

**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.

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** The BSAI crab FMP establishes a State/Federal cooperative management regime that defers crab management to the State of Alaska with Federal oversight. The SSC establishes the overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) level. The State establishes the total allowable catch level (TAC) and manages the fisheries inseason. During the 2014/15 season, fisheries opened for golden king crab in the Aleutian Islands, blue king crab near St. Matthew Island, red king crab in Bristol Bay, as well as snow (*opilio*) and Tanner (*bairdi*) crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the community development quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2014/15 Area 0 (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2014. The TAC is set at 6.29 million pounds (2,853 mt) by regulation and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.98 million pounds. Fishing in the eastern area concluded in mid-November upon achievement of the TAC; two vessels are fishing in the western area and harvest remains confidential.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

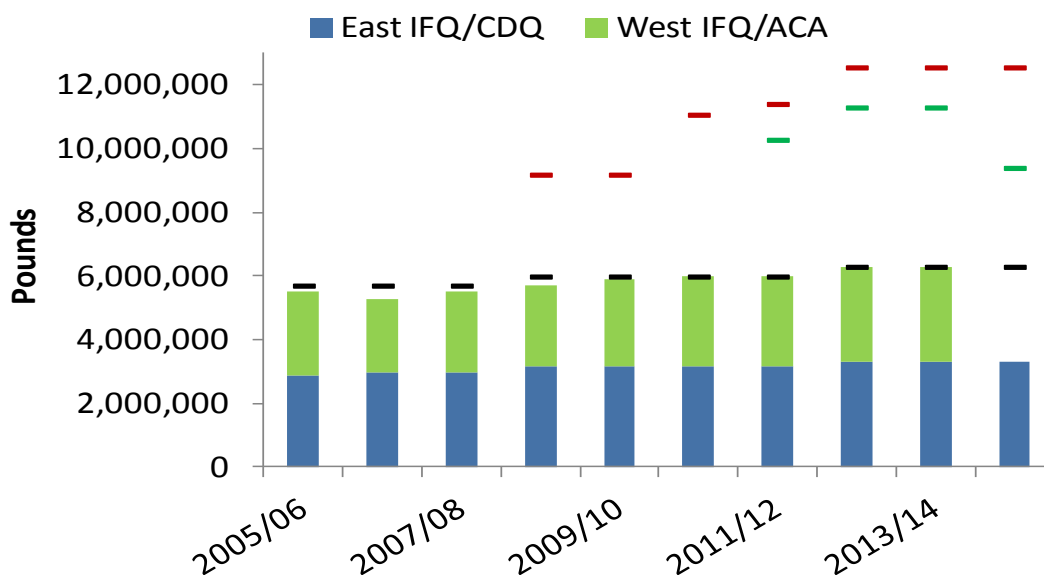


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab**

Bering Sea District Tanner crab is managed east and west of 166° W long, with a separate TAC for each area. The TACs are apportioned as follows:

	East of 166° W long (EBT)	West of 166° W long (WBT)
Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	7,632,000 pounds	5,962,500 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	848,000 pounds	662,500 pounds
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,480,000 pounds (3,846mt)</b>	<b>6,625,000 pounds (3,005 mt)</b>

The Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2014, and closed by regulation on March 31, 2015. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab may be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered vessel for Bristol Bay red king crab. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both WBT and EBT fisheries.

A total of 8,454,998 million pounds (99.7% of TAC) was harvested in the eastern district by 37 vessels. In the western district, 27 vessels harvested a total of 5,248,887 pounds (79% of TAC). Catch rates were higher in the eastern than in the western district at 68 and 39 crabs per pot, respectively.

