



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1a & 1b)

The winter Chinook salmon troll fishery in Southeast Alaska is managed in accordance with the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) winter troll management plan [5 AAC 29.080] and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The winter troll Chinook salmon season opened October 11, 2009 and will remain open through April 30, 2010, or until 45,000 treaty Chinook salmon are harvested. Any Treaty Chinook salmon not harvested during the winter fishery will be available for harvest in the spring and summer fisheries. The fishery is confined to the waters east of the winter boundary line (surf line) and includes the waters of Yakutat Bay (District 183). Latest catch estimates put the harvest at approximately 18,633 fish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 2a-c)

The 2009/10 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2009. 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 of 2.835 million pounds was fully harvested by three vessels.

The CDQ fishery for golden king crab in the Eastern Aleutians was allocated 315,000 pounds, which was also fully harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Both the IFQ and Adak community allocation harvest information remain confidential since less than three vessels are participating. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2010.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (FIGURE 3a & 3b)

The 2009/10 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2009 and closed on January 15, 2010. One hundred percent of the 14.4 million pound IFQ TAC was harvested.

Eleven vessels participated in the CDQ fishery this season and the 1.6 million CDQ TAC has been fully harvested.

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (FIGURE 4)

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery re-opened on October 15, 2009 for the first time in over 10 years with an IFQ TAC of 1,050,300 pounds. Seven vessels and two processors participated in the fishery. The majority of the harvest, 409,500 pounds (39% of the TAC), was processed in St. Paul.

The CDQ fishery TAC was set at 116,700 pounds. There was no effort in the CDQ fishery and the season closed on February 1, 2010.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 5a & 5b)

The 2009/10 snow crab IFQ TAC is approximately 43.2 million pounds. The 2009/10 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2009 and will remain open through May 15, 2010 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2010 in the Western Subdistrict. A total of 41.8 million pounds or 97% of the TAC have been harvested through April 5, 2010.

The CDQ TAC is 4.8 million pounds and all of the TAC has been harvested by 11 vessels.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab (FIGURE 6a & 6b)

The season for *C. bairdi* opened on October 15, 2009 and closed on March 31, 2010. 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 is 1.215 million pounds. The Tanner crab fishery west of 166° was closed due to concerns over high bycatch of sublegal males and associated mortality in the snow crab fishery. A total of 1.19 million pounds of IFQ TAC (98%) were harvested in the Eastern District.

The CDQ fishery was allocated 135,000 pounds which was fully harvested by eight vessels.

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound

The Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened to pot, jig, and longline gear on February 7, 2010, seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is 785,000 pounds, which is 15 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC, a 5% increase from last year. The fishery closed on February 23, 2010 with an estimated harvest of 826,187 pounds. According to the state's management plan for this fishery, the 2011 GHL will increase to the maximum 25% of the Eastern GOA ABC.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 1, 2010, 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery with a GHL of 4.05 million pounds. 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 fishery closed to all pot gear on March 28, 2010. After September 1, unharvested jig allocation may be released to all legal gear types.

Westward Region Pacific Cod

Kodiak Pacific Cod

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened on February 7, 2010, seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The 2010 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 13.51 million pounds. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 6.755 million pounds each. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25% of the GHL (3.377 million pounds) before September 1. The fishery closed to pot gear on February 23, 2010.

Jig harvests have been strong, but weather has slowed total harvest. Current harvest is approximately 800,000 pounds.

Chignik Pacific Cod

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opened by regulation on March 1. The GHL is 9.46 million pounds, with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount (8.51 million pounds). The fishery closed to pot gear on April 6, 2010. To date there has been no jig effort.

The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan allows Pacific cod remaining on the 2010 jig-gear guideline harvest level (GHL) to be taken on or after August 15 by either pot or jig gear.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod

The Pacific cod fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula was scheduled to open on February 7, 2010, seven days after the close of the federal fishery. Due to weather delays the fishery did not open until February 26, 2010. The GHL is 15.25 million pounds, with 85 percent targeted by pot gear (12.2 million pounds). The fishery closed to pot gear on March 23, 2010.

The jig sector has harvested an estimated 200,000 pounds.

Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Adak opened on March 16, 2010, four days after the close of the parallel catcher vessel trawl fishery in the BSAI. The GHL is calculated as 3% of the BSAI ABC and was set at 11.5 million pounds for the 2010 season. The state-waters fishery is managed so that no more than 70% of the GHL (8,055,608 pounds) is available for harvest prior to June 10. The remaining 30% of the GHL (3,452,404 pounds) plus any unharvested rollover from the A season is available beginning June 10. Total harvest estimate through April 5, 2010 is 5.5 million pounds. Currently no trawl vessels and two pot vessels are participating.

Southeast Groundfish

Demersal Shelf Rockfish

The directed DSR fishery opened in the Northern and Southern southeast inside waters (NSEI and SSEI) on Jan 5, 2010. Both areas remained open until closed by regulation on March 5, 2010 which is the day prior to the start of the halibut season. The harvest objective for each area was 17 mt. In SSEI the total harvest objective was obtained. Only one vessel fished in NSEI and harvest is confidential.

The directed DSR fishery opened in the Southern southeast outside waters (SSEO) on Feb 3. The 30 mt objective was fully harvested and the fishery was closed on Feb 9.

Sablefish

2010 harvest objectives have not been released. The SSEI sablefish fishery opens on June 1 and the NSEI fishery opens Aug 15.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Anchorage March 16-20, 2010. The following actions may impact federal FMP fisheries or species:

- C/A 173 Amend management plan for parallel groundfish fisheries (*Amended to provide specific regulatory language.*)
- F 174 Amend lawful gear for groundfish.
- F 175 Establish statewide bag limit for sablefish.
- C/A 176 Increase bag limit for spiny dogfish. (*Amended to specify a bag and possession limit of five fish, with no annual limit.*)
- F 177 Establish statewide bag limit for thornyhead rockfish.
- C 196 Adjust the total allowable catch for the Bering Sea *C. opilio* Tanner crab commercial fishery.
- T 197 Reduce the minimum size limit for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea commercial fishery. (*Tabled to March 2011 meeting.*)
- C 198 Remove the minimum total allowable catch in the Saint Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.

The board approved a draft letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council addressing annual catch limits, rebuilding plans, and bycatch considerations.

The board scheduled a regulatory meeting for October 2011 to address Pacific cod fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area (Area E), Cook Inlet Area (Area H), Kodiak Area (Area K), Chignik Area (Area L), and South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) to consider changes to state regulations in light of federal GOA sector splits including jig management options. Dates for the meeting will be set during the October 2010 work session. The board approved a draft call for proposals for its 2010/2011 meeting cycle.

