



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
APRIL 2009**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include those for salmon, crab and groundfish.

**Salmon Troll Fishery** (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska winter troll chinook salmon season opened October 11, 2008. It will remain open through April 30, 2009, or until 45,000 treaty chinook salmon are harvested. The fishery is confined to the waters east of the winter boundary line (surf line) and includes the waters of Yakutat Bay. Current harvest is about 8,500 chinook salmon. Despite prices over \$7.00 per pound, very poor weather has restricted catch and effort; most of which has occurred in the vicinity of Sitka (27 percent), and in the waters of Yakutat Bay (25 percent).

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab** (FIGURE 2)

The 2008/09 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2008. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC was 2.835

million pounds, and has now been taken. The Western IFQ TAC is 2.55 million pounds. About 83 percent of that has been harvested to date.

The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2009.

#### **Bering Sea Snow Crab** (FIGURE 3)

The 2008/09 snow crab IFQ TAC is approximately 52.7 million pounds. The 2008/09 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2008 and will remain open through May 15, 2009 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2009 in the Western Subdistrict. Catch to date is about 46.8 million pounds, or 89 percent of the IFQ TAC.

#### **Bering Sea Tanner Crab** (FIGURE 4)

The season for *C. bairdi* open on October 15, 2008 and closed on March 31, 2009. The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W longitude, with a separate TAC for each area. The Eastern IFQ TAC was 2.49 million pounds, while the Western IFQ TAC was 1.38 million pounds. The final harvest was approximately 1.6 million pounds (62 percent) taken in the Eastern District, with minimal (6 percent) catch in the Western District.

#### **Central Region Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 5)

##### **Prince William Sound** (FIGURE 6)

The parallel Pacific cod season in the Prince William Sound Registration Area closed on January 27, 2009. This coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area.

The state managed Pacific cod fishery (5 AAC 28.267) in the Prince William Sound Registration Area opened at 12:00 noon, February 3, 2009. The guideline harvest level for the Prince William Sound Area was 488,000 pounds.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently adopted regulatory changes affecting the Prince William Sound State managed Pacific cod fishery. These regulatory changes became effective March 14, 2009. Provisions of the Prince William Sound Pacific cod Management Plan (5AAC 28.267) were amended to:

- allow the use of longline gear in the state managed fishery until the guideline harvest level is achieved or until May 1.
- expand open waters for the state waters Pacific cod season to include a portion of the Eastern Section of the Outside District by adding those waters from 147° 00 W. long. to Hook Point (146° 15.12' W. long.).
- establish a separate 20 percent Pacific cod bycatch allowance in other directed fisheries. This bycatch allowance is in addition to the bycatch allowance of 20 percent for other species specified in 5 AAC 28.070. However, the landed weight of Pacific cod retained as bycatch may not exceed 20 percent of the directed finfish species on board the vessel. The commissioner may, by emergency order, close and immediately reopen a season in which the bycatch limit for any species is reduced.

The provisions of Closed Waters in Prince William Sound Area (5AAC 28.250) were amended to permit the use of pot gear in waters of Orca Bay east of 146° 37.50' W. longitude, with exception of the waters of Port Gravina north of a line from Gravina Point light (60° 37.37' N. latitude, 146° 61.22' W. longitude) to Red Head (60° 40.25' N. latitude, 146° 30.22' W. longitude) which remain closed.

At least 15 longline vessels have participated in the fishery this season. Because of their catches, the state waters season for Pacific cod in the Sound closed on March 27, 2009. After the closure, as previously mentioned, Pacific cod may be retained up to a 20 percent bycatch allowance in other directed fisheries. This bycatch allowance is in addition to the bycatch allowance of 20 percent for other species.

### **Cook Inlet (FIGURE 7)**

The parallel Pacific cod season in the Cook Inlet Management Area closed on January 27, 2009. This coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. The Cook Inlet state waters Pacific cod season (5 AAC 28.367) opened on January 28, 2009 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 2,606,393 pounds. This is allocated 75 percent (1.95 million pounds) to pot gear and 25 percent (651,600 pounds) to jig gear. Additionally, the state waters season Pacific cod harvest prior to September 1, by vessels fishing pot gear and greater than 58 feet in length, is limited to 25 percent of the total guideline harvest level.

The season closed for all pot boats on March 18, 2009. Total harvest at that time was approximately 1.9 million pounds. The season for the jig fleet remains open, and the current harvest is about 25 thousand pounds.

### **Westward Region GOA Pacific cod (FIGURE 8)**

#### **Kodiak Pacific cod (FIGURE 9)**

The Kodiak state waters Pacific cod fishery opened on February 3, 2009, which was 7 days after NMFS closed inshore, directed Central GOA Pacific cod fishing. The GHL is 8.69 million pounds for this fishery. In the Kodiak Area, the guideline harvest level (GHL) will be equally divided between pot gear and jig gear. Pot vessels larger than 58 feet will be limited to 25 percent of the GHL until September 1. The Kodiak Area is designated exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season. The fishery closed to pot gear use on February 18, 2009 when it was anticipated that the GHL would be taken. Final catch for pot gear was approximately 4.14 million pounds taken in 138 landings. The jig harvest to date is about 0.5 million pounds, and that fishery continues.

#### **Chignik Pacific cod (FIGURE 10)**

The Chignik state waters Pacific cod fishery opened by regulation on March 1, 2009. The GHL for the 2009 season is 6.08 million pounds. In the Chignik Area, a 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect. The GHL will be split to reserve 10 percent for

jig gear and 90 percent for pot gear. The area is designated superexclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season. Weather has slowed the Chignik fleet harvest to date. Most of that fleet was still on anchor for the past week due to high winds and freezing spray. Total catch to date is about 2.5 million pounds, all from pot gear.

#### **South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod (FIGURE 11)**

The GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula state waters Pacific cod fishery is 11.89 million pounds. The season opened on March 4, 2009. Pot gear will be managed to 85 percent of the GHL or 10.10 million pounds.

In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, a 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect. The South Alaska Peninsula is designated exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Daily reporting is mandatory for vessel operators using pot gear (5 AAC 28.577 (j)).

Poor weather with gale force winds and freezing spray has largely kept the fleet off the grounds, but a few more boats ventured out last Friday with improved weather. Current catch by the pot fleet is about 6.23 million pounds. There has been no jig effort to date.

#### **Aleutian Islands Pacific cod (FIGURE 12)**

The state-waters Pacific cod A-season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W longitude opened to commercial fishing at noon on (Wednesday) March 25. In state-waters west of 170° W long., the Pacific cod parallel fishery is closed when the state-waters fishery is open. The 2009 state-waters season guideline harvest level (GHL), based on 3 percent of the final BSAI Pacific cod ABC of 176,000 mt., is 12,037,116 pounds. The state-waters fishery will be managed so that a maximum of 70 percent of the GHL (8,425,981 pounds) will be available for harvest prior to June 10. The remaining 30 percent of the GHL (3,611,135 pounds) plus any rollover from the A-season will be available beginning June 10. The state-waters season will close when the GHL is attained or on April 1, when by regulation, the

parallel Pacific cod season will reopen and the state-waters season will close, coinciding with the federal catcher-vessel trawl sector opening. The state-waters season may reopen after the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery closes, pending assessment of the remaining state-waters A-season guideline harvest level. Pacific cod in the state-waters season may only be taken with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, longline, non-pelagic trawl, and hand troll gear. Pot vessels may not exceed 125 feet overall length. Non-pelagic trawl vessels may not exceed 100 feet in overall length and longline and mechanical jigging machine vessels are restricted to 58 feet in overall length or less.