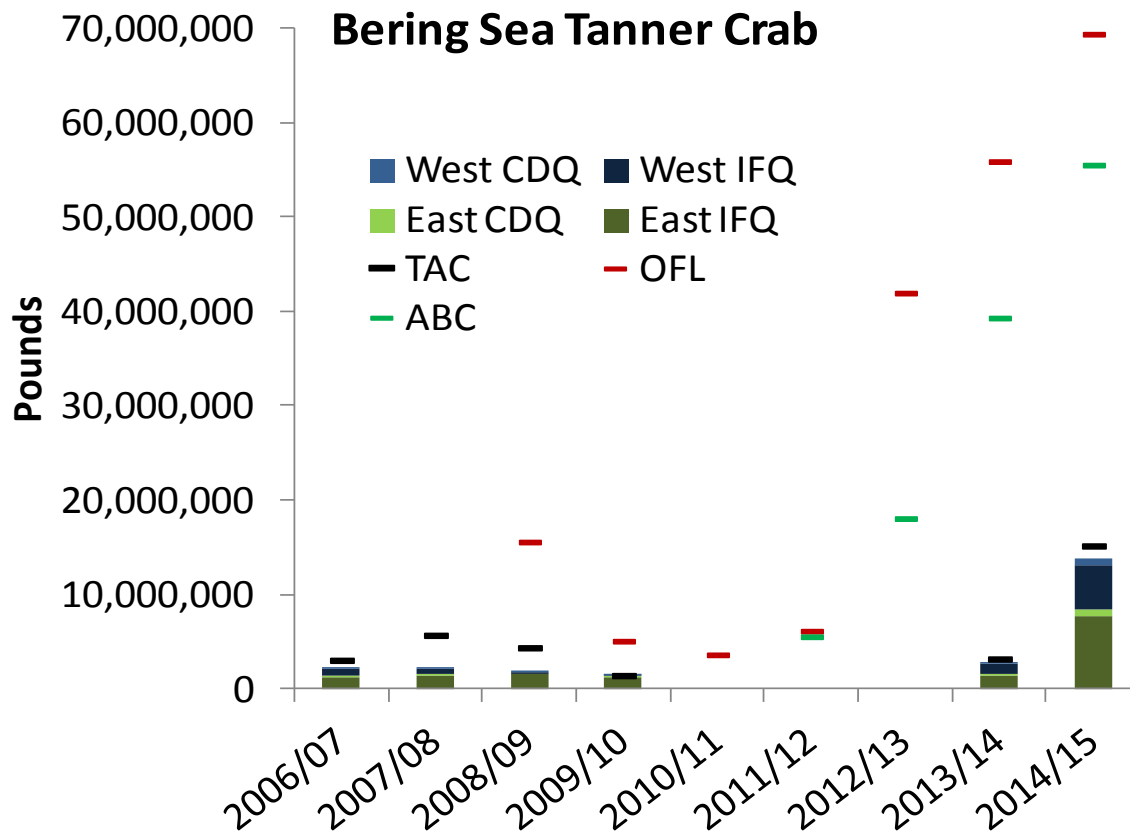


Figure 2. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2006/07 – 2014/15.