2010 Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Fishery Update						
Data for March 21-27 (week 13)-Revised						
Catch through Week 13	Permits	Fished	Landings	Number of Kings	Catch/ Landing	Average
						Weight (lbs.)
5-Apr						
18,047	135	135	217	3,690	17.0	\$7.93
9,147	53	53	64	333	5.2	\$7.76
20,252	149	149	231	2,812	10.3	\$6.91

Note: Districts listed have highest catch since 1/1/10, confidential data omitted						
2010	Cumulative Catch and Effort by District and Percentage of Regional Catch					
	District	Permits	Landings	Kings	Permit	Landing % Region
	113	129	588	6,716	52.1	11.4
	183	36	298	1,050	29.2	3.5
	105	22	76	764	34.7	10.1
	109	12	23	294	24.5	12.8
	110	18	42	260	14.4	6.2
	101	12	21	179	14.9	8.5
	103	18	33	169	9.4	5.1
	106	19	75	143	7.5	1.9
Regional Totals:		263	1,214	9,918	37.7	8.2

Figure 1a.

Figure 1b.

Historical Oct-Apr Winter Troll Chinook Harvest

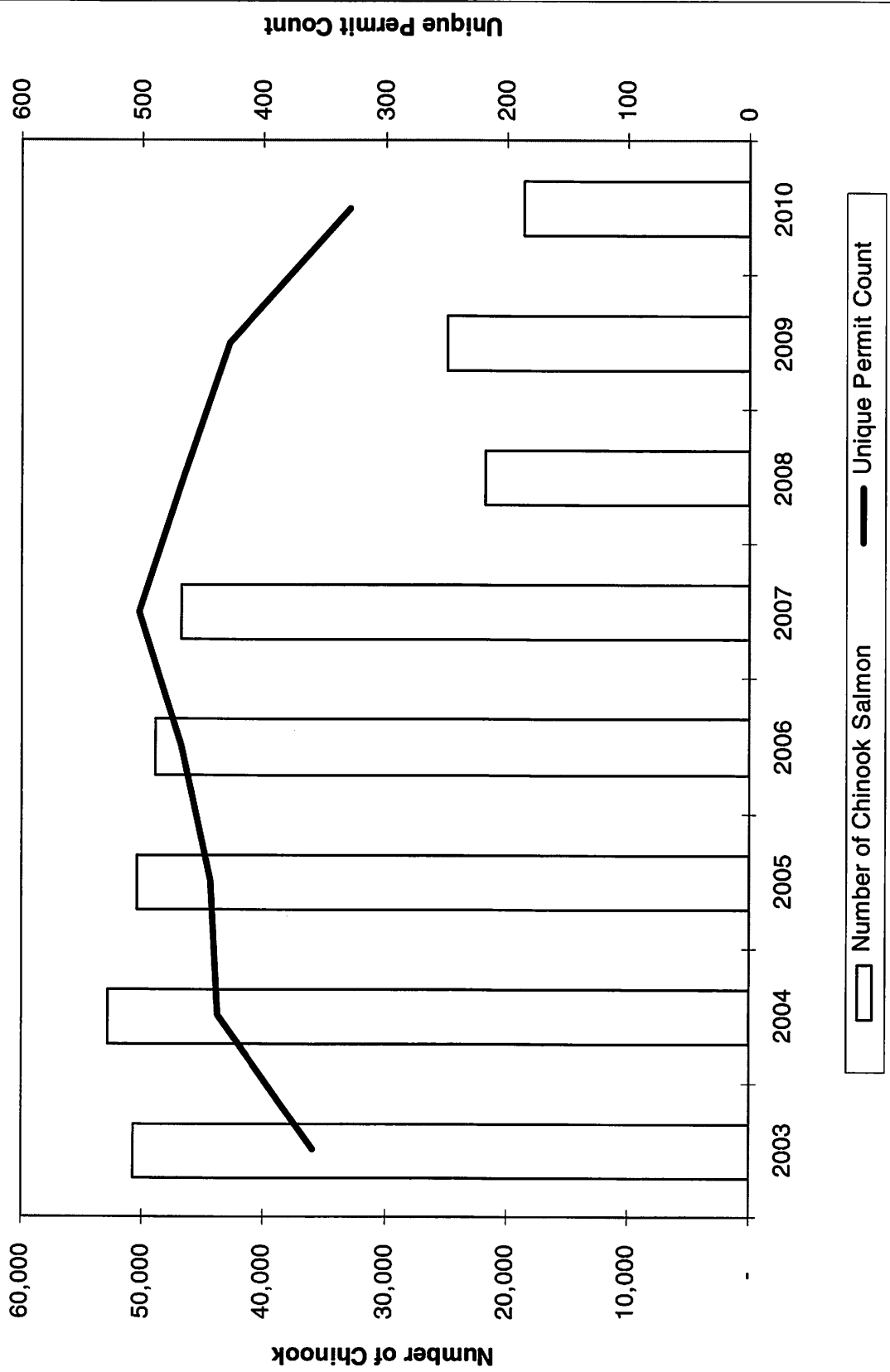


Figure 2a.