### **Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 13)**

Waters of the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and a portion of the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) opened to directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish fishing on January 5, 2009 with a quota of 17 mt each. The fishery closed on March 20, the day before the halibut opener. Participation and catch had been low in each area. Outside waters opened in two areas this year on January 23, 2009. Poor weather hampered the fishery for the first few weeks, but that improved in February. The East Yakutat (EYKT) fishery was opened with a 48.3 mt quota. Nine vessels participated, and the fishery closed on March 17, 2009. Final catch was about 45 metric tons. Waters of the Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) had a quota of 29.9 mt. Approximately 30.7 mt tons were landed by 6 vessels. This area closed on February 26, 2009.

Approximately 370,000 pounds of Pacific cod have been landed from inside waters. Waters of Icy Strait (statistical areas 355801 and 355802) closed to directed Pacific cod fishing on February 27, 2009 in order to redistribute catch throughout inside waters. About 200,000 pounds were taken from this area. The fishery continues, but participation has decreased with the start of the halibut/sablefish IFQ season.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NPFMC  
Agenda Item B-3**



**April 2009**

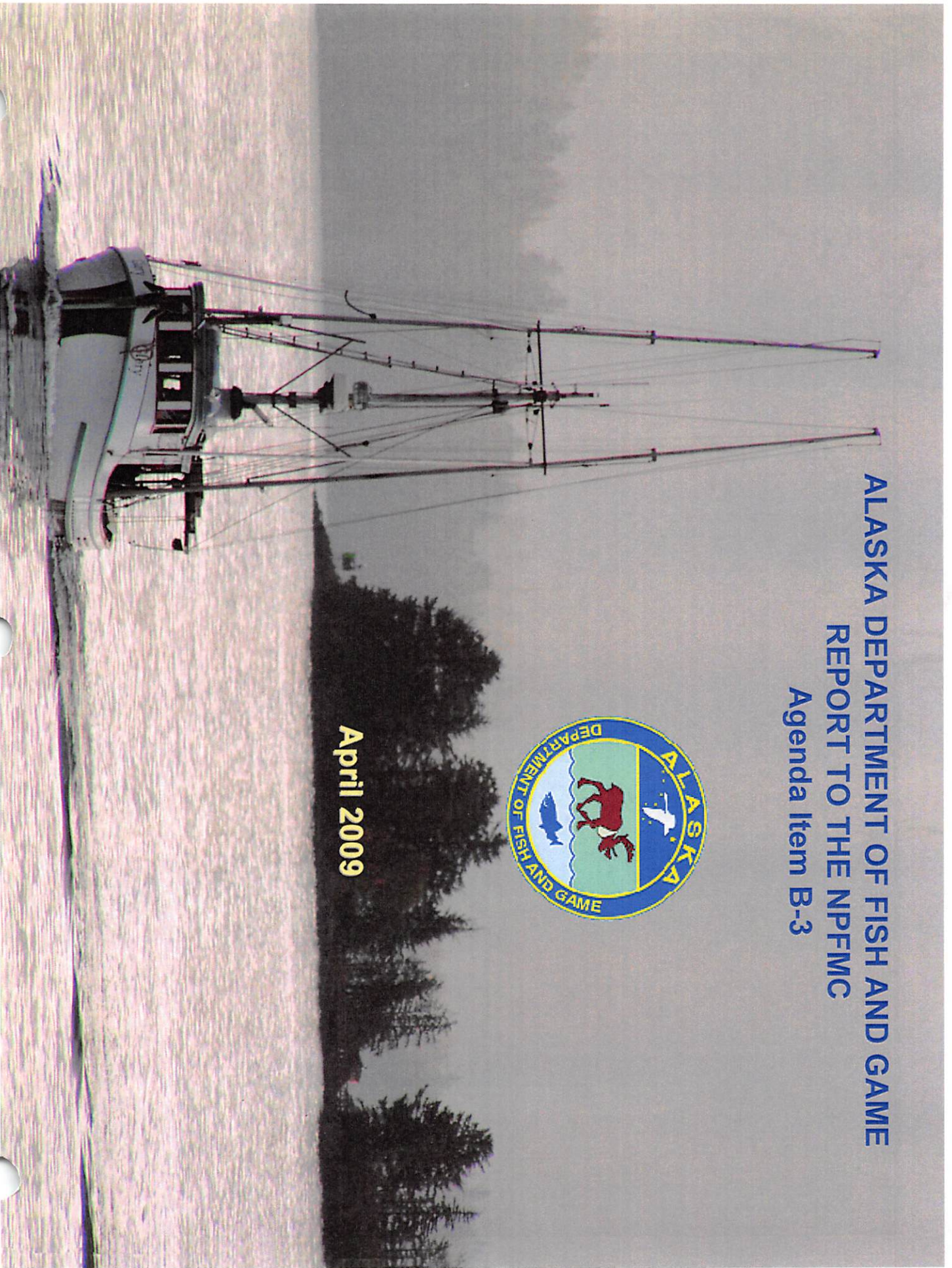


Figure 1.

# SE Alaska Winter Troll Fishery, 2008/09

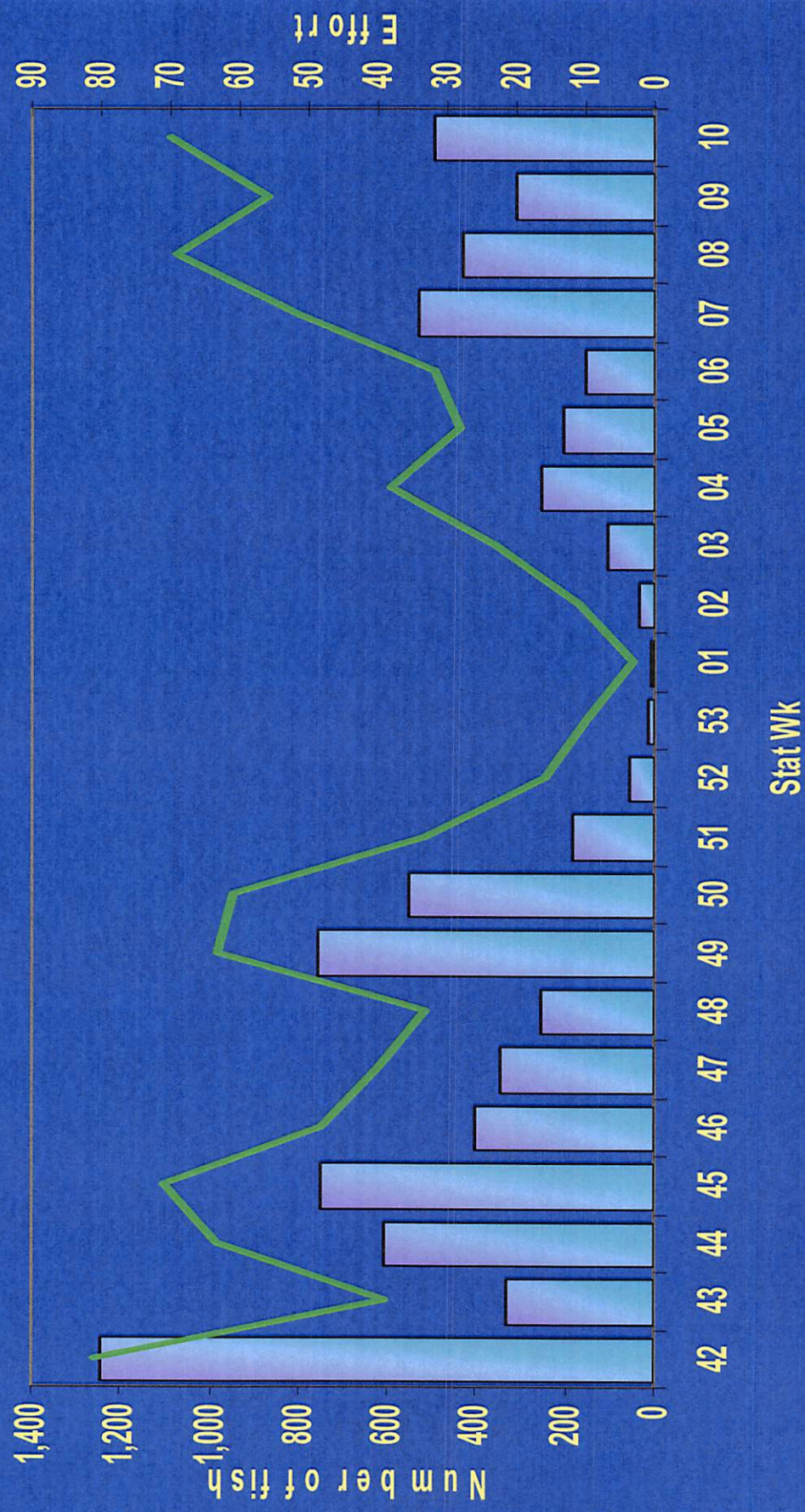




Figure 2.

