

Agenda Item: "B-3"



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
June 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 closed on April 30, 2009. The fishery was confined to the waters east of the winter boundary line (surf line) and included the waters of Yakutat Bay. The winter fishery catch was 24,720 Chinook salmon. This is 20,280 fish under the winter Guideline Harvest Level. Bad weather was probably the most significant factor in this low catch. The number of permits fishing this winter was 428; the 2008 average was 460. This year's effort is the lowest since 2004. The 1999-2008 average is 388 permits.

The Spring Troll season opened on May 1, 2009 when the department opened 26 spring troll areas and 5 terminal harvest areas. This fishery targets Alaska hatchery

Chinook salmon. Last season's Spring Troll harvest was about 36,600 Chinook salmon, of which 49 percent was from Alaska hatchery production.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 2)

The 2008/09 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2008, and closed May 15, 2009. The total allowable catch (TAC) was 5.985 million pounds. The TAC was apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC was 2.835 million pounds, and was harvested. The Western IFQ TAC was 2.55 million pounds. Final catch was about 2.3 million pounds (88 percent).

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 3)

The 2008/09 snow crab IFQ TAC was approximately 52.7 million pounds. The 2008/09 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2008 and closed May 15, 2009 in the Eastern Subdistrict and on May 31, 2009 in the Western Subdistrict. Estimated final catch was about 52.4 million pounds, or 99 percent of the IFQ TAC.

Cook Inlet Pacific cod (FIGURE 4)

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 2 million pounds. The season for the jig fleet remains open, and the current harvest is about 125 thousand pounds.

Westward Region GOA Pacific cod (FIGURE 5)

Kodiak Pacific cod (FIGURE 6)

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 2.9 million pounds through 586 landings, and that fishery continues.

Chignik Pacific cod (FIGURE 7)

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 contributed to a slow start in the fishery, but a pot fleet of 13 permit holders took approximately 5.48 million pounds in 117 landings and the fishery closed to pot gear on April 8, 2009. Given the poor weather and lack of local buyers, there has been no jig effort to date.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod (FIGURE 8)

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)).

While poor weather with gale force winds and freezing spray kept the fleet off the grounds, the pot fleet managed to catch the GHL and that fishery closed on April 4, 2009. Final catch was about 10.4 million pounds in 332 landings. Jig effort by 20 permit holders has produced approximately 326 thousand pounds to date.

Aleutian Islands Pacific cod (FIGURE 9)

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 longitude, 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 about 12 million pounds. The state-waters fishery will be managed so that a maximum of 70 percent of the GHL (8.4 million pounds) will be available for harvest prior to June 10. The remaining 30 percent of the GHL (3.6 million pounds) plus any rollover from the A-season will be available beginning June 10. 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. For the initial A season (March 25-April 1), 19 vessels harvested approximately 1.7 million pounds. Since the reopening on April 7, nine vessels have registered and they have reported a harvest of about 2 million pounds. There are three pot CPs that continue to fish at this time. There are approximately 4.76 million pounds remaining on the A season, and that is not expected to be achieved by the A season closure on June 10. Any remaining amount will be rolled over to the B-season.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 10)

The directed lingcod fishery opened May 16, 2009. There are approximately 20 boats intending to fish the East Yakutat (EYKT - Fairweather Grounds) area. This is

an increase from seven boats last year. The fishery was opened for two days, and the GHL of 111 thousand pounds was realized. Lingcod bycatch in the troll fishery opened on May 16, 2009 as well. Bycatch in the longline fishery remains open in all areas.

To date, there has been 533 thousand pounds of Pacific cod landed from inside waters. While initial directed fishing effort was up this season, it dropped off in late April.

The 2009 Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI – Clarence Strait) sablefish quota was announced at 634,000 round pounds, a 9 percent decrease from last season's quota. The reduction is in response to a decline in survey and fishery CPUE and declines in sablefish abundance in surrounding areas. The Equal Quota Share (EQS) is 22,650, a 4 percent increase from last season. The increase is due to the elimination of four SSEI permits this year.

The 2009 Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI – Chatham Strait) sablefish quota will be announced in June.

