

Agenda Item: "B-3"



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
June 2008**

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 winter fishery closed on April 30, 2008. The final harvest was only about 21,000 chinook salmon, well below the 45,000 ceiling established for this fishery. The winter catch included an estimated 13 percent Alaskan hatchery produced chinook salmon, which is the highest seen in the fishery since 1996. Prices, and therefore effort, remained high. As the season wrapped up, the number of chinook salmon per landing fell to less than one-half to one-third the recent 5-year average.

The spring fishery is being prosecuted at this time. This fishery has no overall Treaty cap (only on the individual spring areas based on AK hatchery composition). Given the unused balance of chinook salmon from the lower winter season catch, this leaves approximately 107,000 fish that are now available for the summer

fishery. The department has also announced that the pre-season all-gear quota for Southeast Alaska chinook salmon is 170,000 with allocations as follows:

Troll:	125,400
Sport:	31,350
Purse seine:	7,310
Drift gillnet:	4,930
Set net:	1,000

This represents a 48 percent reduction from the 2007 preseason all-gear quota of 329,400. The reduction is due to lower forecasts for several major "driver" stocks taken in Southeast (North Oregon Coastals and West Coast Vancouver Island). These lowered forecasts may be the result of several factors, primarily poor ocean conditions during outmigration in 2004-2006.

Finally, a tentative agreement has been reached for a 10-year agreement (2009-2018) under the revised Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement. Catch ceilings for chinook salmon in the west coast Vancouver Island fishery in British Columbia, Canada will be reduced by 30 percent and in Southeast Alaska by 15 percent in order to address conservation concerns, as well as to address harvest-sharing issues. It is recognized in the revised treaty that the continuing depressed status of a number of stocks in lower B.C. and the U.S. Pacific Northwest is generally a reflection of the long-term cumulative effects of non-fishing factors, especially chronic habitat degradation. It is anticipated that the Pacific Salmon Commission will expand efforts in analyzing these effects and coordinating with relevant management entities on how they are being addressed.

Norton Sound Red King Crab (FIGURE 2)

The department estimates a legal male red king crab biomass of 4.12 million pounds in Norton Sound. By Alaska Board of Fisheries regulation, an exploitation rate of up to 10% is allowed when the legal male biomass exceeds 2.5 million pounds. The summer commercial fishery red king crab quota will be 412,000 pounds. Of this amount, 7.5% (30,900 pounds), is allocated for the CDQ fishery.

New regulations this year have changed the starting dates of both the CDQ and open access fisheries and each will now open by emergency order at the department's discretion. The open access fishery will likely open in mid to late June, but no earlier than June 15. The CDQ fishery will likely open at a later date.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 3)

The 2006/07 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened Tuesday, August 15, 2007. The total allowable catch (TAC) was 5.7 million pounds. The TAC was apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The fishery closed on May 15, 2008. There were 68 landings in this fishery, and the eastern Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) TAC of 2.7 million pounds was harvested. The western IFQ TAC was 2.43 million pounds, and about 93 percent of the IFQ TAC was taken.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 4)

The 2007/08 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2007 and closed on May 15, 2008 in the Eastern Subdistrict and on May 31, 2008 in the Western Subdistrict. The TAC for the IFQ fleet was 56.7 million pounds, with a final harvest nearing 56.5 million pounds for the season.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Prince William Sound

The Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 21, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is 944,460 pounds, which was calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. Only one vessel is currently fishing in the area; the catch remains confidential.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 21, 2008, which was 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is 3,246,582 pounds. That GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. There are 11 pot vessels, and two

jig boats registered to participate in the fishery at this time. The harvest to date is approximately 2 million pounds.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The 2008 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 10.44 million pounds. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 5.22 million pounds each. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels that are longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25 percent of the GHL (2.61 million pounds) before September 1.

Effort in this fishery was up slightly this season given high prices, and catches were good. The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery closed for all vessels using pot gear on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 when that sector reached a catch of 5.4 million pounds. Jiggers have made 404 landings, producing a catch of about 1.16 million pounds to date.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opened by regulation on March 1. The GHL is 7.31 million pounds, with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount. Pot cod fishermen harvested approximately 6.7 million pounds, and their season closed on April 17, 2008. Although three jig vessels have registered for the fishery, no landings have occurred at this time.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)

South Alaska opened March 7, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is approximately 14.29 million pounds, with 85 percent targeted by pot gear. Pot catches were good throughout the season, which closed on April 1, 2008 with a harvest of about 11.9 million pounds. There have been 52 landings by jig gear this season. That catch is about 203,000 pounds.

Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (FIGURE 10)

The state-waters B season Pacific cod fishery in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W longitude will open at 12:00 p.m. (noon) June 10, 2008. The remaining portion of the 2008 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 4,161,374 pounds. During the 2008, A-season state-waters Pacific cod season 7,478,914 pounds or 64.3% of the GHL was harvested. The GHL for the A season was not achieved. As a result, 669,288 pounds have been rolled over into the B season.

The state-waters fishery is open to jig and longline vessels 58 feet or less in overall length (OAL) and pot vessels not greater than 125 feet OAL. Vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear may not exceed 100 feet OAL.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 11)

The directed fishery for lingcod opened May 16, 2008 in the Southeast Outside district. Troll bycatch of lingcod also opened in some areas on May 16, 2008.