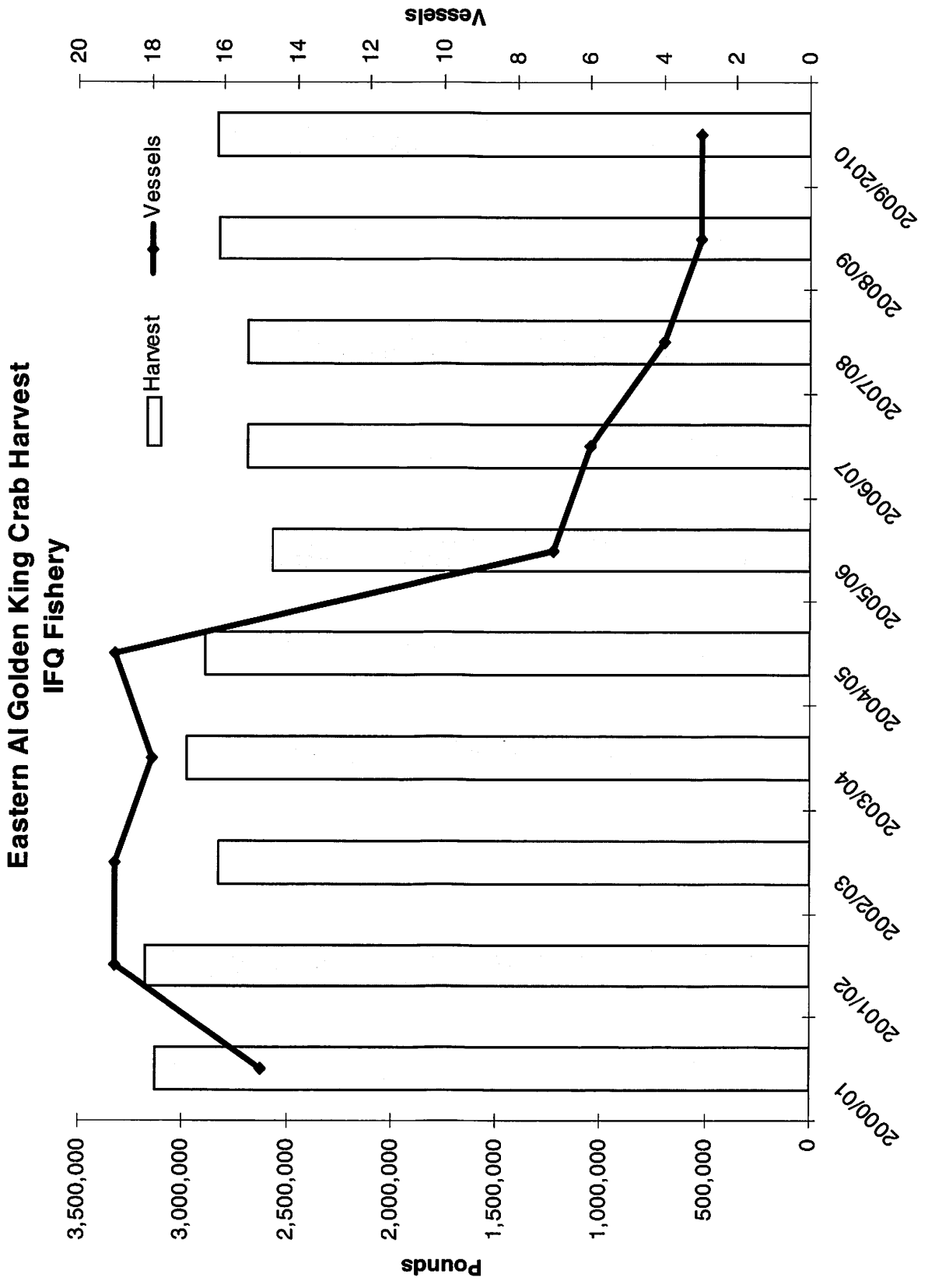


Figure 2b.

Eastern AI Golden King Crab Harvest CDQ Fishery

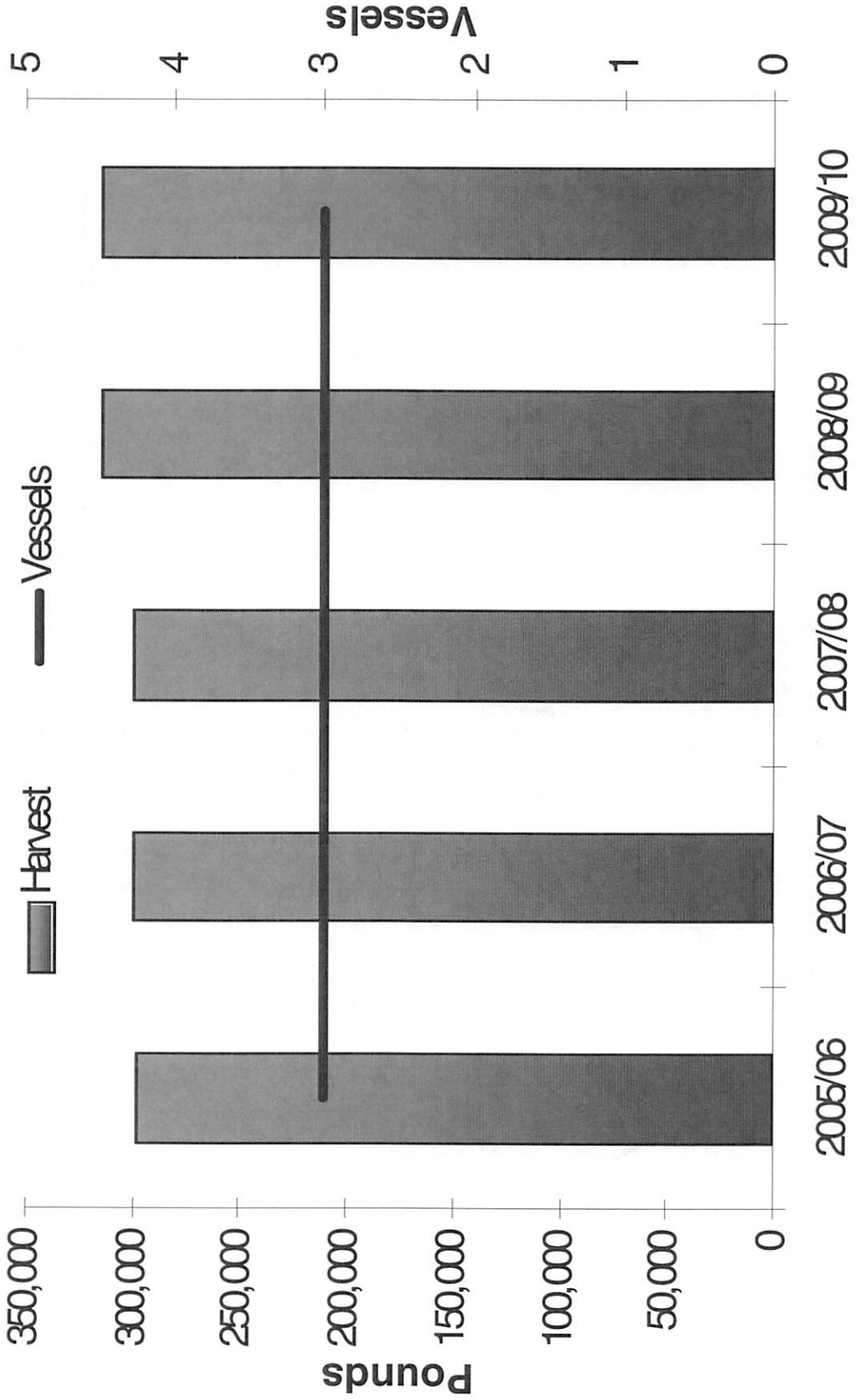


Figure 2c.

