 to 3/17	Confidential	Confidential	0	0
3/18 to 3/24	Confidential	Confidential	0	0
3/25 to 3/31	Confidential	Confidential	0	0
4/1 to 4/7	Confidential	Confidential	0	0
4/8 to 4/14	13	552,093	0	0
4/15 to 4/21	23	300,241	Confidential	Confidential
4/22 to 4/28	31	478,904	6	12,836
4/29 to 5/5	5	131,485	2	30,121
5/6 to 5/12	6	137,258	5	33,081
5/13 to 5/19	5	93,410	6	60,007
5/20 to 5/26	14	221,128	3	50,568
CUMULATIVE CATCH	97	1,914,519	22	186,613
	(Total combined)		2,101,132	

DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/11 to 3/17	Confidential	Confidential	0	0
3/18 to 3/24	14	468,861	0	0
3/25 to 3/31	70	2,872,319	0	0
4/1 to 4/7	97	3,381,478	0	0
4/8 to 4/14	126	3,718,216	6	23,676
4/15 to 4/21	Closed	Closed	13	69,382
4/22 to 4/28	Closed	Closed	37	232,454
4/29 to 5/5	Closed	Closed	36	189,696
5/6 to 5/12	Closed	Closed	61	421,340
5/13 to 5/19	Closed	Closed	49	402,296
5/20 to 5/26	Closed	Closed	68	599,578
CUMULATIVE CATCH	307	10,440,874	270	1,938,422
	(Total combined)		12,379,296	

Accumulative Catch	
Harvest by pot vessels ≤ 58'	2,717,562
Harvest by pot vessels > 58'	688,968

Vessels greater than 58' restricted to

2,650,000 pounds before Sept. 1

X = CONFIDENTIAL DATA (catch combined with following week)