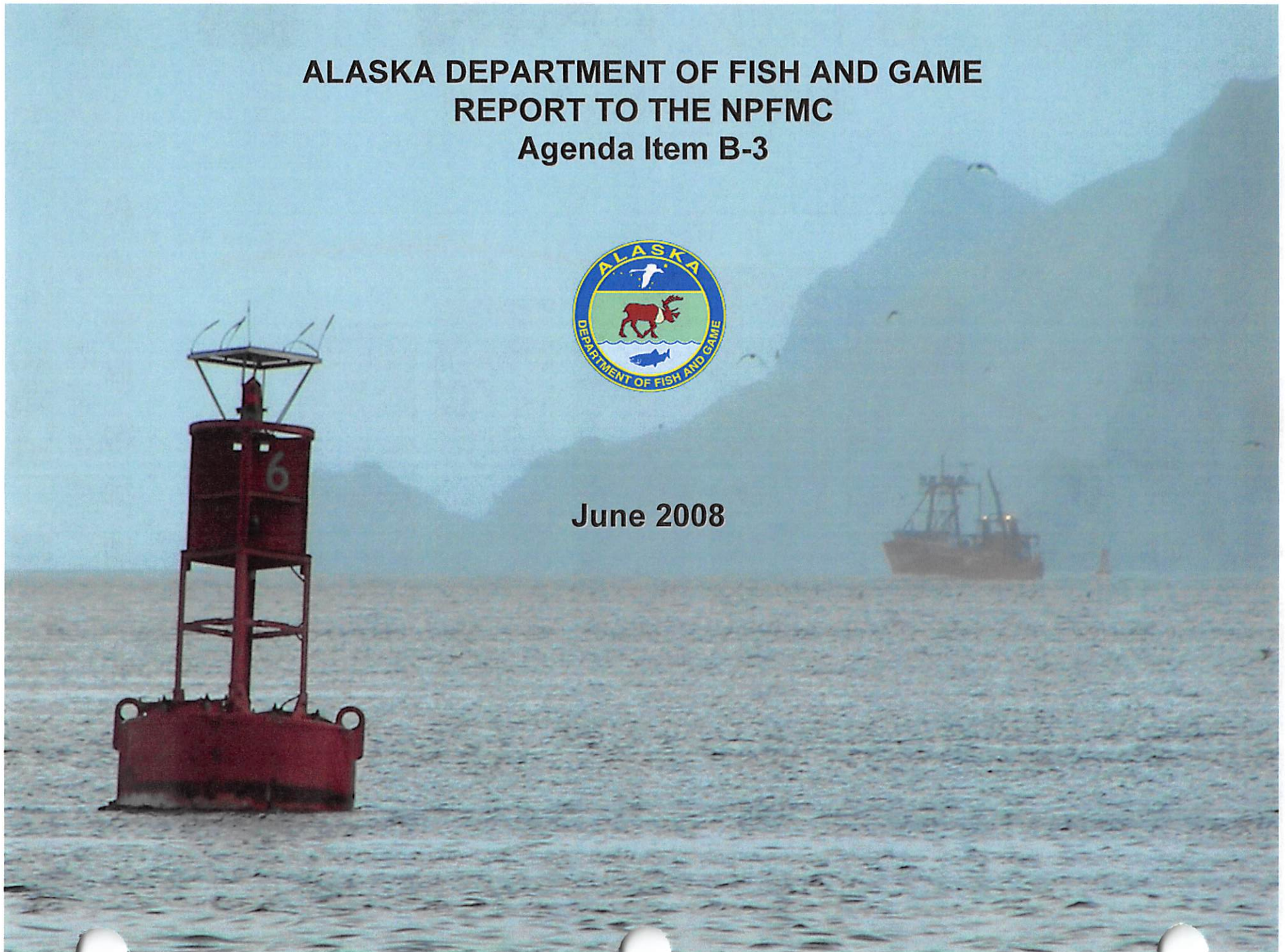
The department closed the Frederick Sound area in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) to directed Pacific cod fishing on April 5, 2008 due to a large percentage of overall catch coming from this area. Effort in this fishery has dropped considerably as it typically does following the end of the spawning period.

The department had been delayed in completing the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI, or Clarence Strait) sablefish survey due to weather. With that now completed, the SSEI longline fishery opened June 1, 2008. The 2008 Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI, or Chatham Strait) sablefish quota will be announced sometime this month.