### Al Golden King Crab Harvests

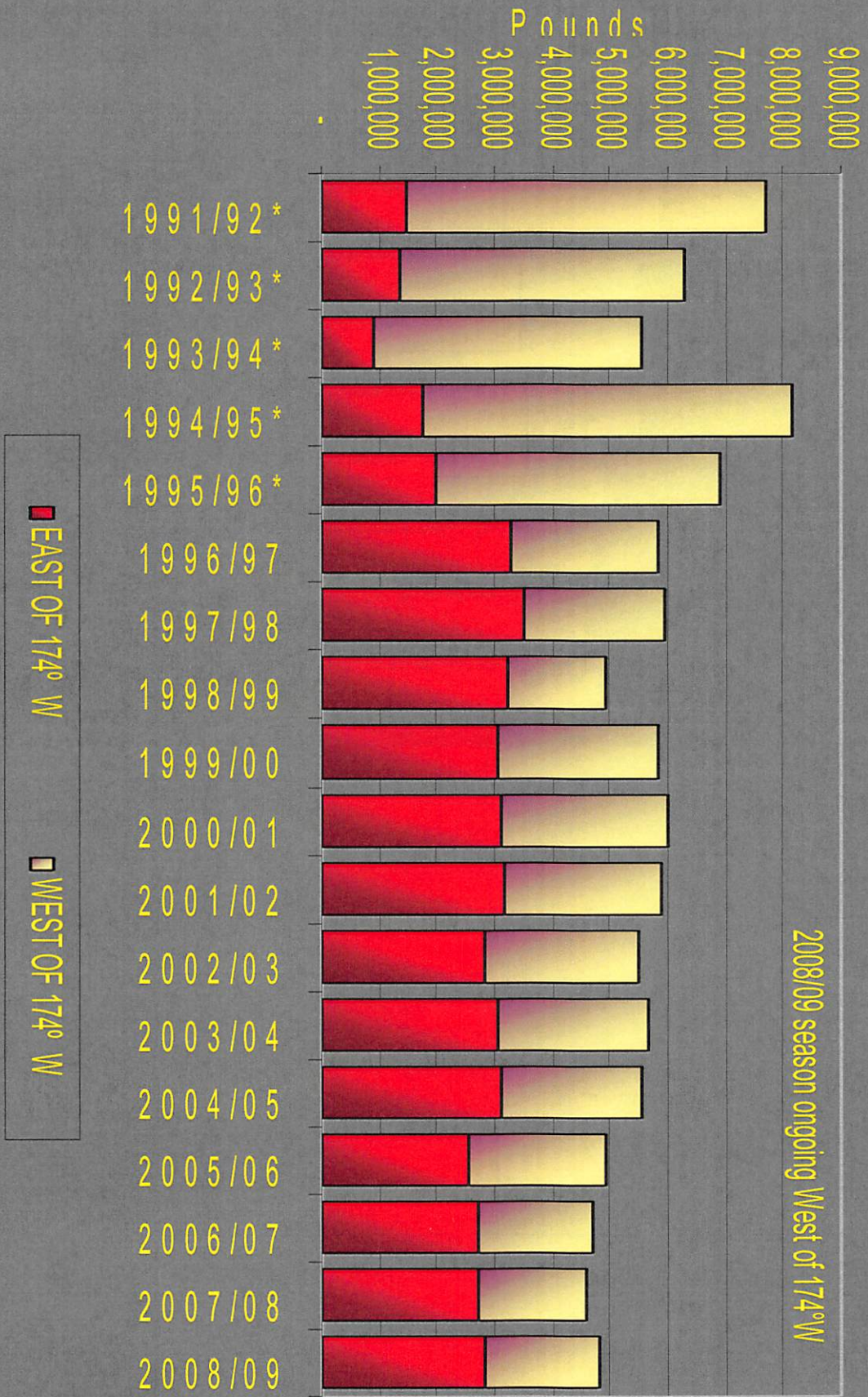


Figure 3.

# Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvests

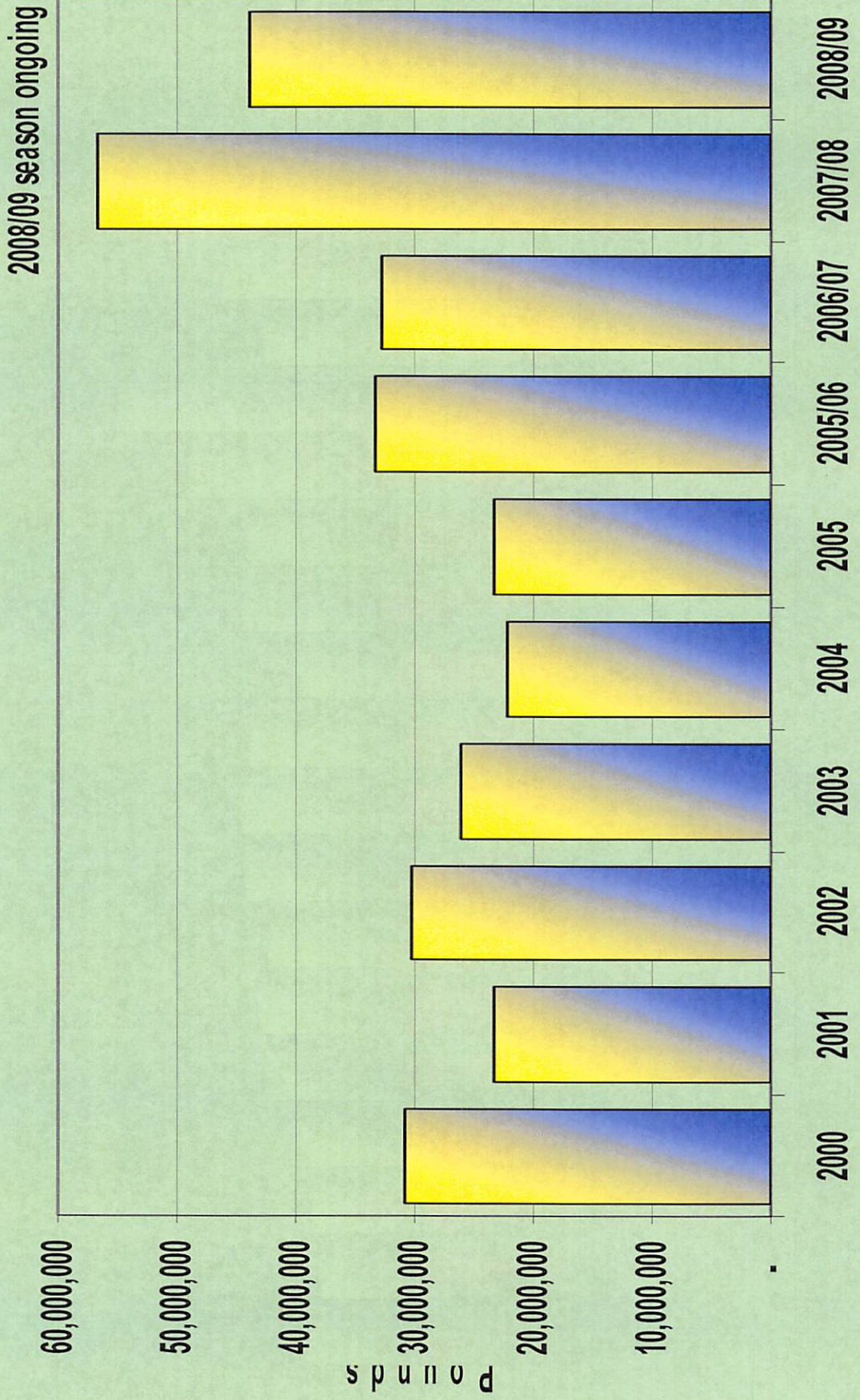
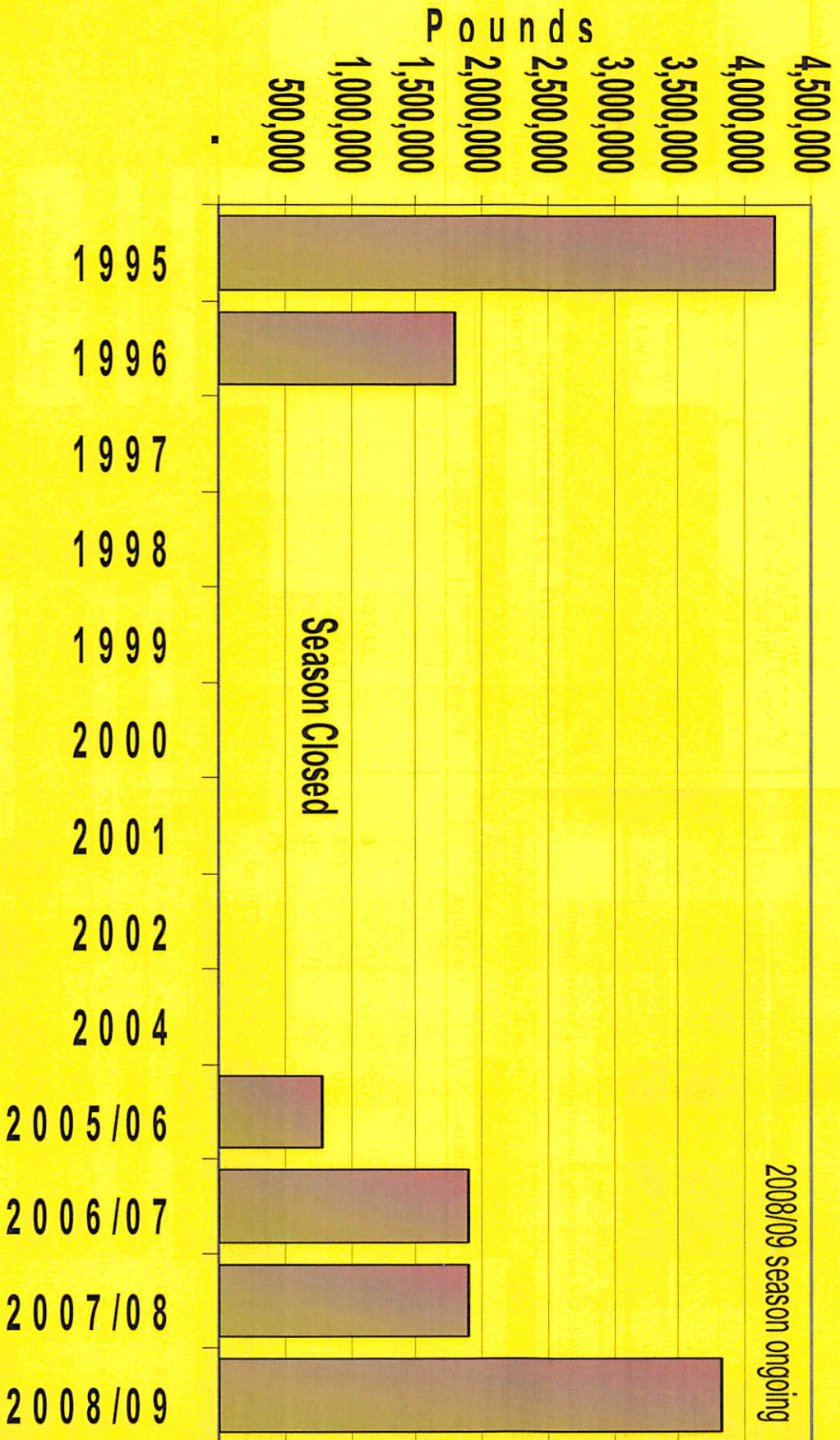


Figure 4.

### Bering Sea Bairdi Tanner Crab Harvests



**Figure 5. 2009 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through March 26.**

This summary censored for *CONFIDENTIAL* reports or records.

| Pacific Cod <b>PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS</b> |                            |           |                |                          |                     |                     |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Gear  | Cook Inlet Management Area |           |                | Prince William Sound     |                     |                     |
|   | Vessels                    | Landings  | Pounds         | Vessels                  | Landings            | Pounds              |
| Hand troll  | -                          | -         | -              | -                        | -                   | -                   |
| Jigs  | -                          | -         | -              | -                        | -                   | -                   |
| Trawl   | -                          | -         | -              | 2                        | <i>Confidential</i> | <i>Confidential</i> |
| Longline  | 10                         | 20        | 207,721        | -                        | -                   | -                   |
| Pots  | 5                          | 17        | 70,442         | -                        | -                   | -                   |
| <b>Totals</b>                                     | <b>15</b>                  | <b>37</b> | <b>278,163</b> | <b>2</b>                 | <i>Confidential</i> | <i>Confidential</i> |
| Status  | Closed                     |           |                | Closed                   |                     |                     |
| Federal seasons:                                  | Directed Opened - Closed   |           |                | Directed Opened - Closed |                     |                     |
| Central Gulf                                      | Jan 1 - noon Jan 27        |           |                | Jan 1 - noon Jan 27      |                     |                     |

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 <b>*STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS</b> |                               |            |                  |                       |          |                |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|
| GHL (lb)   | *Cook Inlet Management Area   |            |                  | *Prince William Sound |          |                |
|  | Vessels                       | Landings   | Pounds           | Vessels               | Landings | Pounds         |
|  | 2,606,393                     |            |                  | 487,746               |          |                |
| Gear   | Vessels                       | Landings   | Pounds           | Vessels               | Landings | Pounds         |
| Longline   |                               |            |                  | 15                    |          | 488,000        |
| Hand troll                                       | -                             | -          | -                | -                     | -        | -              |
| Jigs   | 5                             | 6          | 24,867           | -                     | -        | -              |
| Pots < 58'                                       | 10                            | 108        | 1,259,649        | -                     | -        | -              |
| Pots > 58'                                       | 3                             | 20         | 644,834          | -                     | -        | -              |
| <b>Totals</b>                                    | <b>18</b>                     | <b>134</b> | <b>1,929,350</b> | <b>15</b>             | <b>-</b> | <b>488,000</b> |
| State seasons:                                   | Opened - Closed               |            |                  | Opened - Closed       |          |                |
| Jigs   | noon Jan 28 -                 |            |                  | noon Feb 3 -          |          |                |
| *Status  | Open                          |            |                  | Open                  |          |                |
| Pots (91), <58', CI only                         | noon Jan 28 - noon March 18   |            |                  |                       |          |                |
| *Status  | Closed                        |            |                  | noon Feb 3 -          |          |                |
| Pots (91), >58', CI only                         | noon Jan 28 - 6 a.m. March 18 |            |                  |                       |          |                |
| *Status  | Closed                        |            |                  | Open                  |          |                |
| Longline (PWS Only)                              |                               |            |                  | 12:01 AM March 14 -   |          |                |
| *Status  |                               |            |                  | Closed March 27       |          |                |

\*The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive area registration 24 hours after the initial Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS.