Western AI Golden King Crab Harvest IFQ Fishery

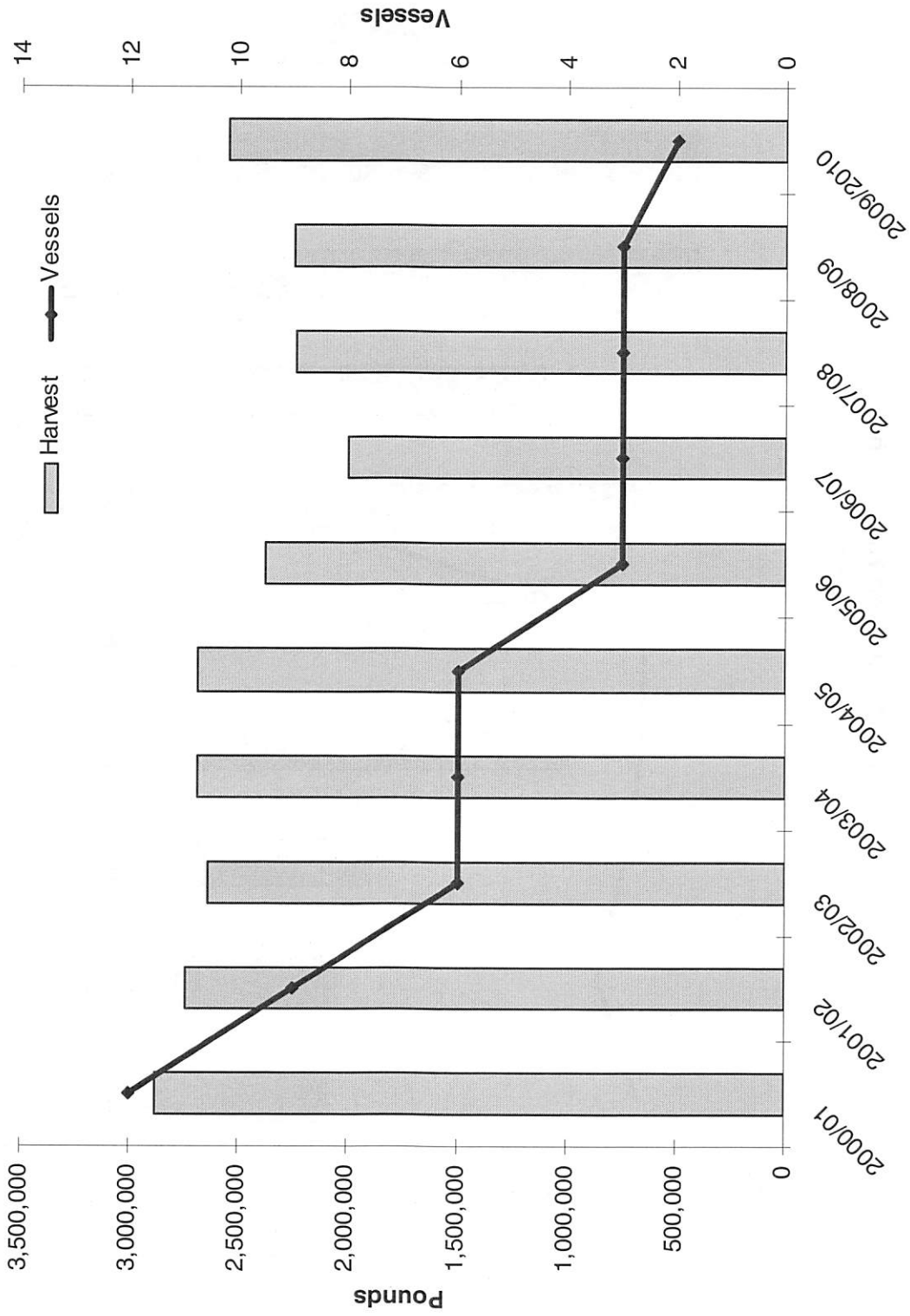


Figure 3a

Bristol Bay Red King Crab IFQ Fishery

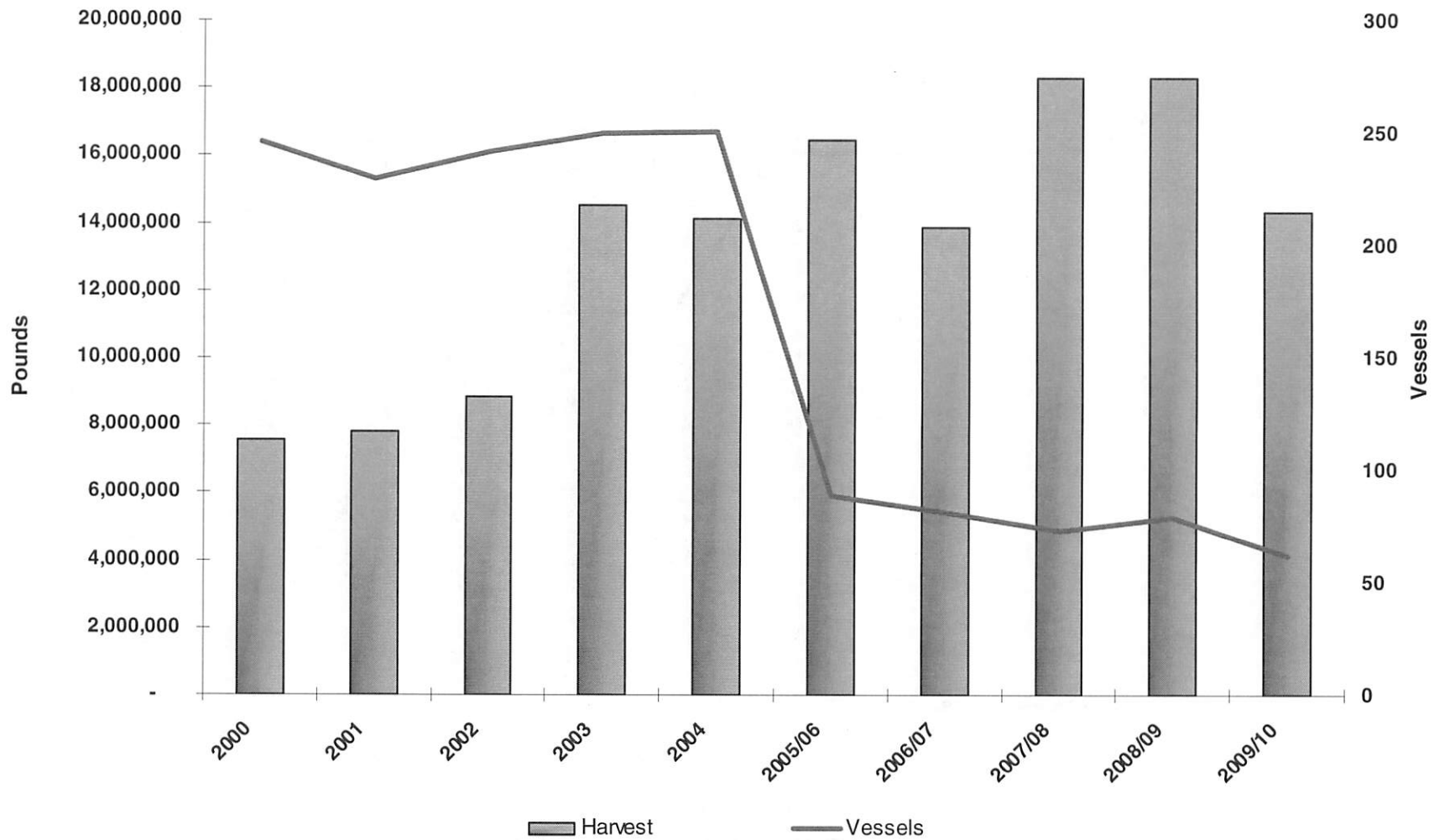