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June 2008



SE AK Chinook Salmon - Winter Troll

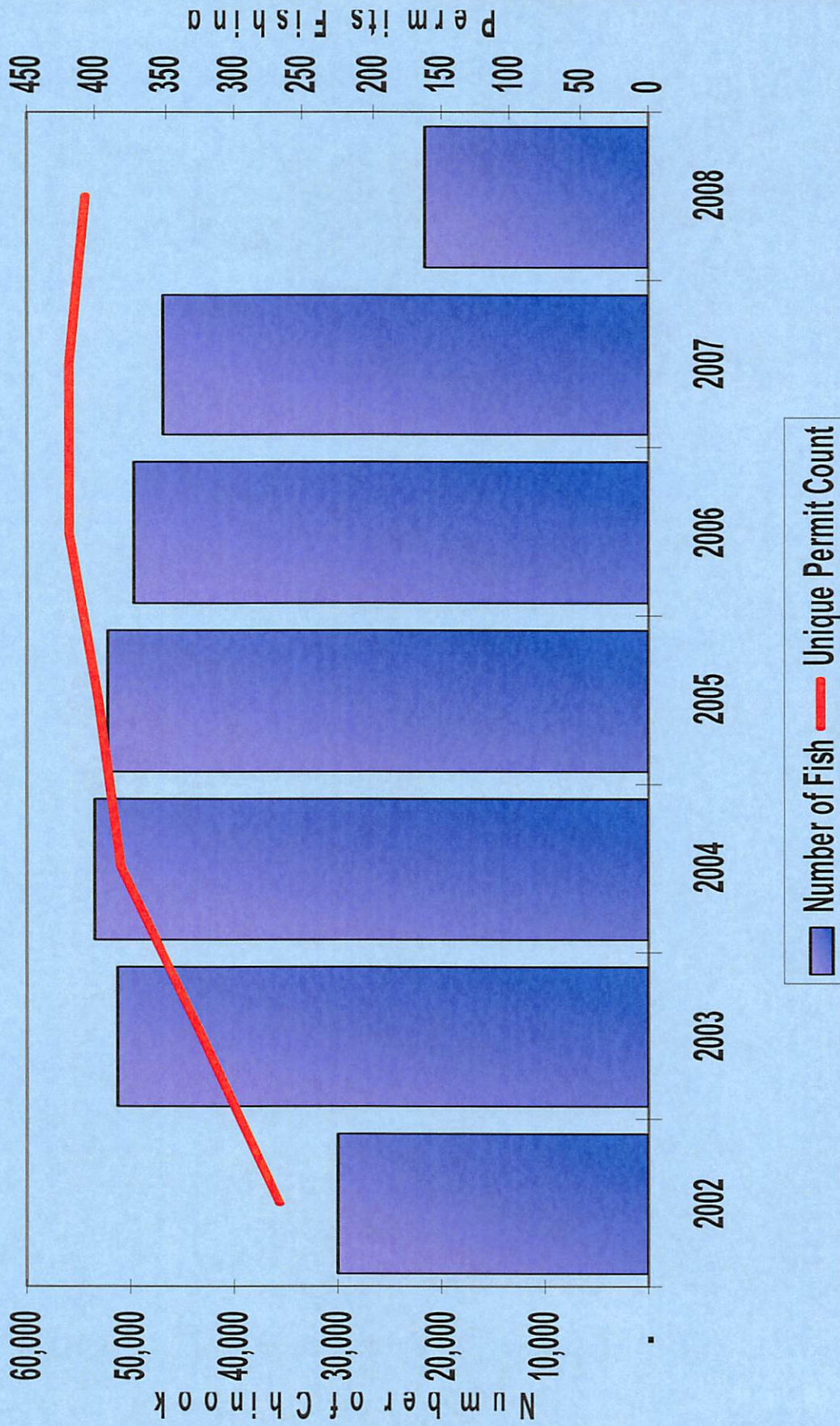
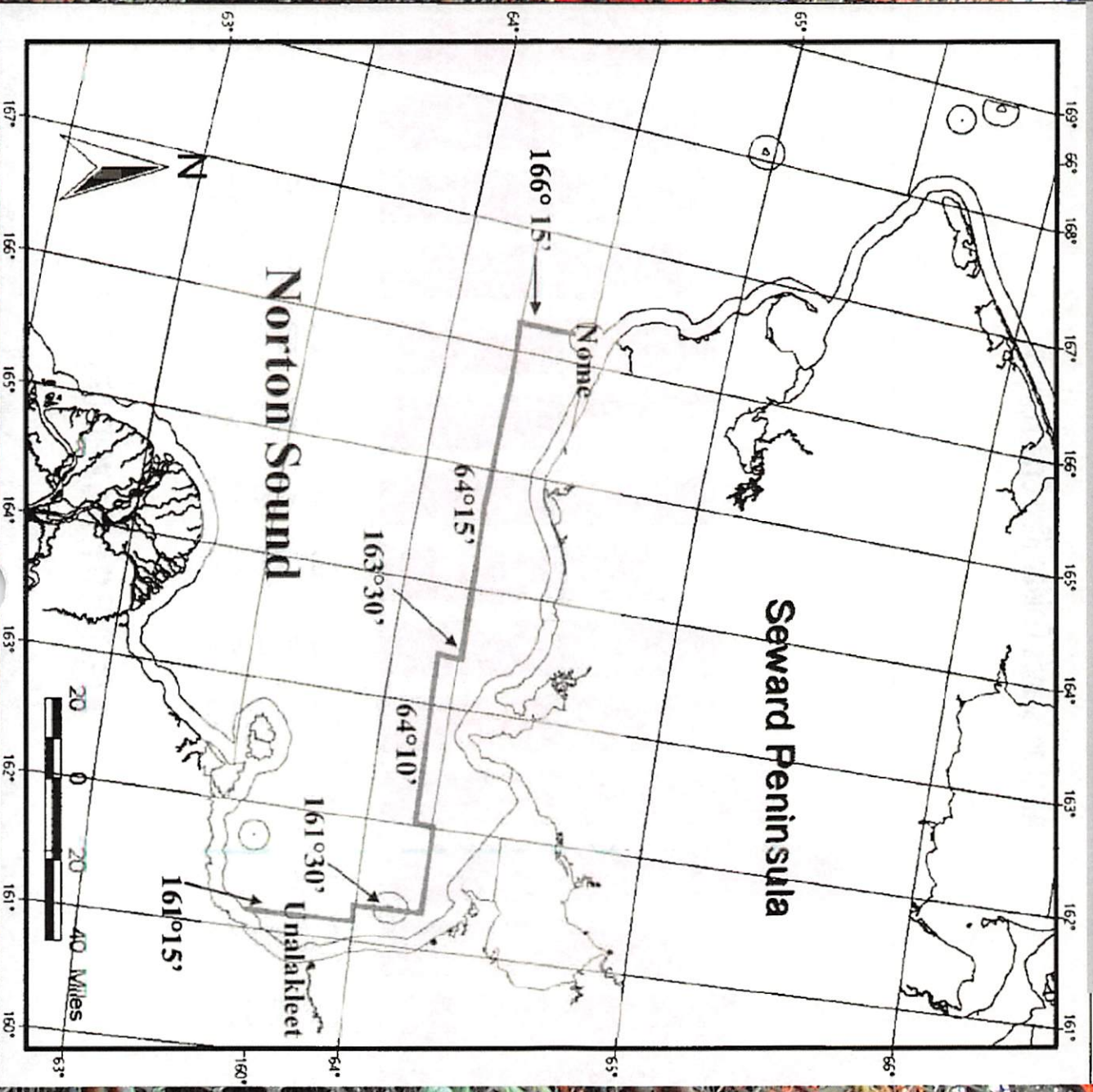


Figure 1.