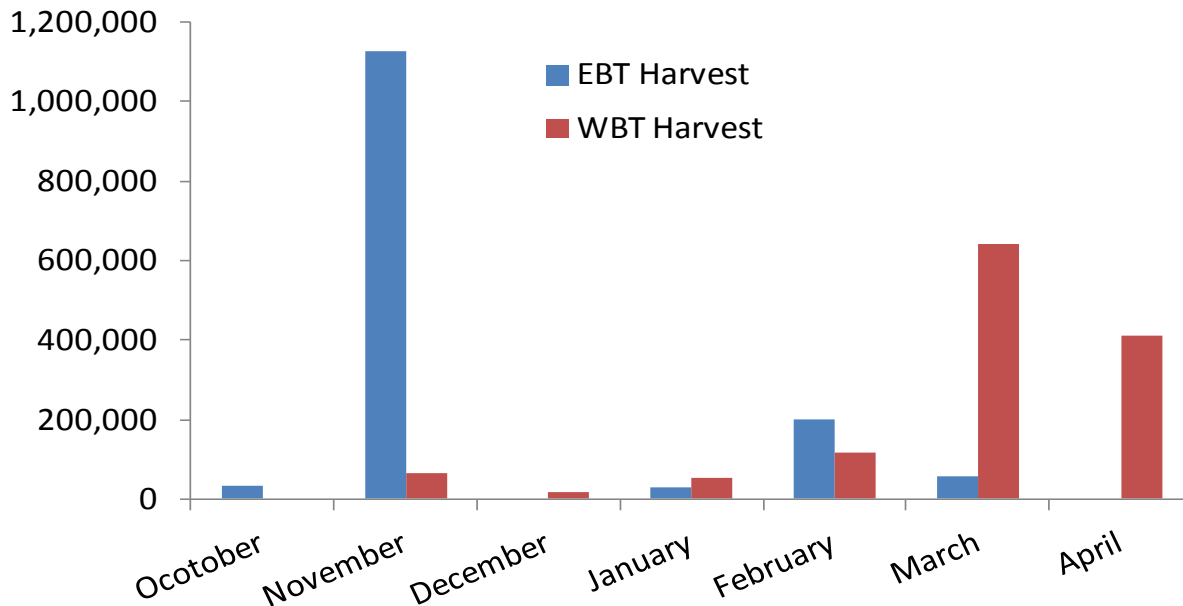


Figure 3. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by district and month, 2015. Data are based on date of landing; the fishery closes by regulation on March 31 and landings continue into April.

**Bering Sea snow crab**

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2014 and will remain open through May 15, 2015 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2015 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2014/15 snow crab TAC is 67.95 million pounds. Catch through Monday, April 6 was 59.58 million pounds (88% of TAC). Thirty-one vessels are currently registered and average catch is 179 crabs per pot.