Figure 3b

Bristol Bay Red King Crab CDQ Fishery

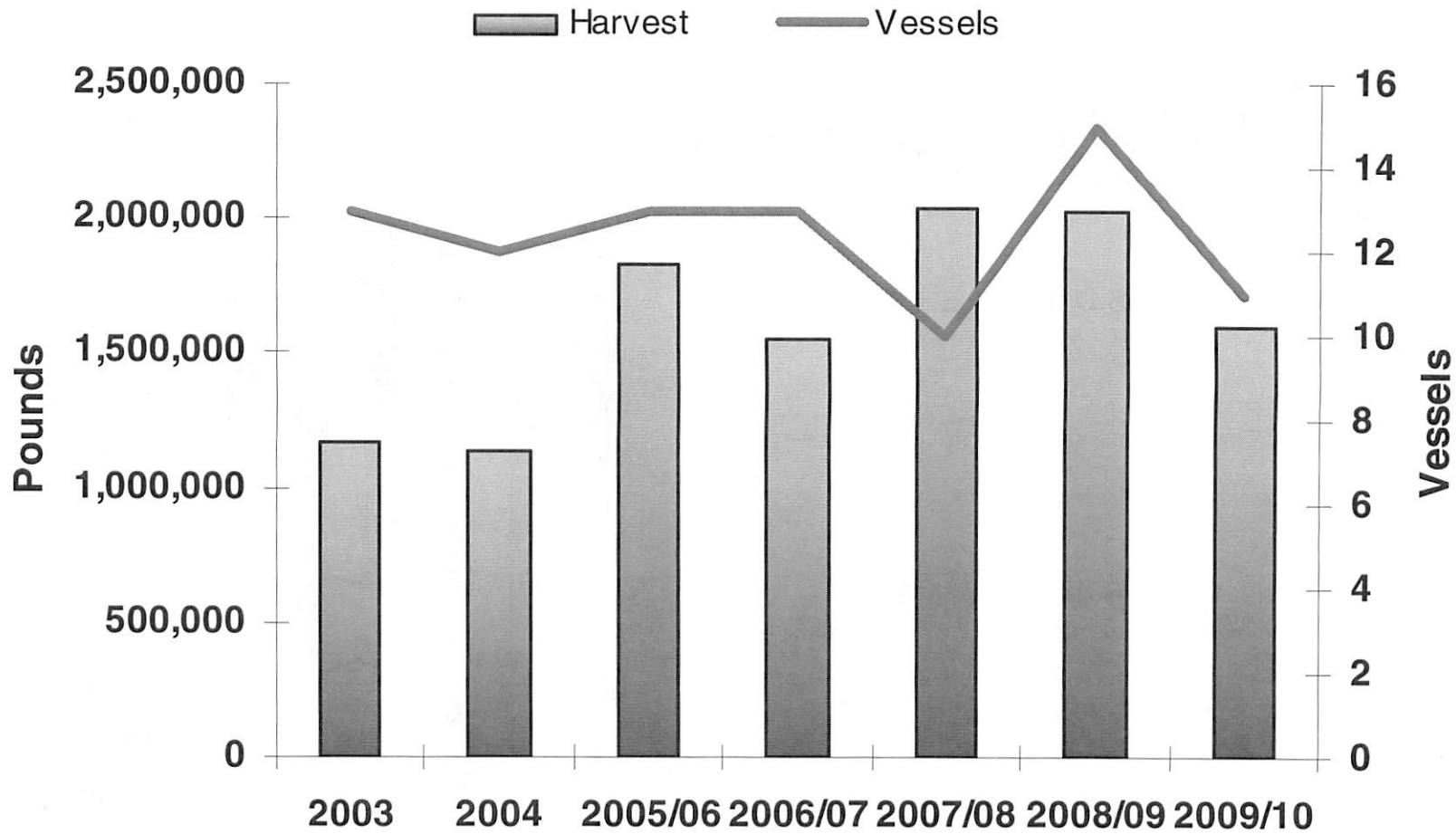


Figure 4.

St. Matthew Blue King Crab

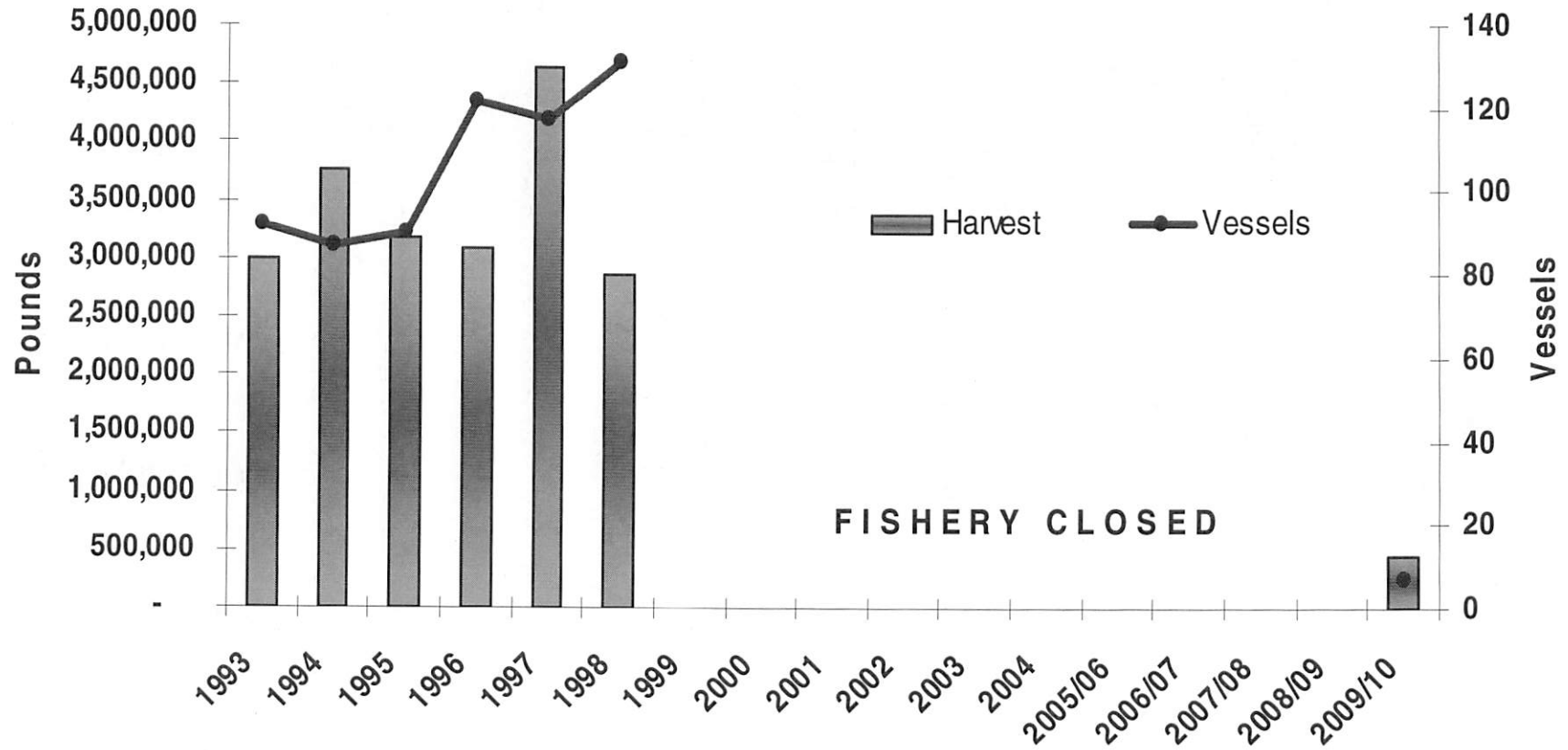


Figure 5a.

Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvest IFQ Fishery

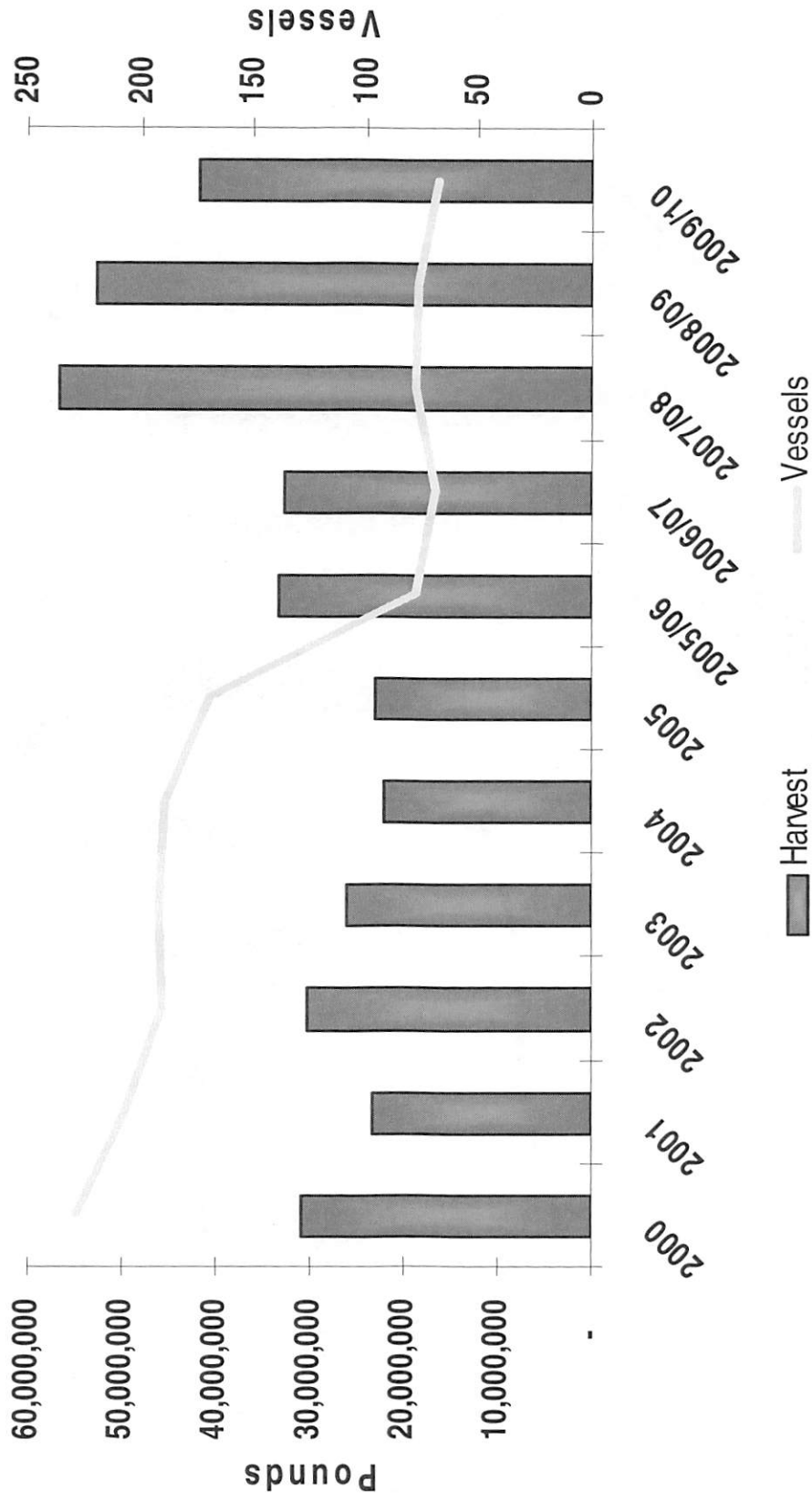


Figure 5b.