Norton Sound Red King Crab Statistical Areas (Figure 2):



Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Fishery

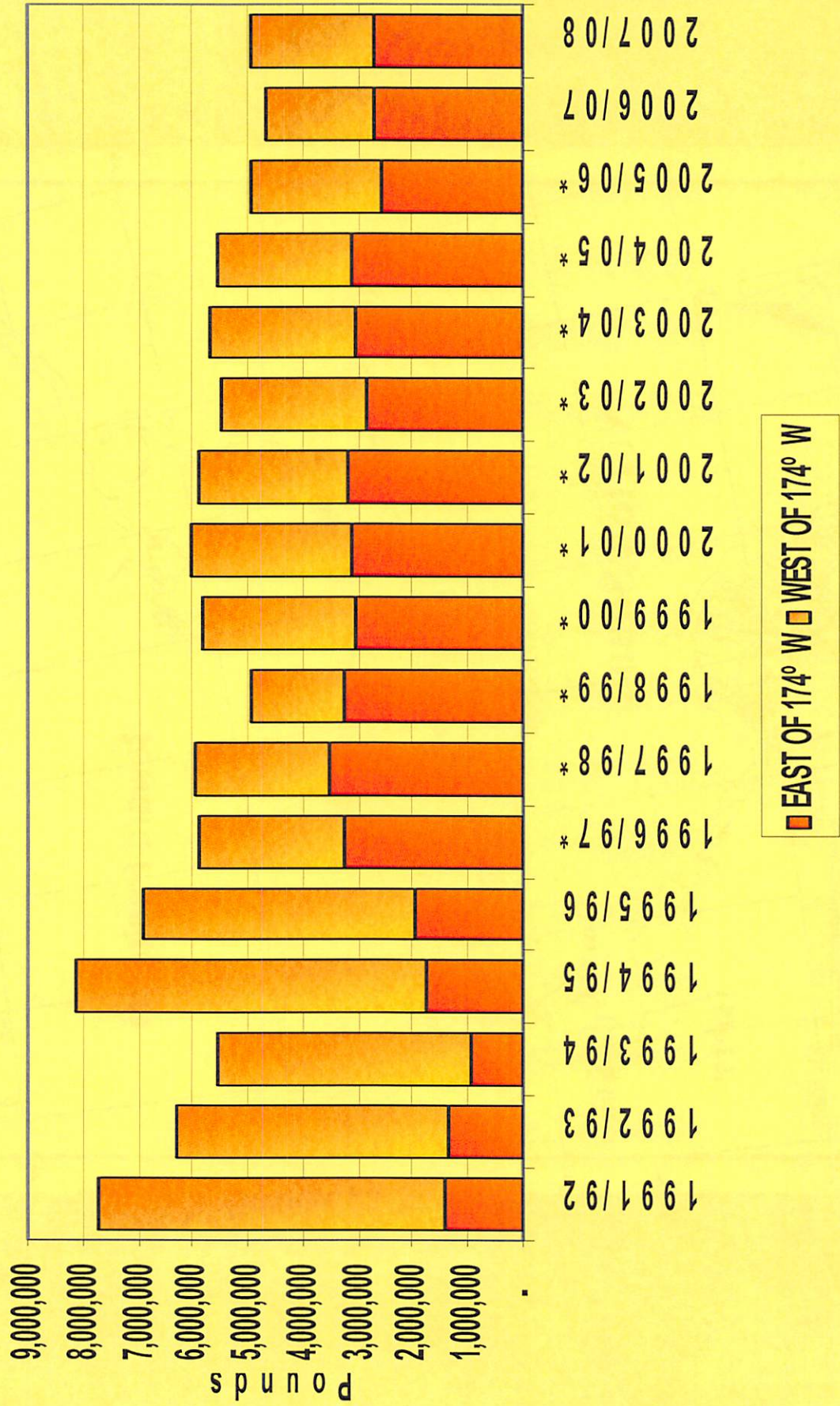


Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvests

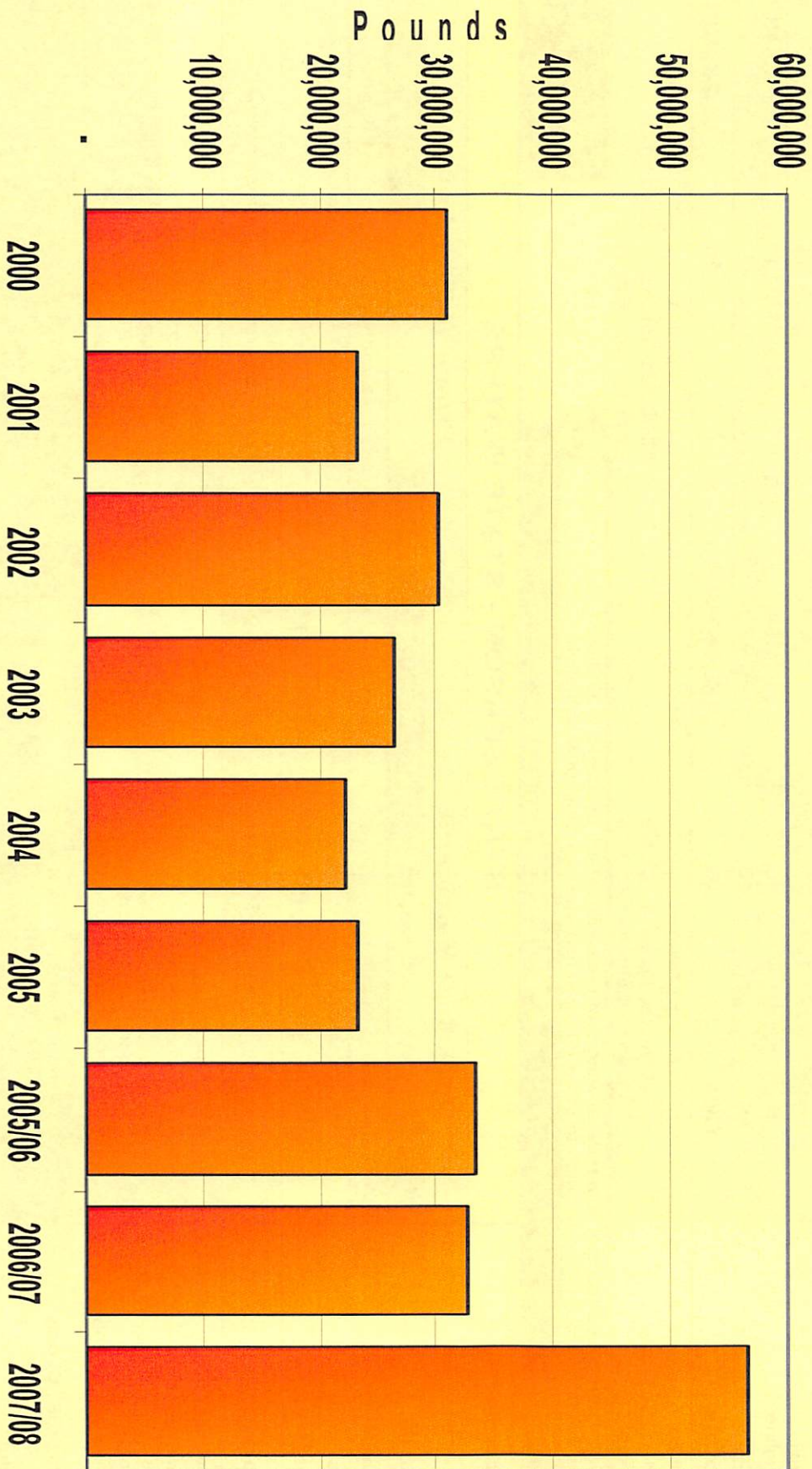


Figure 5. 2008 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through April 30

This summary censored for CONFIDENTIAL reports or records.

Pacific Cod	PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS					
	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jigs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trawl	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longline	8	18	116,684	8	11	23,439
Pots	7	48	145,473	-	-	-
Totals	15	66	262,157	8	11	23,439
Status	Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Feb 20			Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Feb 20		

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 SEASON - STATE WATERS					
	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
GHL (lb)	3,133,403			586,430		
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Jigs	2	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	1	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
Pots	11	191	2,130,182	-	-	-
Totals	13	191	2,130,182	1	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
State seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
State seasons: Jigs	noon Feb 21-			noon Feb 27-		
*Status	Open			Open		
Pots, <58', CI only	noon Feb 21- noon May 1			noon Feb 27-		
Pots, >58', CI only	noon Feb 21- noon May 1			Open		
	Closed					
	noon Feb 21- 10 AM Apr 1					
	Closed					

Status*

*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 7.