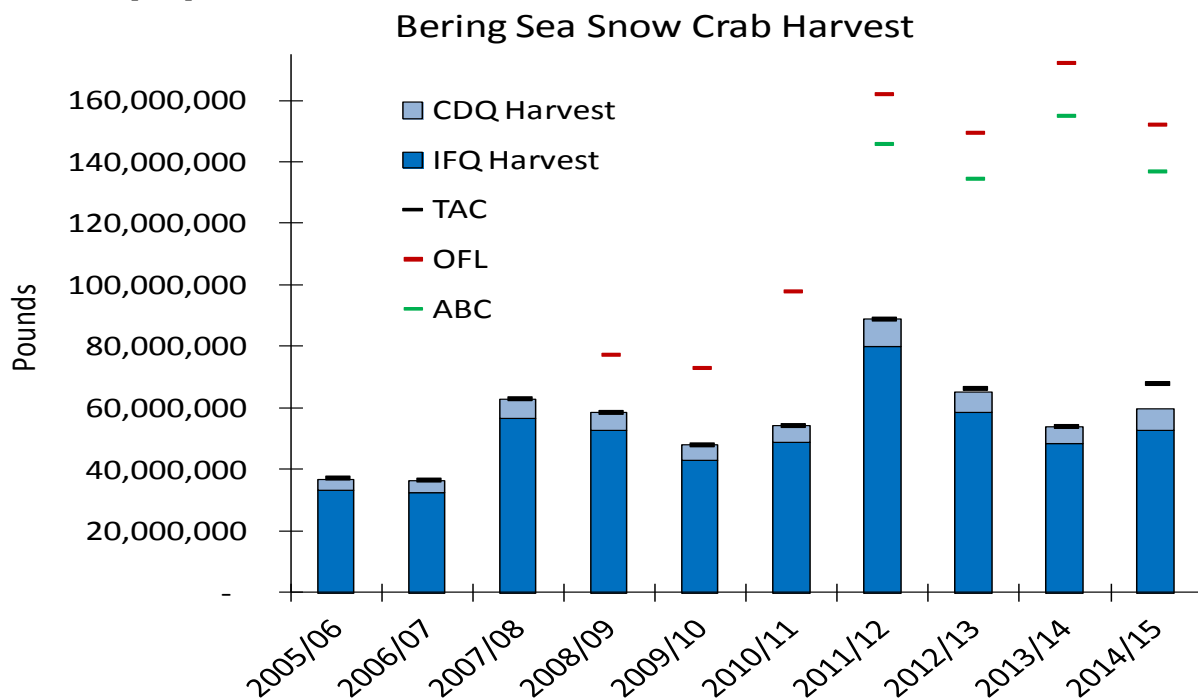


Figure 4. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

**Bering Sea snow crab, 2014/15 weekly harvest**

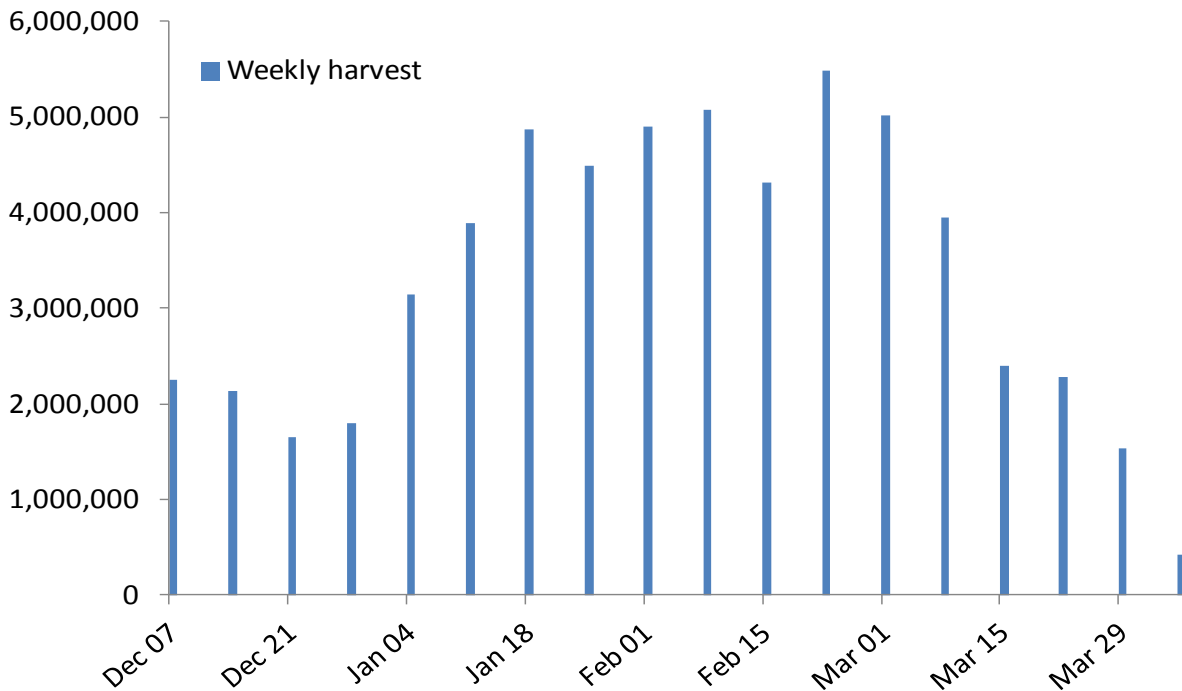


Figure 5. Weekly harvest of Bering Sea snow crab, 2014/15 season.

**Pacific Cod.** State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs as follows:

<b>Pacific cod ABC</b>	<b>GHL as % of ABC</b>	<b>2015 GHL (Mlbs)</b>	<b>State Management Area</b>
EGOA	25%	1.559	Prince William Sound
CGOA	25%	11.829	Chignik
		16.898	Kodiak
		5.070	Cook Inlet
WGOA	30%	25.597	South Alaska Peninsula
Combined BS and AI	3%	18.029	Dutch Harbor Subarea
Combined BS and AI	3%	18.029	Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long

**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 pot fishery opened on February 17, 2015; no pot vessels have registered to fish. The jig fishery opened on March 3, 2015; one jig vessel is currently participating so harvest remains confidential. The state-waters longline season opens seven days

following the closure of the initial federal season in the CGOA for the ≤50' hook and line sector or concurrent with the individual fishing quota halibut season opening date, whichever occurs later. Eighty-five percent of the GHL is allocated to longline gear. The Prince William Sound state-waters season has an exclusive registration designation.

Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod

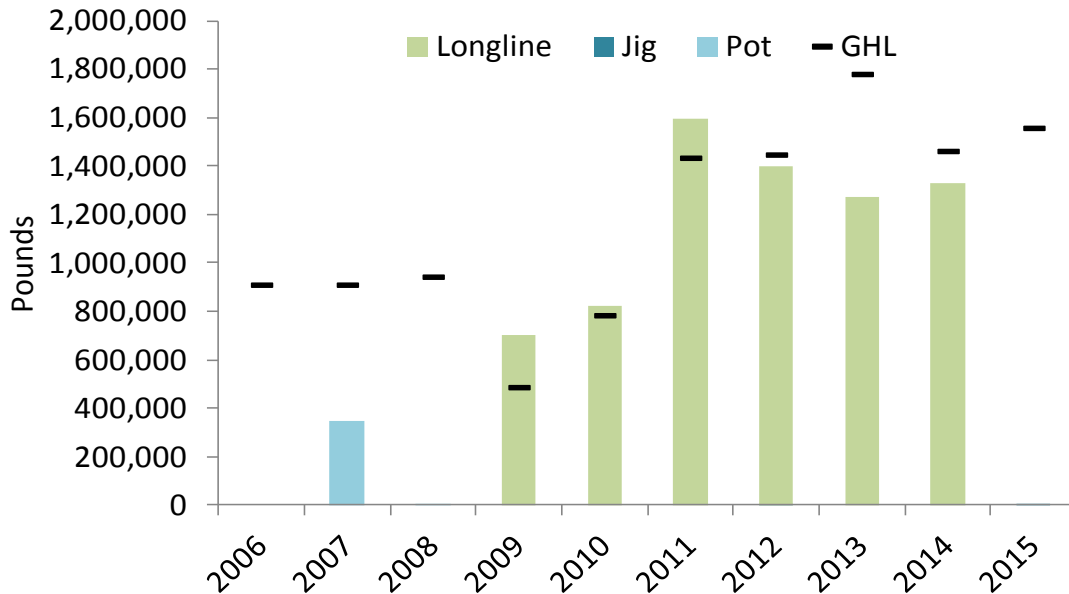


Figure 6. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

**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 allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. Pot vessels larger than 58 feet are limited to 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1 and Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. The fishery opened to pot gear on February 17, 2015 and total harvest to-date by 11 pot vessels is 3.04 million pounds. The fishery opened to jig gear on March 3, 2015 and total harvest to-date by four jig vessels is 35,765 pounds.

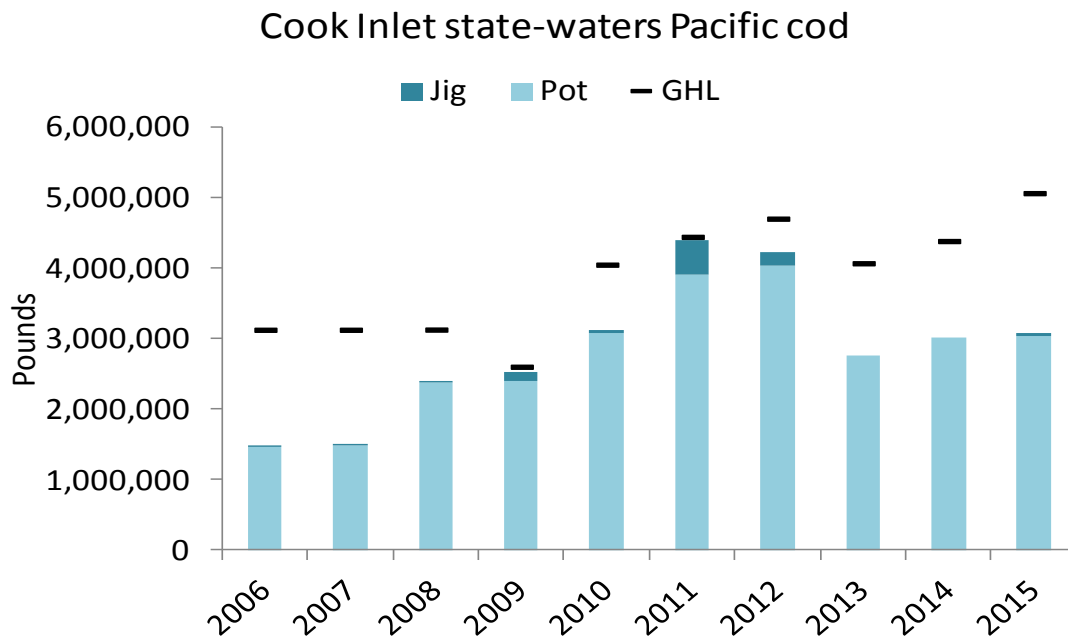


Figure 7. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

### Westward Region Pacific Cod

#### Kodiak Pacific Cod

The GHL is allocated 50 percent to jig gear and 50 percent to pot gear. The state-waters pot fishery in the Kodiak area opened on February 23 and closed on March 24, 2015 with a total harvest of 8.3 million pounds by 30 vessels. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 4, 2015 and remains open. Total jig harvest to date by 76 vessels is 1.06 million pounds.