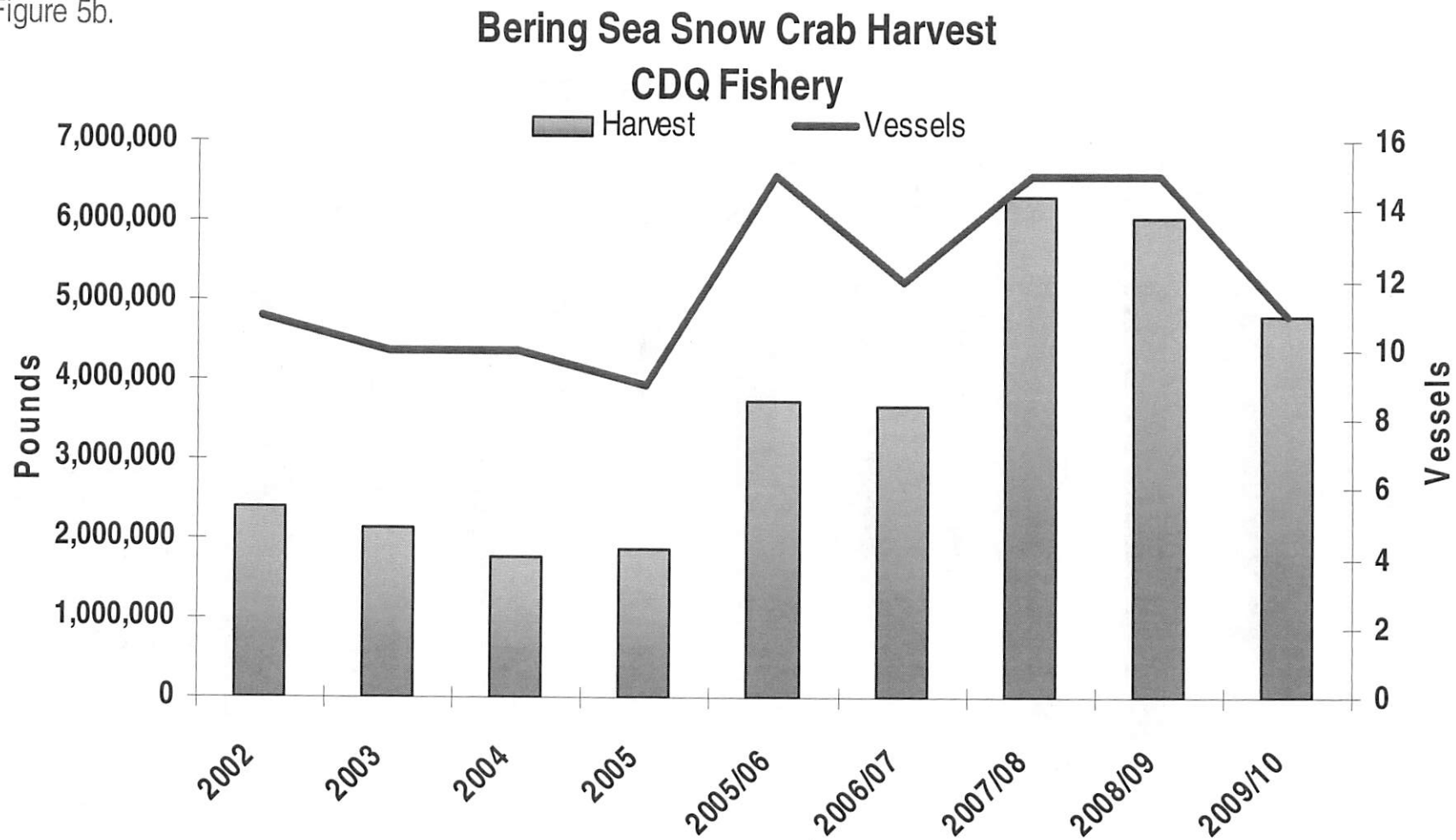


Figure 6a.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab Harvest IFQ Fishery

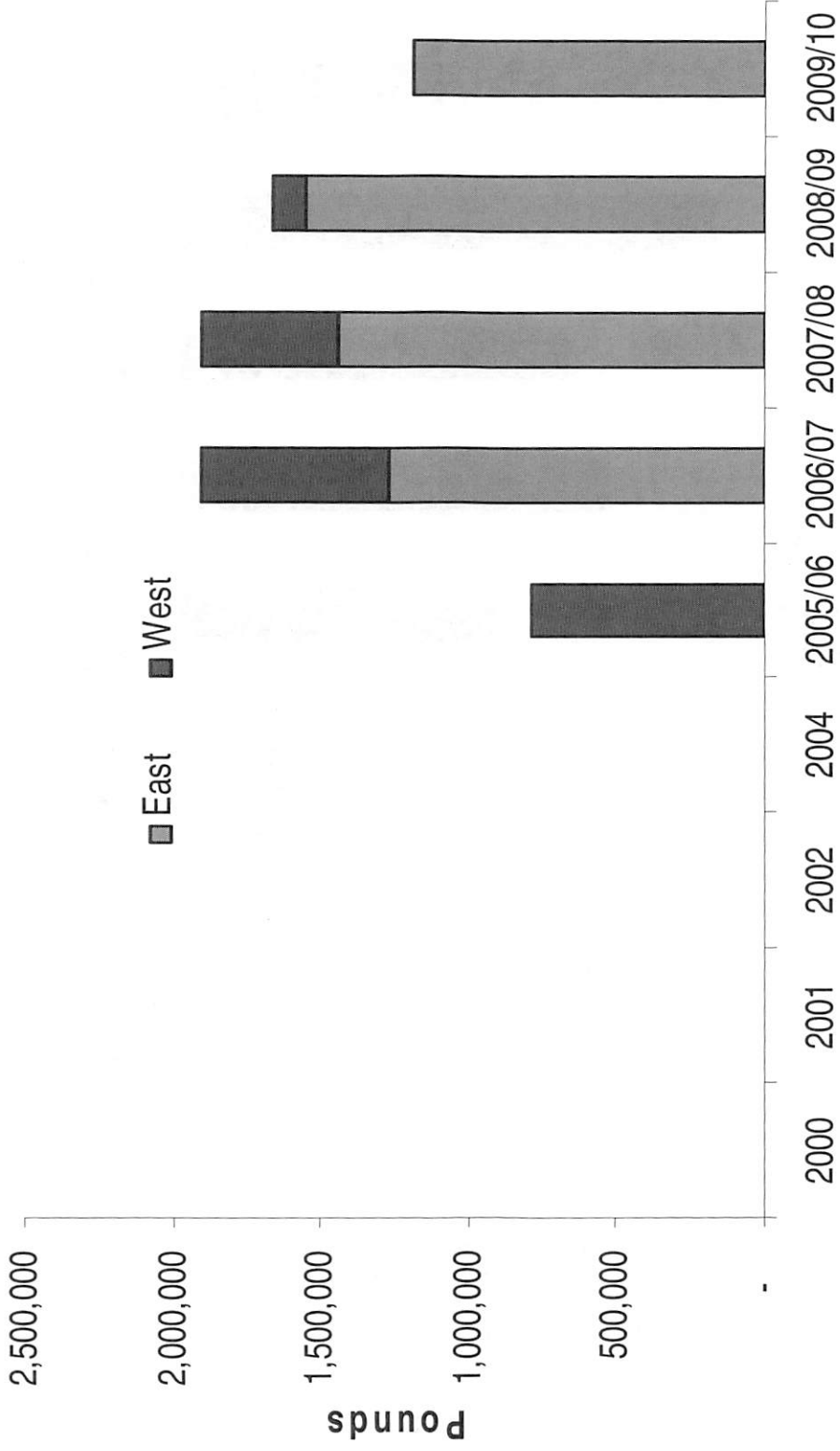
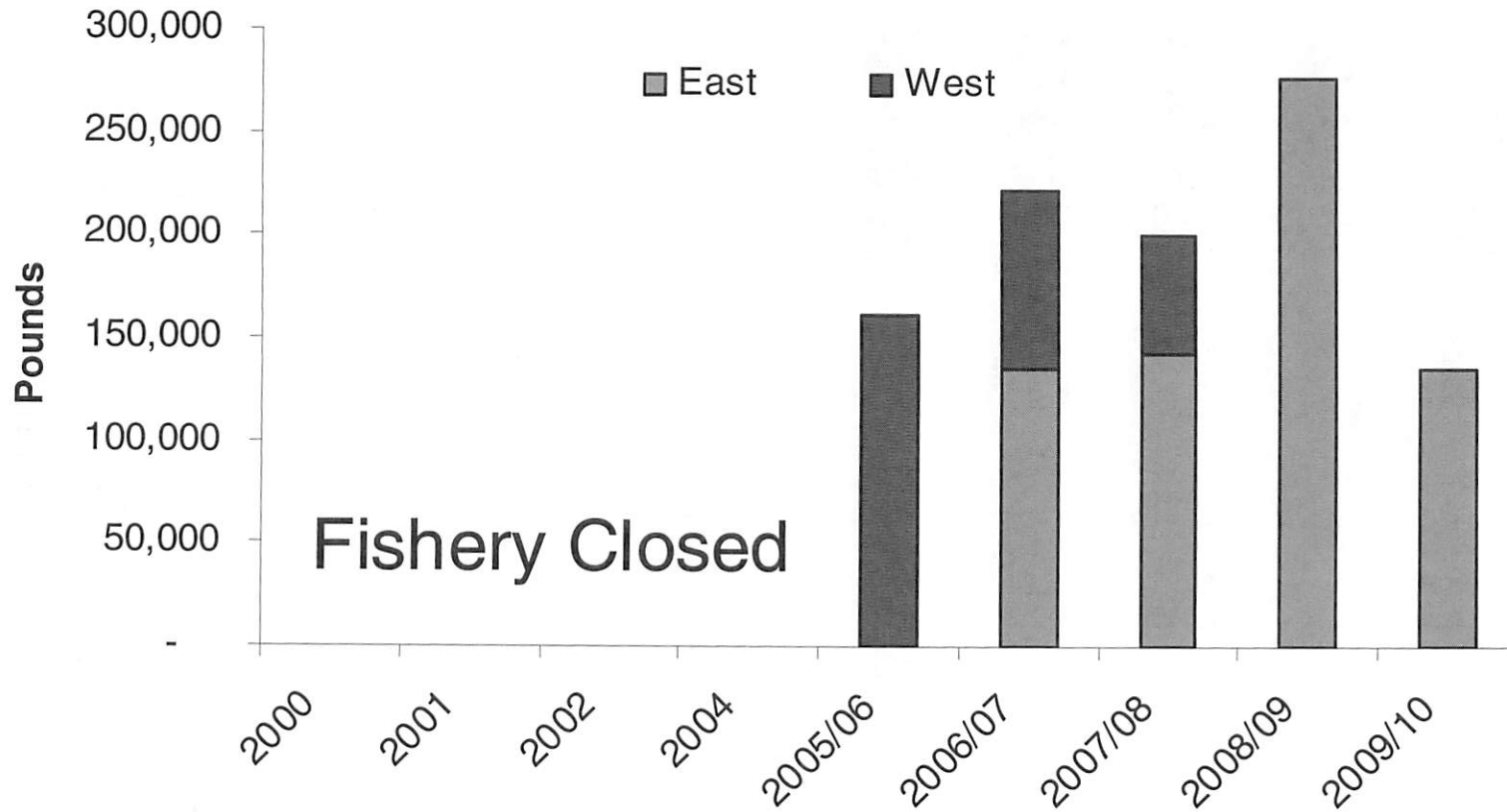