Kodiak State Waters Pcod Harvest

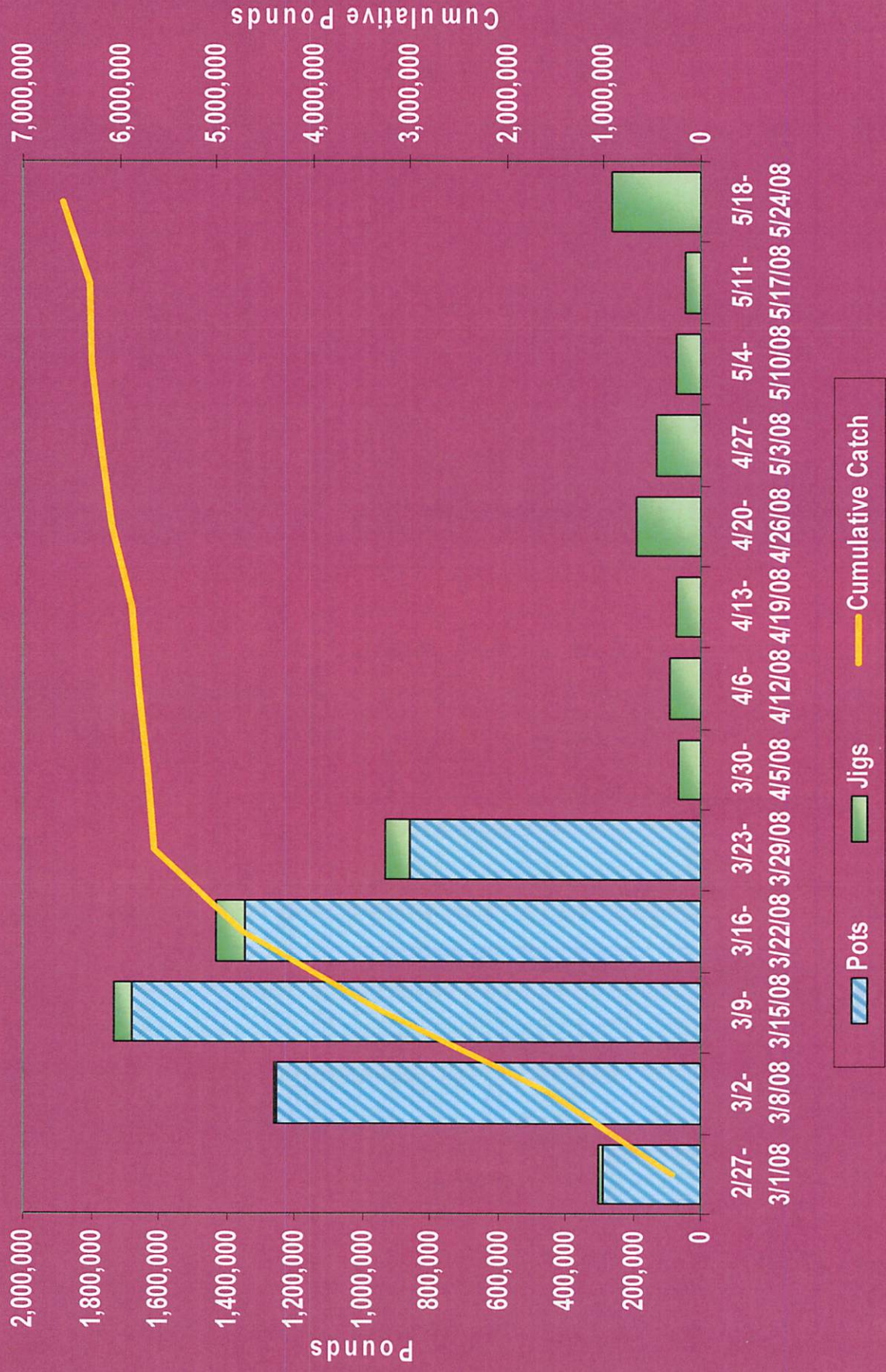
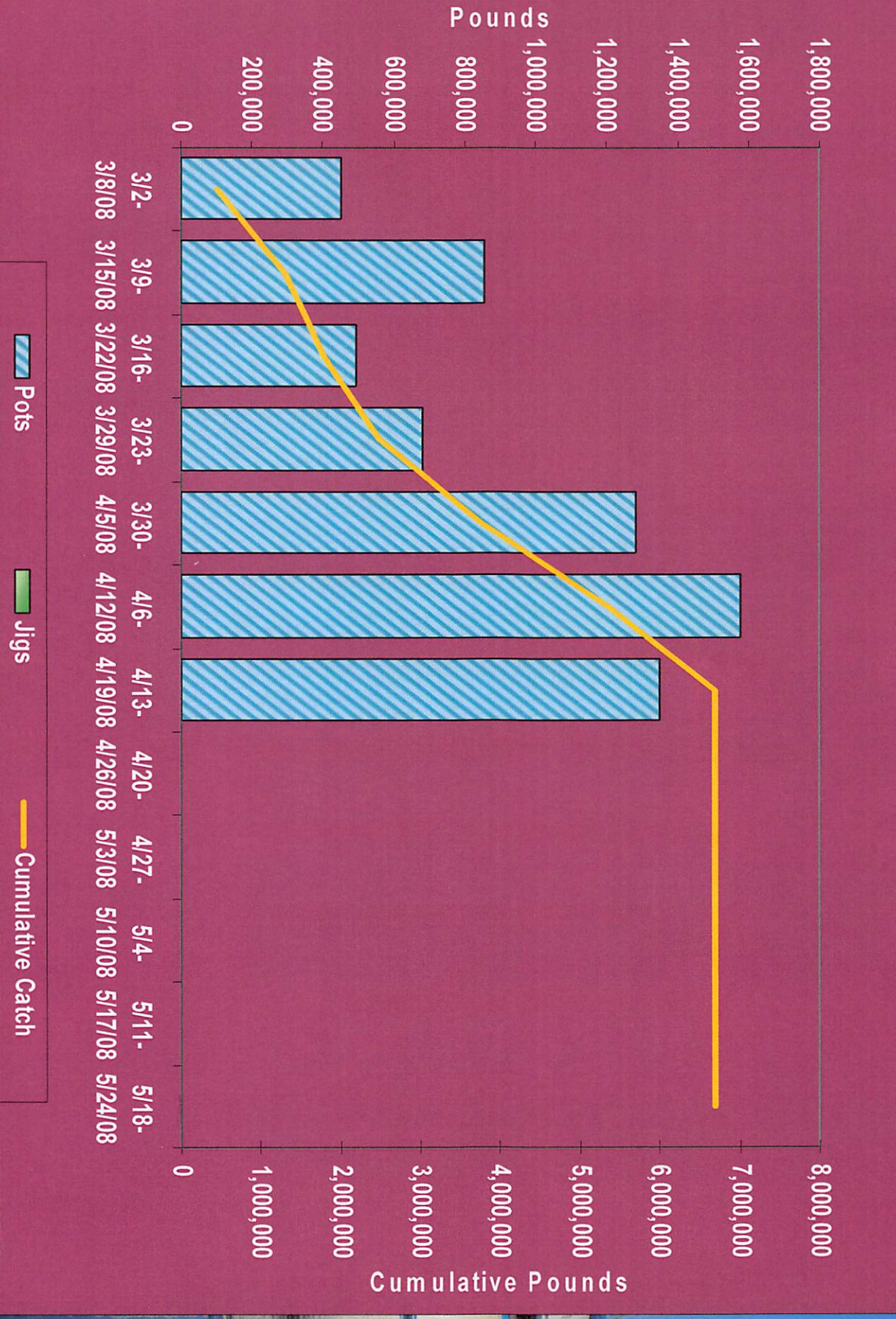


Figure 8.

Chignik State Waters Pcod Harvest



Pots Jigs Cumulative Catch

Figure 9.