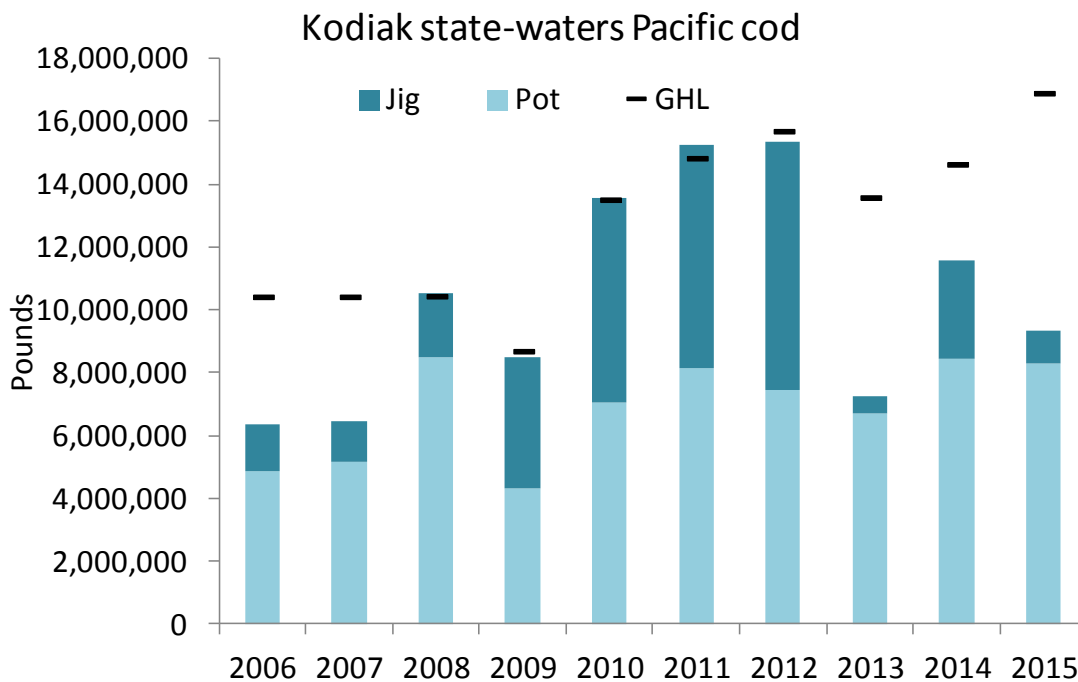


Figure 8. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

**Chignik Pacific Cod**

The GHL is allocated 90 percent to pot vessels and 10 percent to jig vessels. Registration in Chignik is superexclusive for the state-waters Pacific cod season. The state-waters jig fishery in Chignik opened on March 15 and no vessels have registered to participate. The state-waters pot season opened on March 1 and closed on March 23, 2015. Total harvest by 17 pot vessels was 10.25 million pounds.