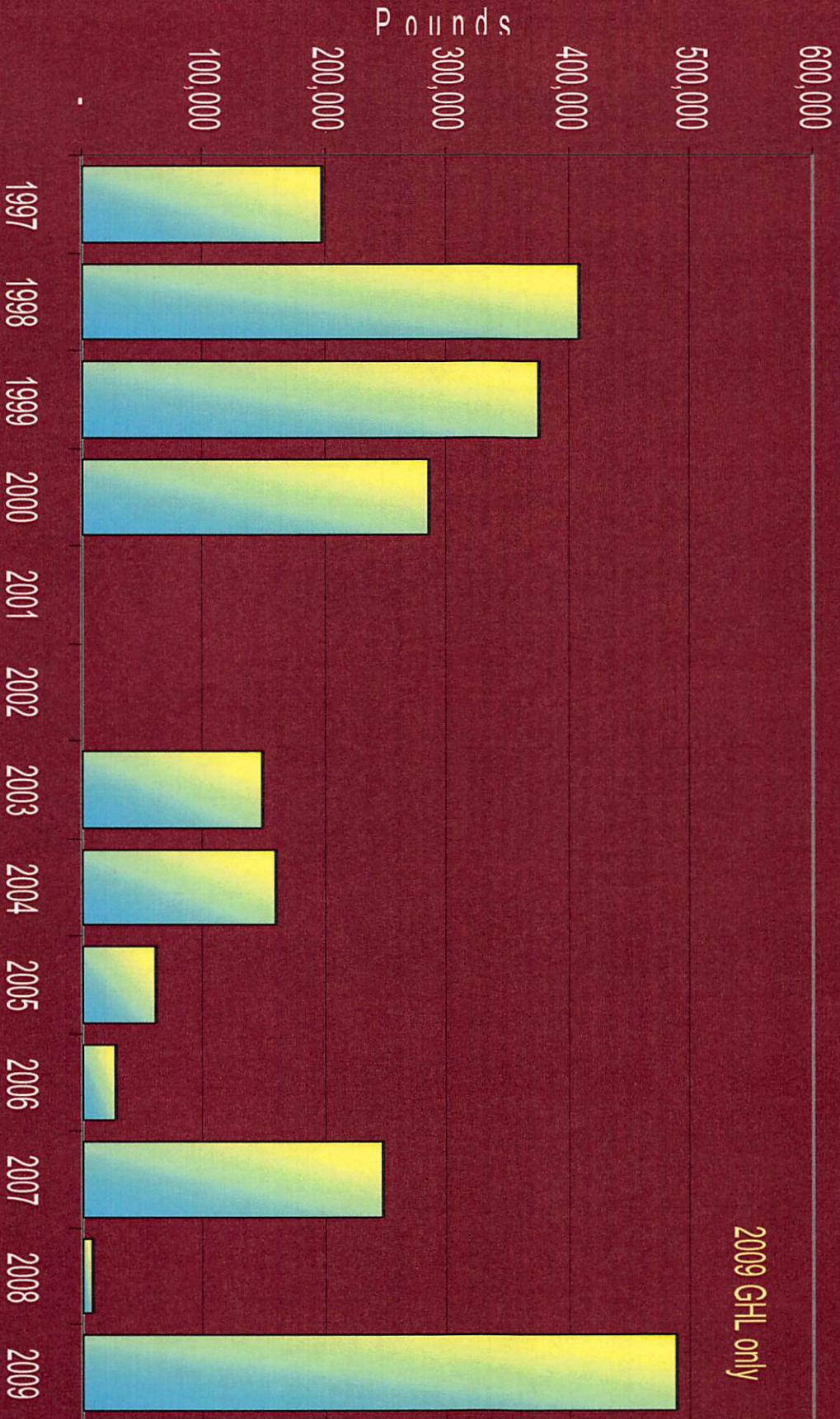
Includes only directed fishery harvest.

New regulations allow the use of longline gear for directed Pacific cod in PWS from March 14 through April 30.

Gear limits and exclusive area registrations are not in effect during parallel season.

Figure 6.

### PWS State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests



2009 GHL only

Figure 7.

## Cook Inlet State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

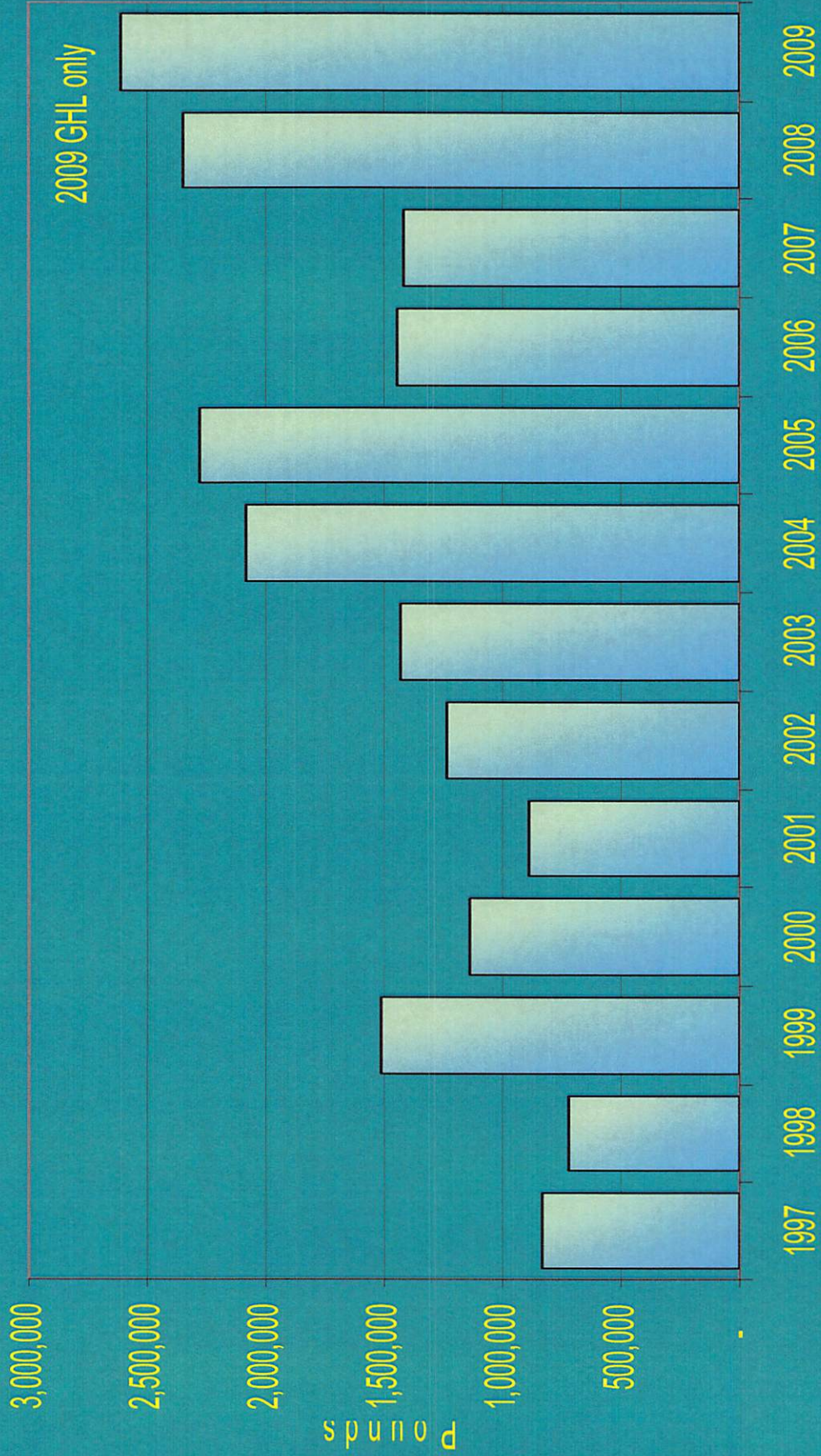


Figure 8.