Figure 6b.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab Harvest CDQ Fishery



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Statewide Finfish, Supplemental Issues,
Subsistence Finding Standards, and Chitina Dipnet Fishery
March 16 - 21, 2010
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

Preliminary Summary

- NA 164 Revise unlawful possession of subsistence finfish regulations.
- NA 165 Delay opening personal use fishery until escapement goal is met.
- F 166 Eliminate requirement of having a sport fishing license to fish in personal use fisheries.
- C/A 167 Modify definition of mechanical jigging machine. (*Amended to clarify lures or baited hooks could be used and that mechanical jigging machines may not be fished unattached to the vessel.*)
- F 168 Repeal the 58-foot length limit on salmon seine vessels in Alaska.
- F 169 Amend criteria for the allocation of fishery resources.
- NA 170 Clarify regulations establishing escapement goals.
- NA 171 Clarify escapement goals and establish ranges.
- C/A 172 Provide definition for escapement goal threshold. (*Amended to provide specific regulatory language.*)
- C/A 173 Amend management plan for parallel groundfish fisheries. (*Amended to provide specific regulatory language.*)
- F 174 Amend lawful gear for groundfish.
- F 175 Establish statewide bag limit for sablefish.
- C/A 176 Increase bag limit for spiny dogfish. (*Amended to specify a bag and possession limit of five fish, with no annual limit.*)
- F 177 Establish statewide bag limit for thornyhead rockfish.
- C 178 Clarify emergency order authority.
- F 179 Clarify emergency order authority.
- C/A 180 Define electric fishing reels. (*Substitute language amended back to original language, it maximum of 15 pounds, not including attached power cord.*)
- NA 181 Clarify definition of fishing rod and electric reel.
- F 182 Prohibit use of electric reels.
- NA 183 Prohibit use of electric reels.
- C/A 184 Prohibit use of felt sole wading boots. (*Adopted with a statewide effective date of January 1, 2012*)
- C 185 Clarify definition of underwater spear.
- NA 186 Allow the use of underwater spear.

- F 187 Allow the use of bait by disabled anglers.
- C 188 Modify sport fishing regulations for halibut.
- NA 189 Require a client-guide agreement for each client on a sport fishing charter trip.
- F 190 Allow crew members to retain fish when clients are onboard.
- F 191 Define official time for sport fisheries.
- F 192 Establish a definition of artificial fly.
- C/A 195 Close summer commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Southeast Alaska District 2. (*Set a season date from 12:00 noon October 1 through 11:59 p.m. February 28 for District 2.*)
- C 196 Adjust the total allowable catch for the Bering Sea *C. opilio* Tanner crab commercial fishery.
- T 197 Reduce the minimum size limit for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea commercial fishery. (*Tabled to March 2011 meeting.*)
- C 198 Remove the minimum total allowable catch in the Saint Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.
- C 200 Adopt subsistence finding standards.
- F 201 Find a customary and traditional use of salmon stocks in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River and establish amounts necessary for subsistence.

Other actions

The board denied a petition for emergency action on Slikok Creek Chinook salmon submitted by the Kenai Area Fisherman's Association.

The board denied a request to hold a public hearing on Upper Cook Inlet Finfish proposals in October 2010 four months prior to the scheduled regulatory meeting.

The board approved a delegation of authority for regulation amendments to coordinate with federal fishery regulations and to correct an error in regulations that occurred after the 2005 King and Tanner crab meeting.

The board approved a draft letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (council) on pending actions related to Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab. The letter specifically addresses annual catch limits, rebuilding plans, and bycatch considerations.

The board scheduled a regulatory meeting for October 2011 to address Pacific cod fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area (Registration Area E), Cook Inlet Area (Registration Area H), Kodiak Area (Registration Area K), Chignik Area (Registration Area L), and South Alaska Peninsula Area (Registration Area M) in order to consider changes in state regulations in light of federal Gulf of Alaska sector splits. Specific dates for the meeting are to be set during the October 2010 worksession. The board approved a draft call for proposals for its 2010/2011 meeting cycle.

The board also decided to send a letter to the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association asking for an update on its cost recovery fishery.