South AK Peninsula State Waters Pod Harvest

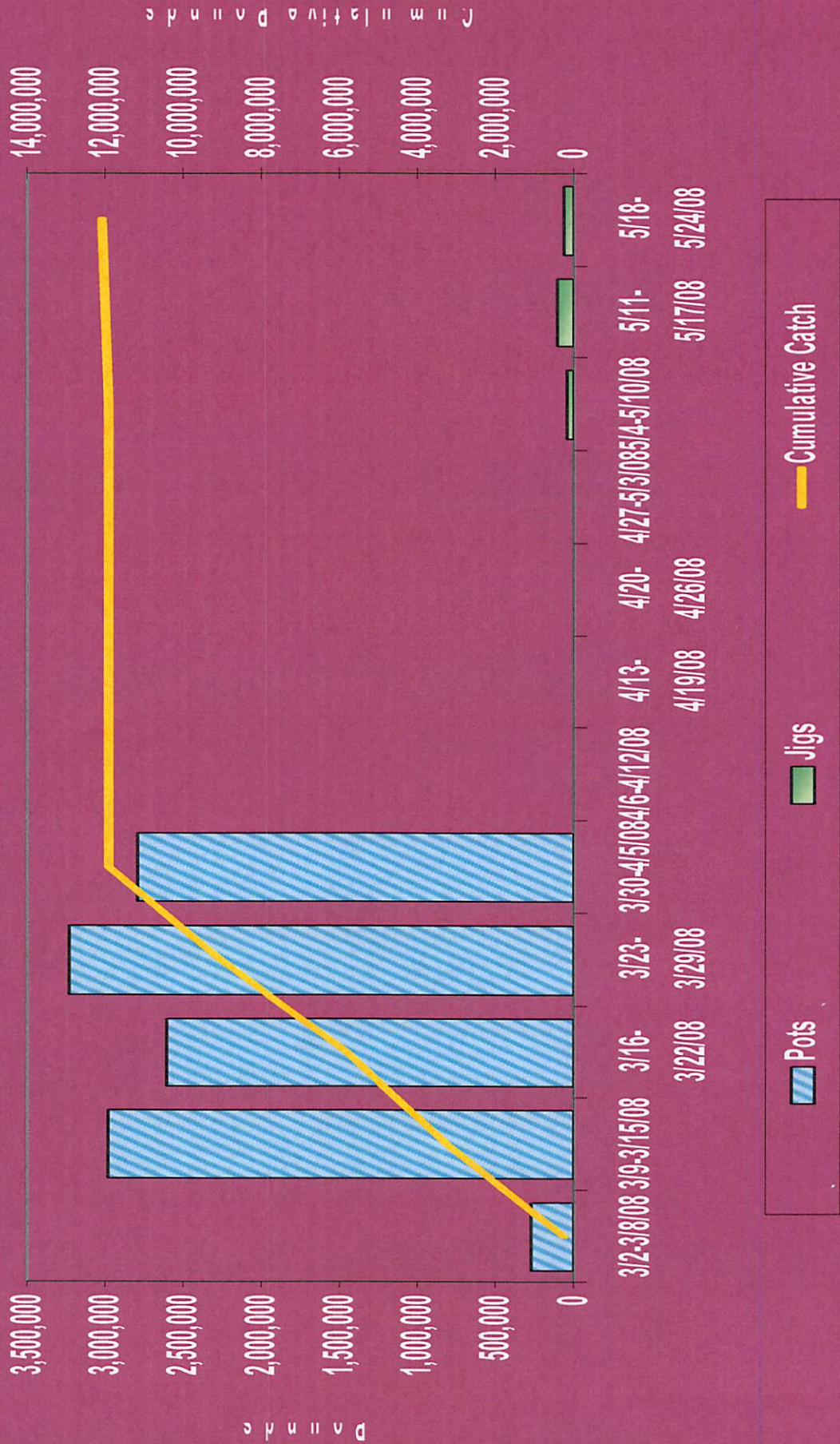
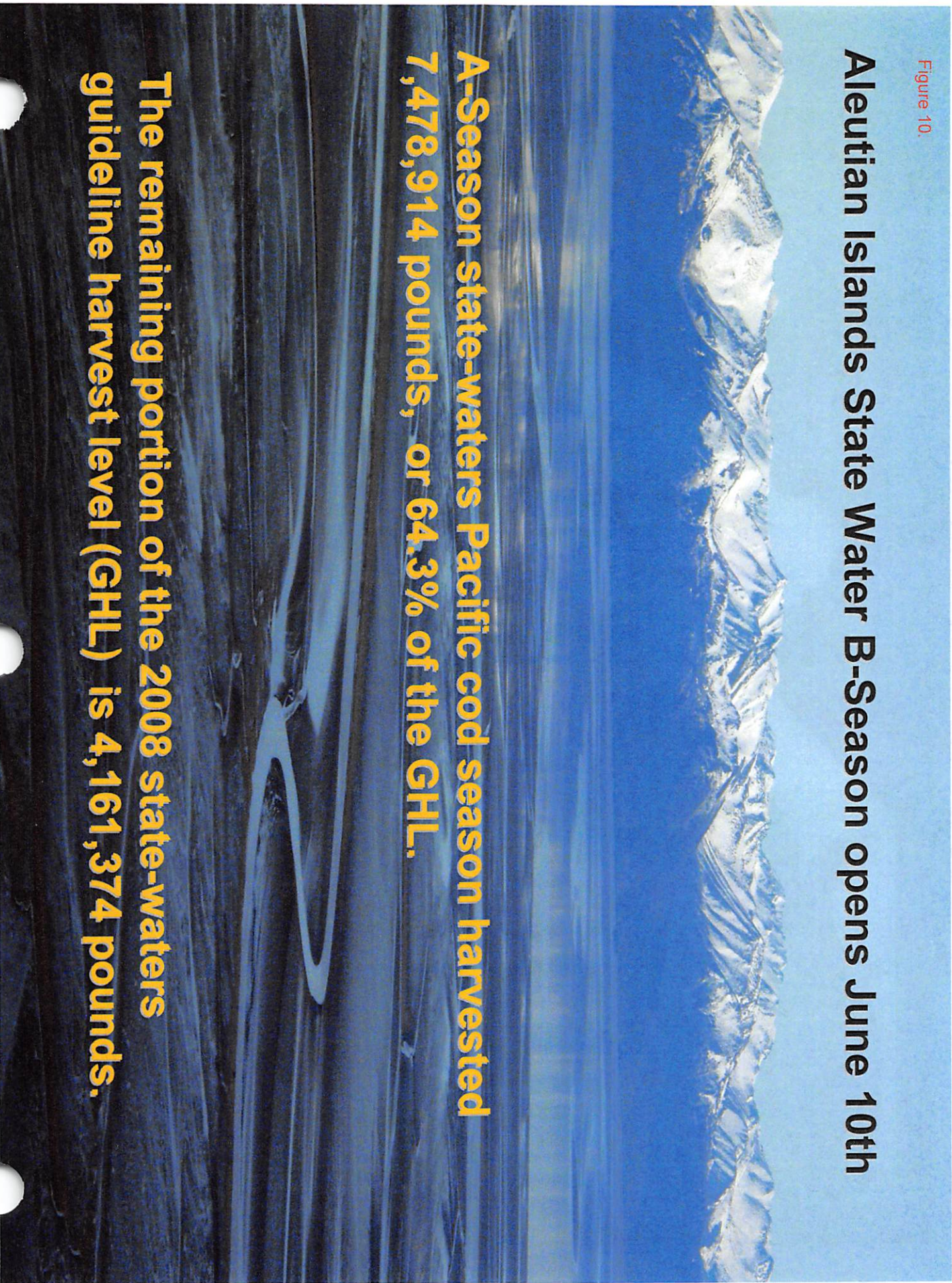