**2009 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH  
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK**

UPDATED: 9-Mar-09

|   | KODIAK                |           |           |         | CHIGNIK                                |           |           |       | SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA                   |           |           |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--|-----------|-----------|-------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Vessels Registered  | Total                 |           | Pot       | Jig     | Total                                  |           | Pot       | Jig   | Total                                    |           | Pot       |
|   | 98                    |           | 39        | 59      | 12                                     |           | 12        | 0     | 47                                       |           | 47        |
| 2009 GHJL   | 8.69 Million Pounds   |           |           |         | 6.08 Million Pounds                    |           |           |       | 11.89 Million Pounds                     |           |           |
| ALLOCATIONS:  | 50% Jigs, 50% Pots    |           |           |         | 90% Pots, 10% Jigs                     |           |           |       | 85% Pots, 15% Jigs                       |           |           |
| Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHJL before Sept. 1.                 |                       |           |           |         |  |           |           |       |  |           |           |
| Jigs = 4.345 million, Pots = 4.345 million, >58' pots 2.172 before Sept.1 |                       |           |           |         | Pots = 5.47 million Jigs = .61 million |           |           |       | Pots = 10.11 million Jigs = 1.78 million |           |           |
|   | Pots                  |           | Jigs      |         | Pots                                   |           | Jigs      |       | Pots                                     |           | Jig       |
| DATES:  | Landings              | Catch     | Landings  | Catch   | Landings                               | Catch     | Landings  | Catch | Landings                                 | Catch     | Landings  |
|   | Fishery opens 2/03/09 |           |           |         | Fishery Opens 3/1/09                   |           |           |       | Fishery Opens 3/4/09                     |           |           |
| 2/3-7/09  | 25                    | 687,872   | 15        | 31,265  | -                                      | -         | -         | -     | -  | -         | -         |
| 2/8-14/09   | 67                    | 2,135,668 | 27        | 45,804  | -                                      | -         | -         | -     | -  | -         | -         |
| 2/15-21/09  | 46                    | 1,317,513 | 29        | 55,050  | -                                      | -         | -         | -     | -  | -         | -         |
| 2/22-28/09  | Closed 2/18/09        |           | 36        | 105,287 | -                                      | -         | -         | -     | -  | -         | -         |
| 3/1-3/7/09  | -                     | -         | 52        | 128,395 | 18                                     | 942,390   | -         | -     | 25                                       | 607,248   | -         |
| 3/8-14/09   | -                     | -         | 38        | 158,686 | 14                                     | 788,767   | -         | -     | 71                                       | 2,156,906 | -         |
| 3/15-21/09  | -                     | -         | 19        | 48,885  | 8                                      | 192,478   | -         | -     | 25                                       | 926,189   | -         |
| ACCUMULATIVE  | 138                   | 4,141,053 | 216       | 573,372 | 41                                     | 1,923,478 | -         | -     | 121                                      | 3,690,343 | -         |
| CATCH   | (Total combined)      |           | 4,714,425 |         | (Total combined)                       |           | 1,923,359 |       | (Total combined)                         |           | 3,690,343 |

# Kodiak State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

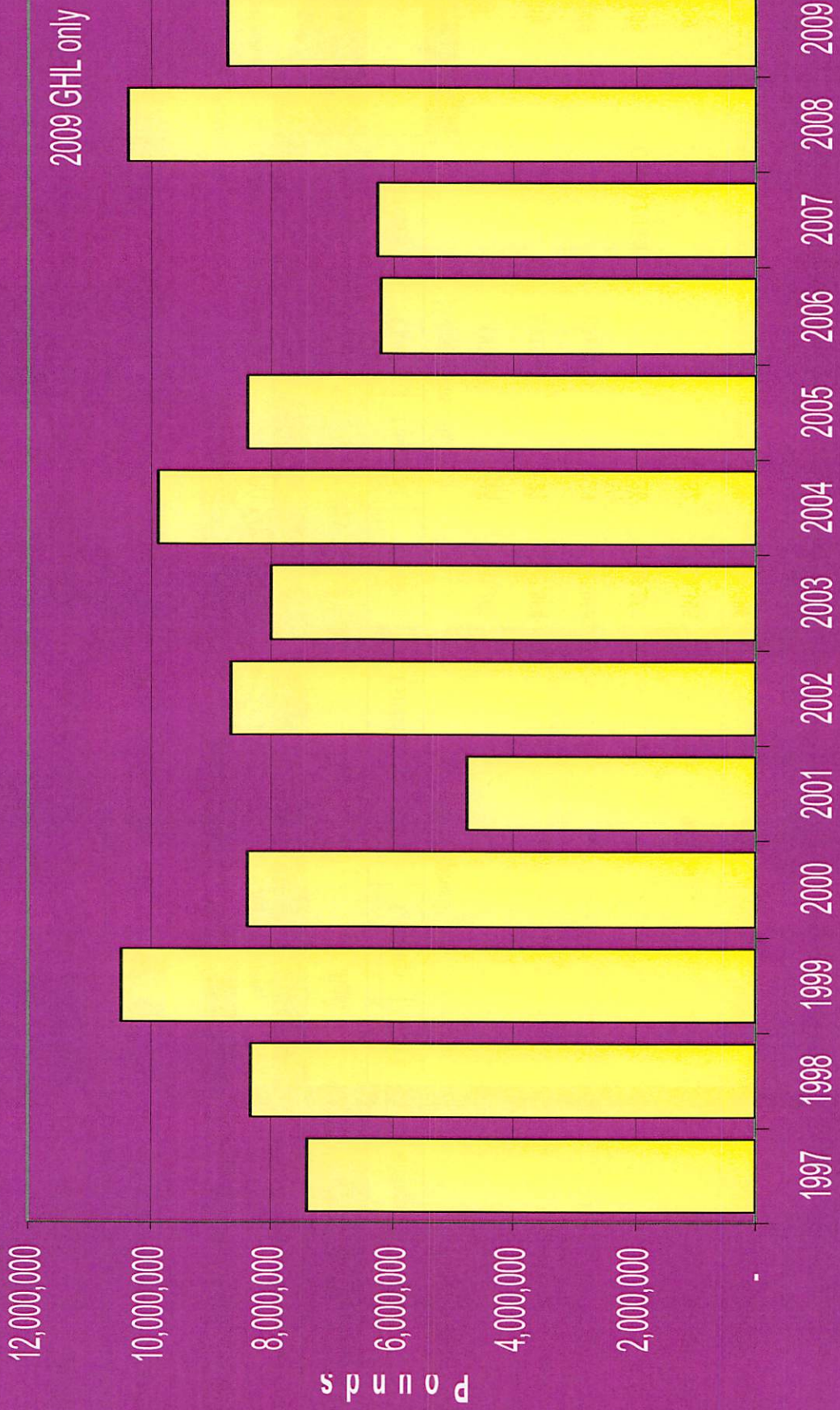


Figure 9.



Figure 10.