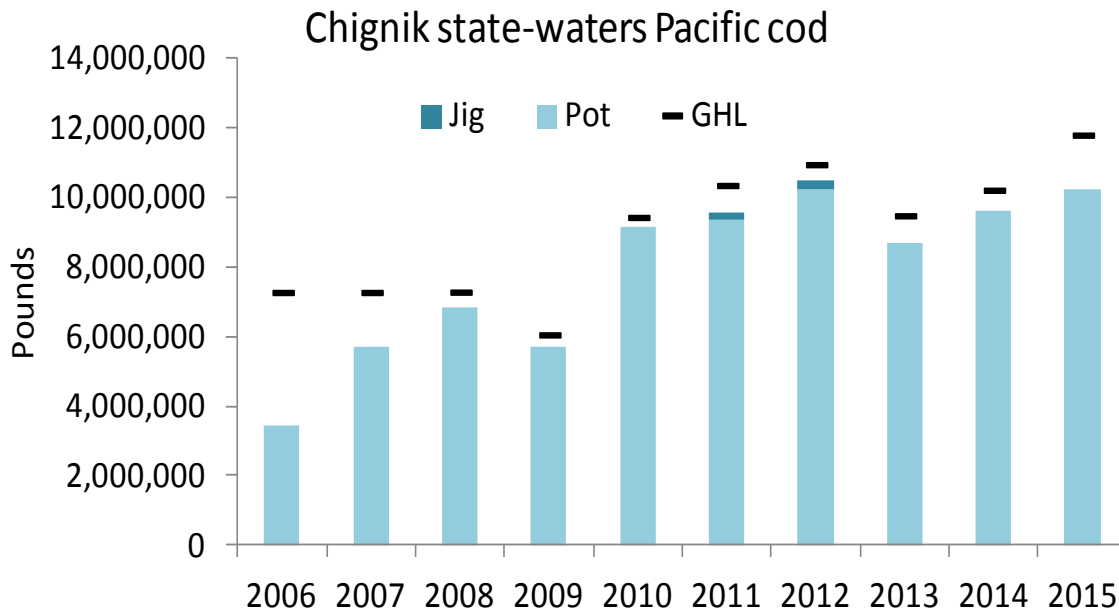


Figure 9. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

**South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod**

Eighty-five percent of the South Alaska Peninsula GHL is allocated to pot vessels. The area has a 58-foot vessel length limit and an exclusive registration designation. The state-waters pot season opened on March 7 and closed on March 31, 2015. Forty-two pot vessels harvested a total of 21.64 million pounds. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 18 and to date, 11 vessels have harvested a total of 79,000 pounds.

### South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod

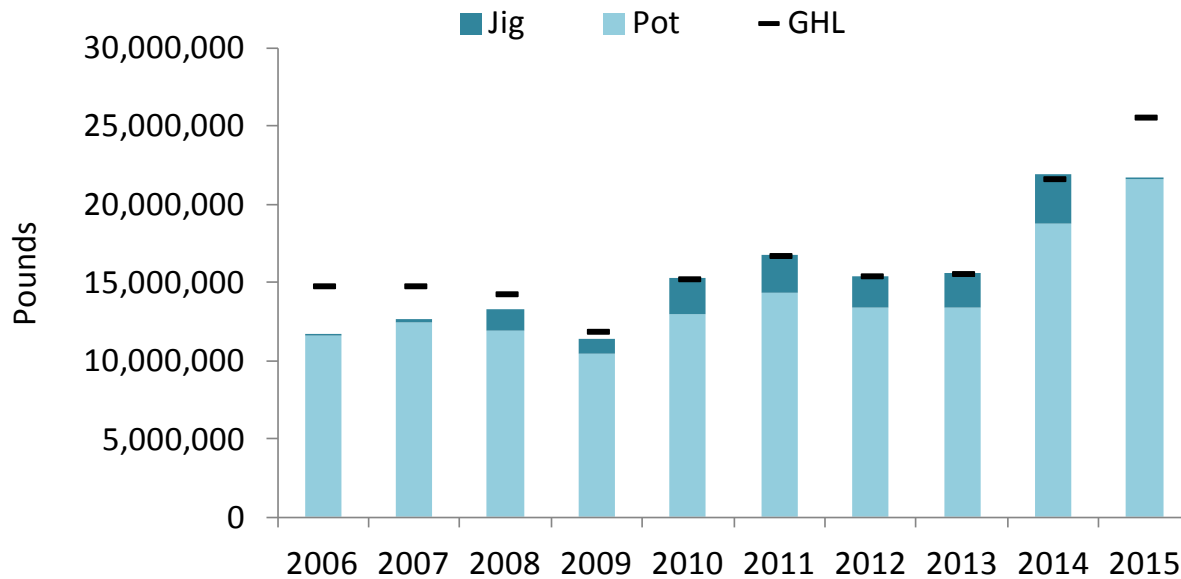


Figure 10. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest by gear, 2006- 2015.

### Dutch Harbor Pacific Cod

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) opened on February 9, 2015 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 ≤58' using pot gear (60 pot limit) and the DHS is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. The fishery closed on March 31, 2015 and total harvest by 14 vessels was 17.37 million pounds.

### Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod Harvest

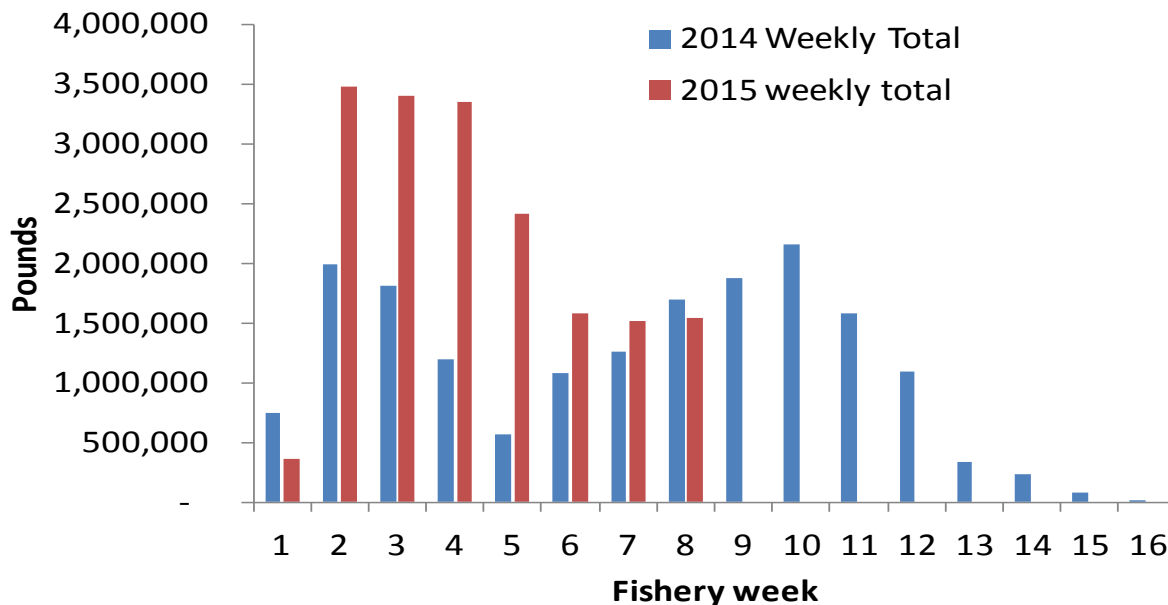


Figure 11. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod harvest by week, 2014 and 2015.



### **Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod**

The GHL is apportioned 70 percent in the A season and 30 percent for the B season. The A season opened January 1, between 175° W long. and 178° W long. to vessels 60' or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels ≤58' using longline gear. On March 3, 2015, the state-waters A season expands to include all state waters west of 170° W longitude and vessel length limits increase for pot and non-pelagic trawl vessels to 125' and 100', respectively. Three vessels have participated and total harvest remains confidential given the number of processors.

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Board met March 17 – 20, 2015 in Anchorage.

- **Proposal 268 (passed):** Reduce the size of exploitable legal male Tanner crab, from 5.5 inches to 5 inches carapace width, for purposes of calculating total allowable catch in waters east of 166° W longitude in the Bering Sea District (5 AAC 35.508 (g)(5)).
- **Proposal 269 (passed):** Develop a guideline harvest level for the Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial fishery (5 AAC 34.915. (a)(1)). *The board amended the proposal to establish a winter GHL at 8% of the total GHL.*
- **Proposal 270 (passed):** Change the duration of the Norton Sound winter through-the-ice commercial king crab fishing season to be open by emergency order on or after January 15 and close April 30, unless extended by emergency order (5 AAC 34.910(d)(2)).
- **Proposal 44 (no action):** Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas. *The board took no action based on the board's plan to accept Gulf of Alaska pollock proposals at its next Statewide Finfish meeting in March 2016.*

### **2015/2016 meeting cycle**

Proposed regulatory changes for Bristol Bay finfish, Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim finfish, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik finfish, and Statewide finfish general provisions will be considered during the 2015/16 meeting cycle. Proposals may be submitted online, email, mail or fax at:

**Online:** [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms)

**Email:** [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov) (*Adobe PDF documents only*)

**Mail:** ADF&G, Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Fax:** (907) 465-6094

**Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2015 at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt.**

With the addition of GOA pollock proposals to next year's call, and with the call fast approaching for the 2015/16 meeting cycle, the board extended the call for pollock proposals until

**September 4, 2015.**