FIGURE 5

Kodiak State Managed Pcod Catches, 2001

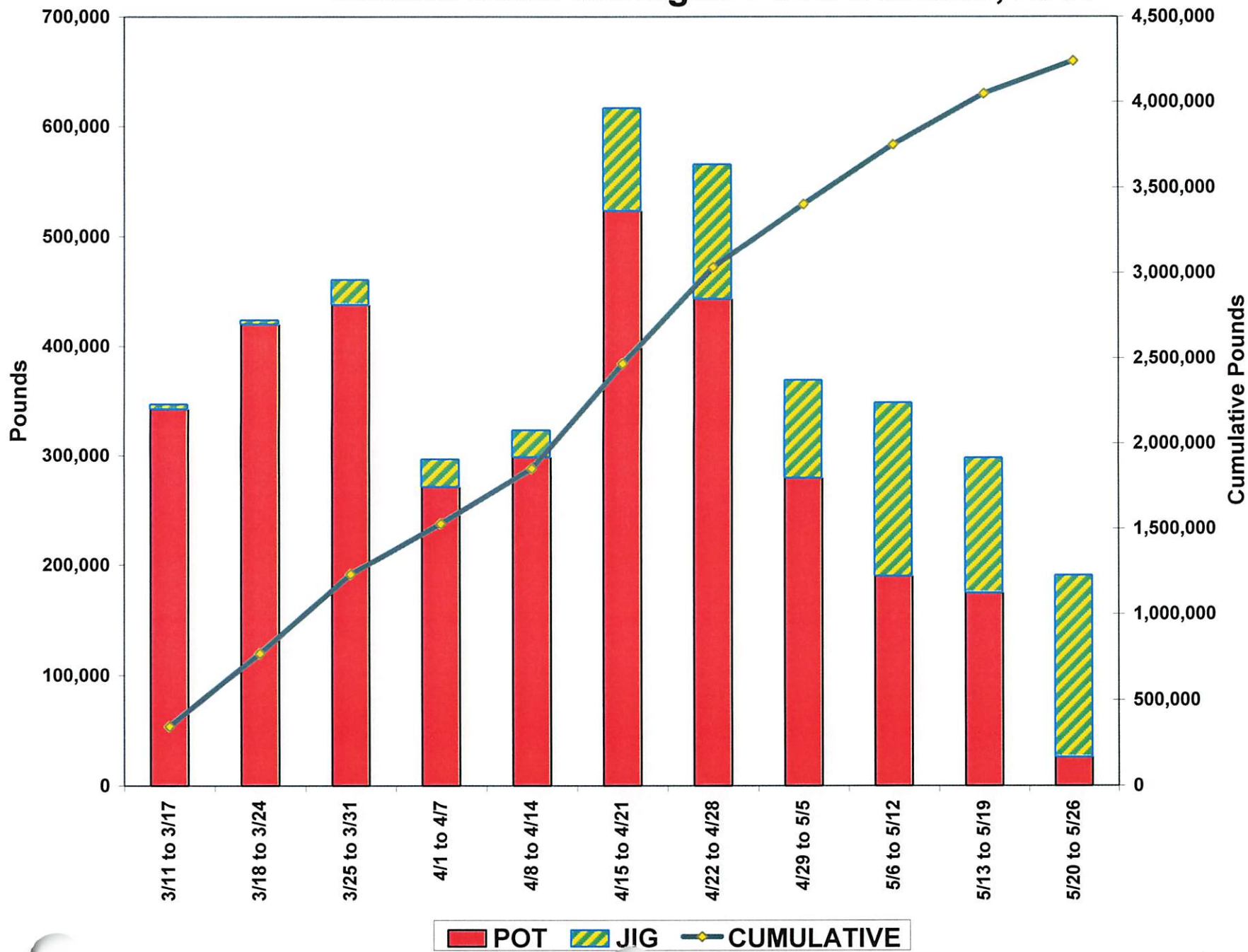


FIGURE 6

Chignik State Managed Pcod Catches, 2001

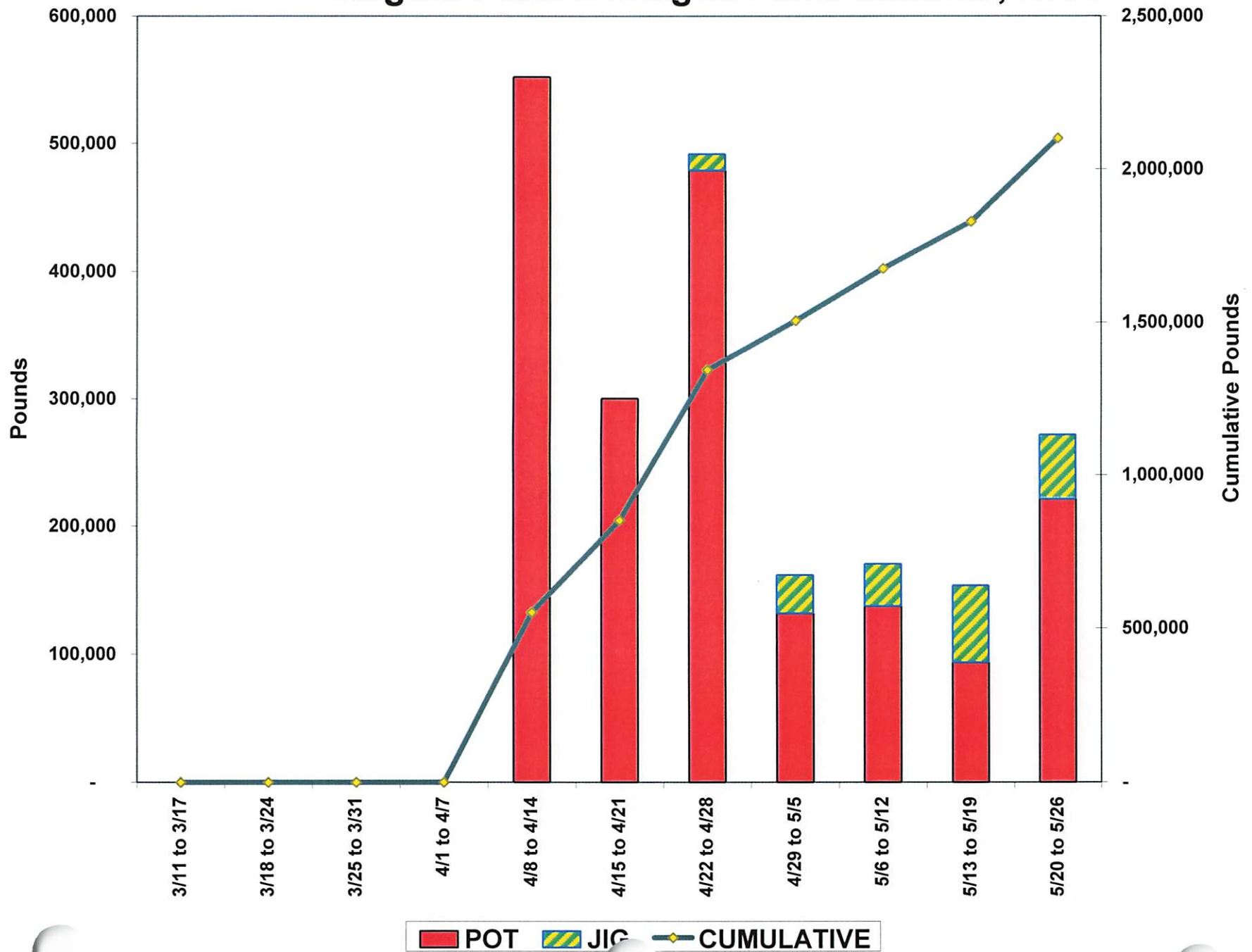


FIGURE 7

AK Peninsula State Managed Pcod Catches, 2001