## Chignik State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

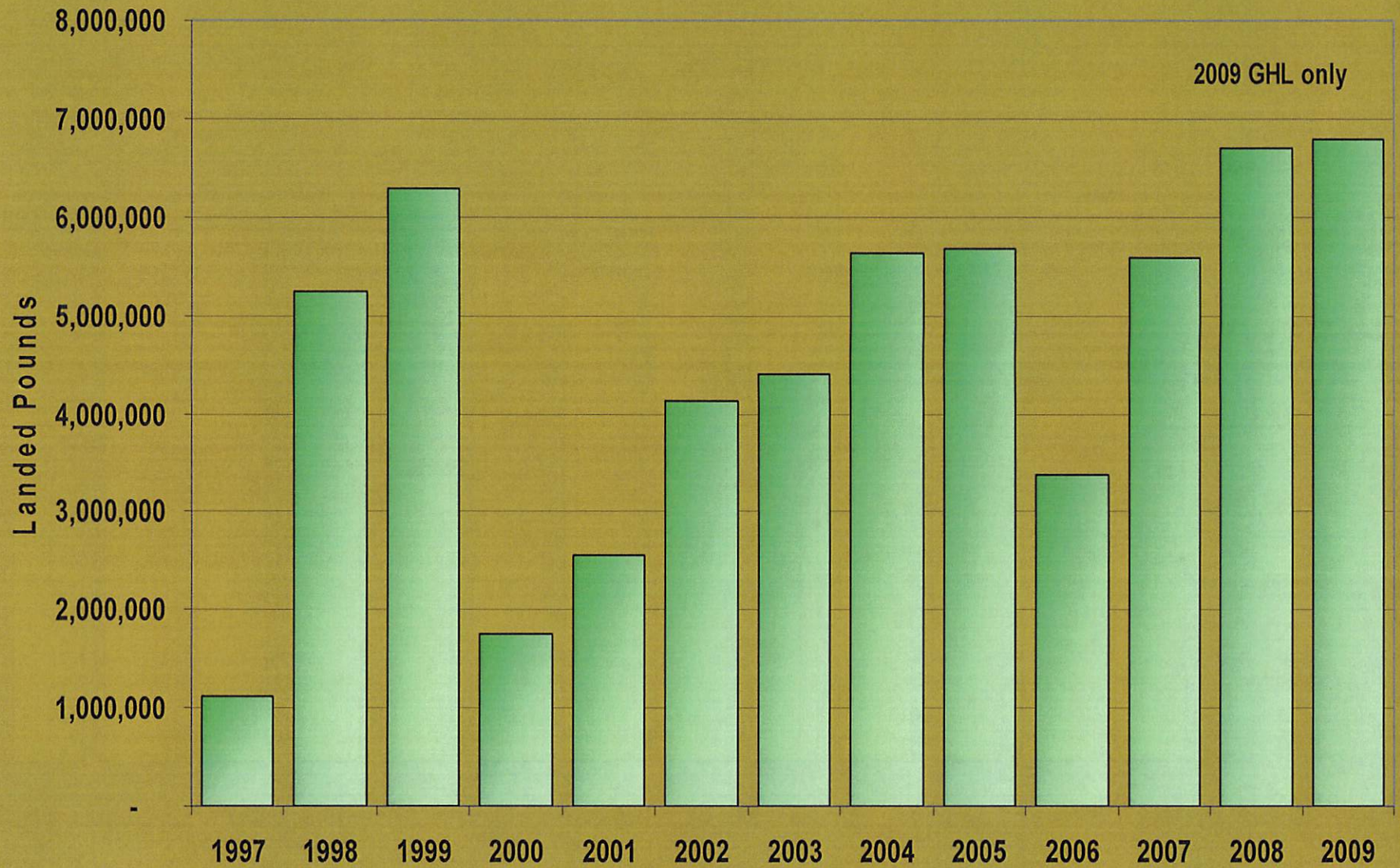


Figure 11.

# South Alaska Peninsula State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

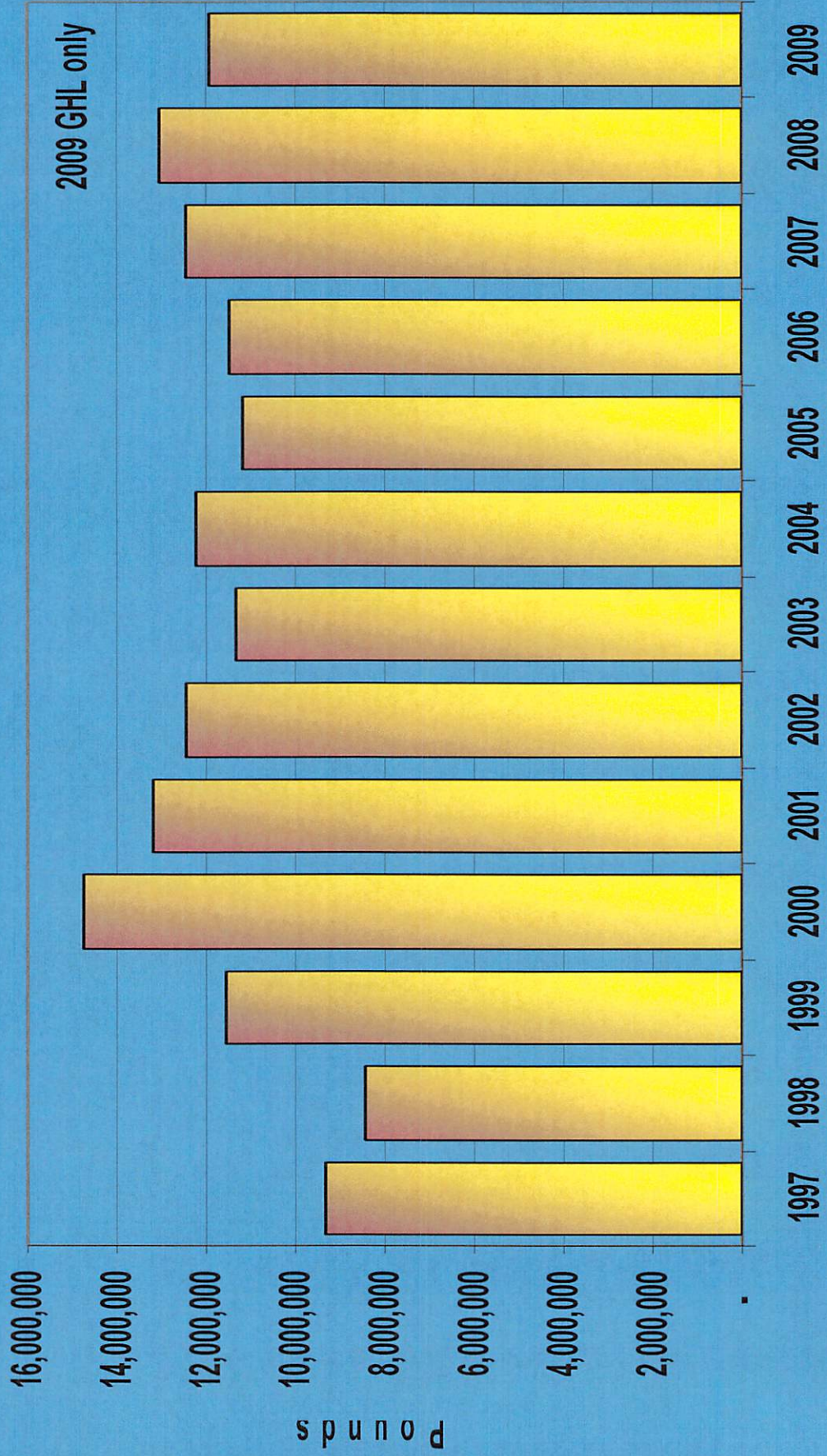
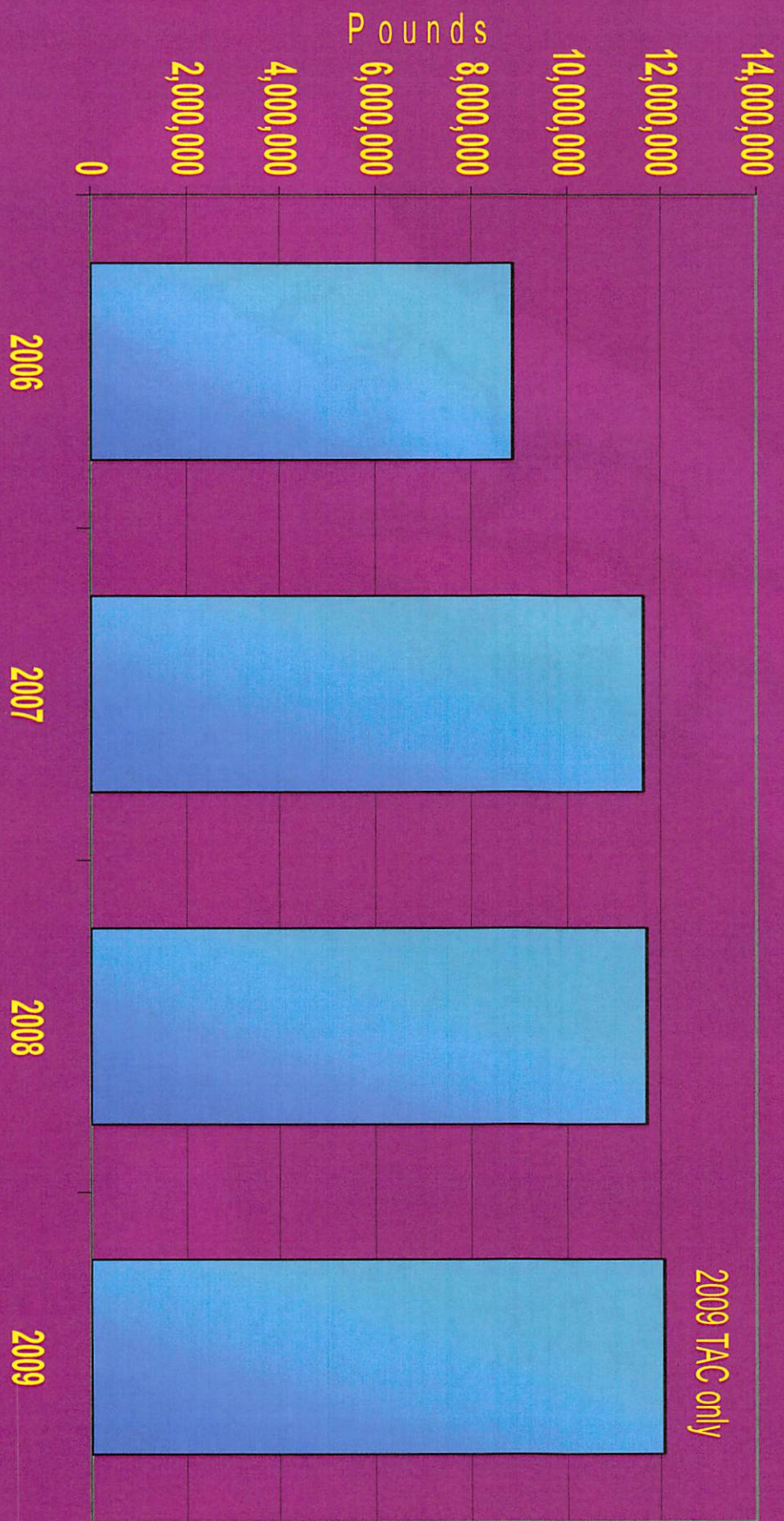