Figure 10.

Aleutian Islands State Water B-Season opens June 10th

A-Season state-waters Pacific cod season harvested 7,478,914 pounds, or 64.3% of the GHL.

The remaining portion of the 2008 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 4,161,374 pounds.



Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

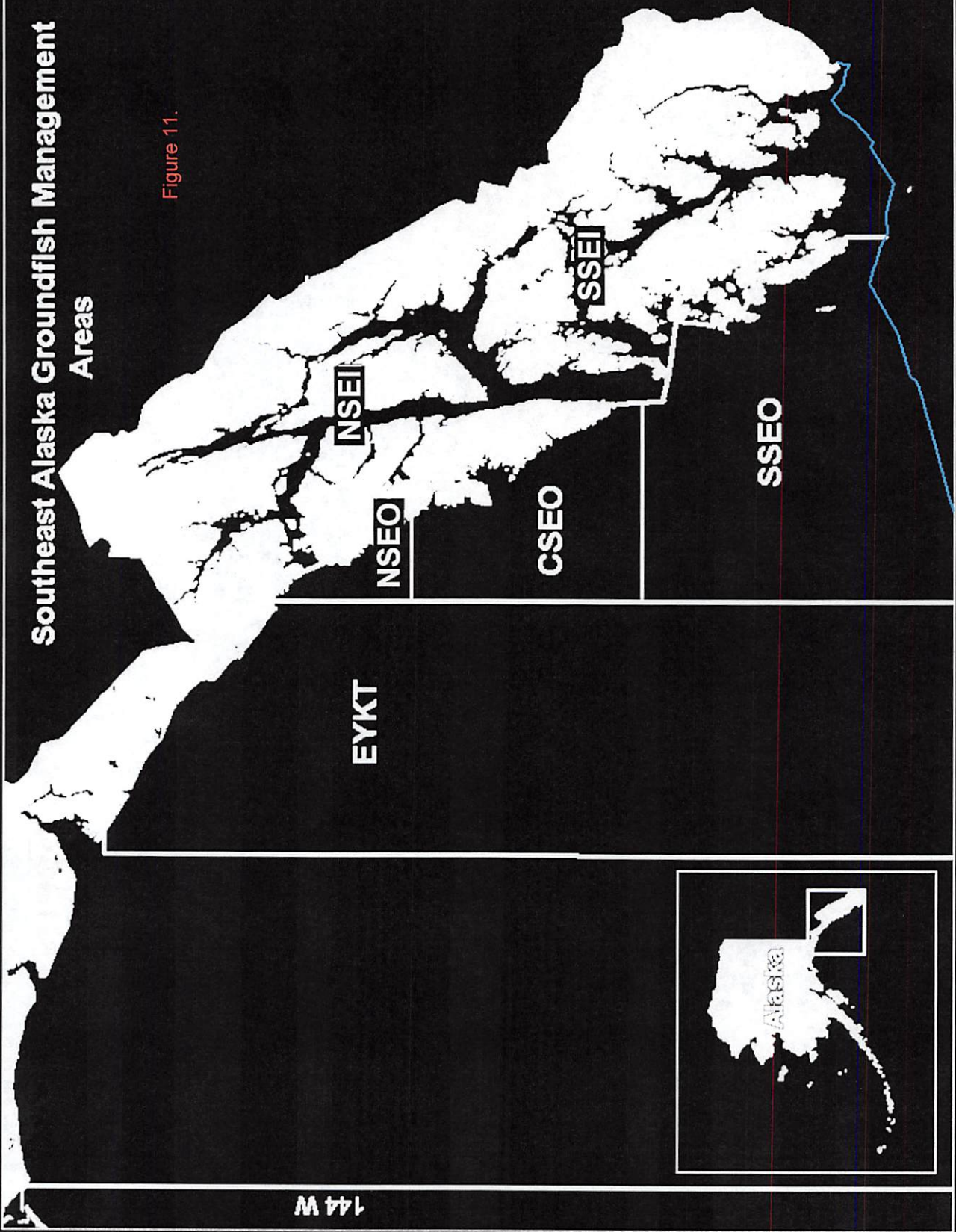


Figure 11.

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