Figure 12

# Aleutian Islands State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests



# Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

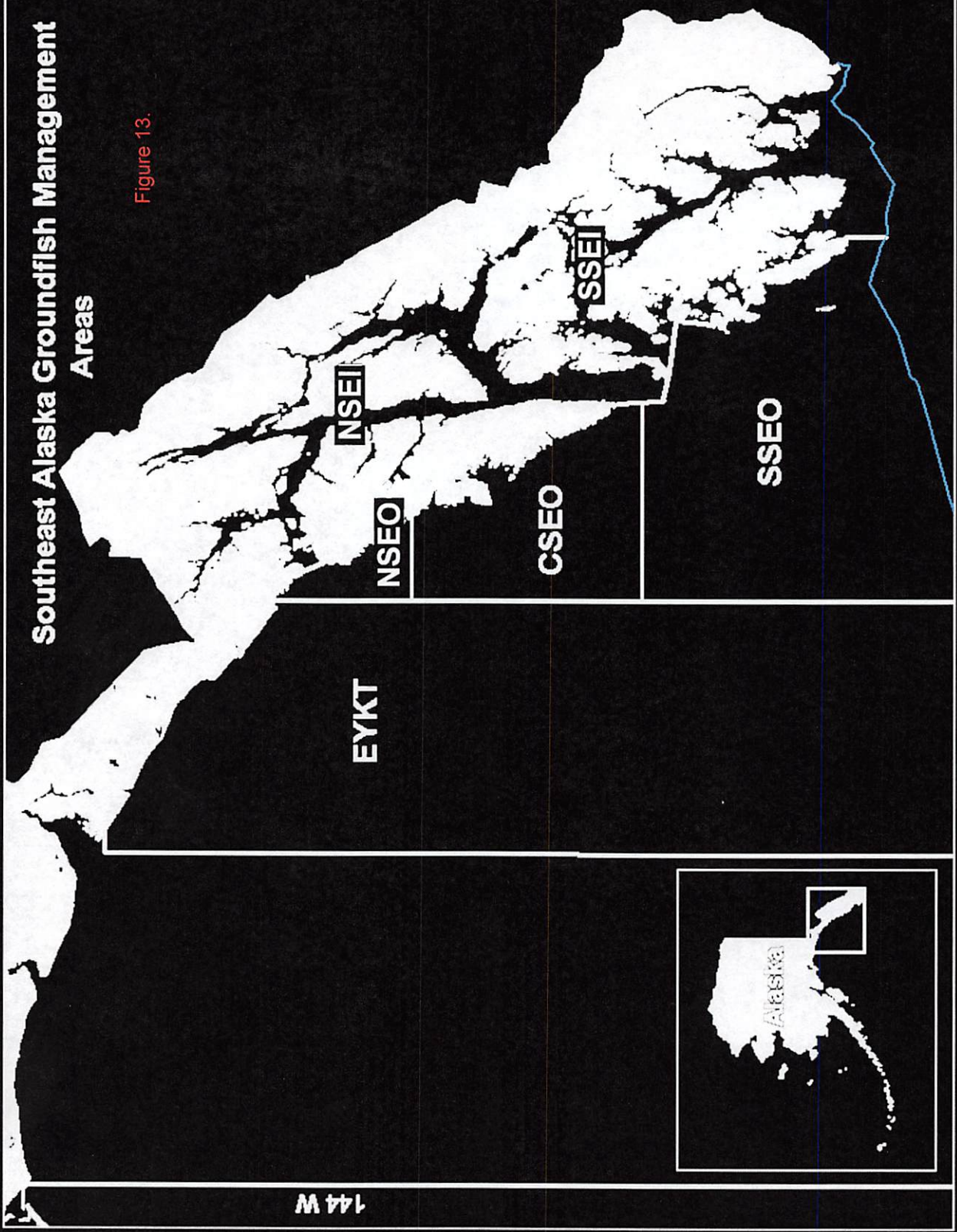


Figure 13.

end