The Groundfish project is conducting a stock assessment on Demersal Shelf Rockfish with the Delta sub on the Fairweather Grounds this month.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
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June 2009

Figure 1.

Southeast Alaska Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Harvest

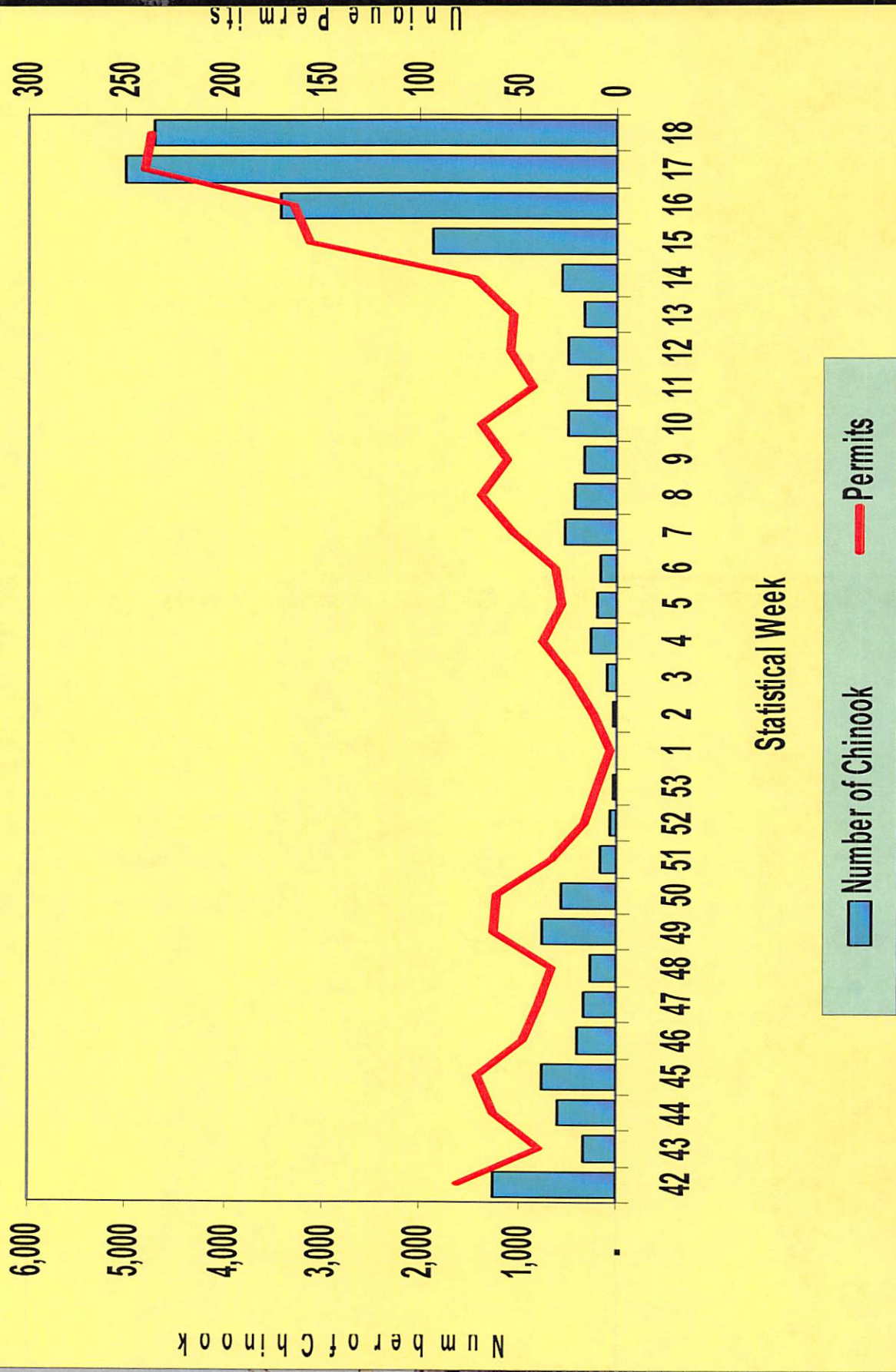
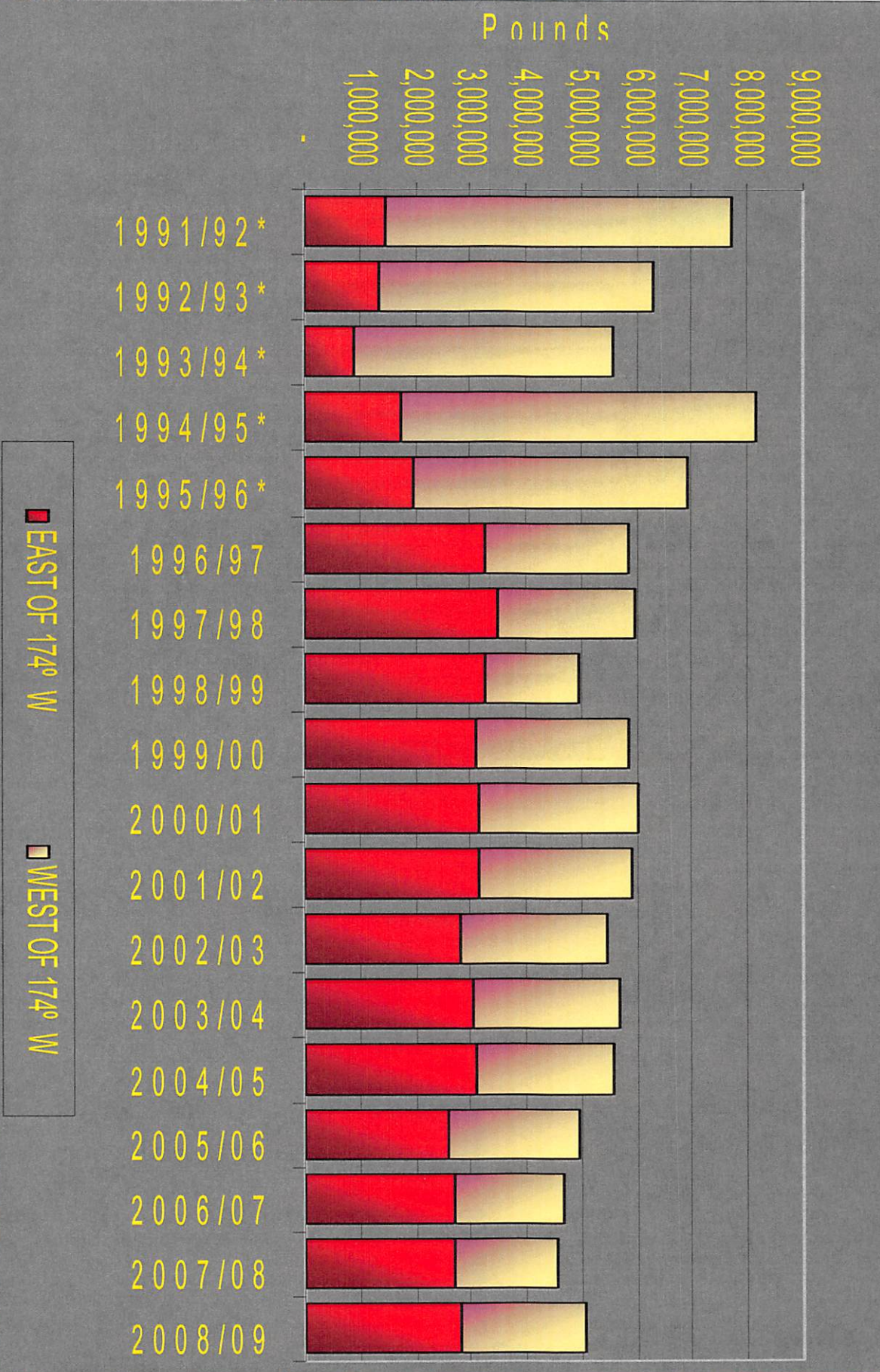


Figure 2.

Al Golden King Crab Harvests



Bering Sea Snow Crab

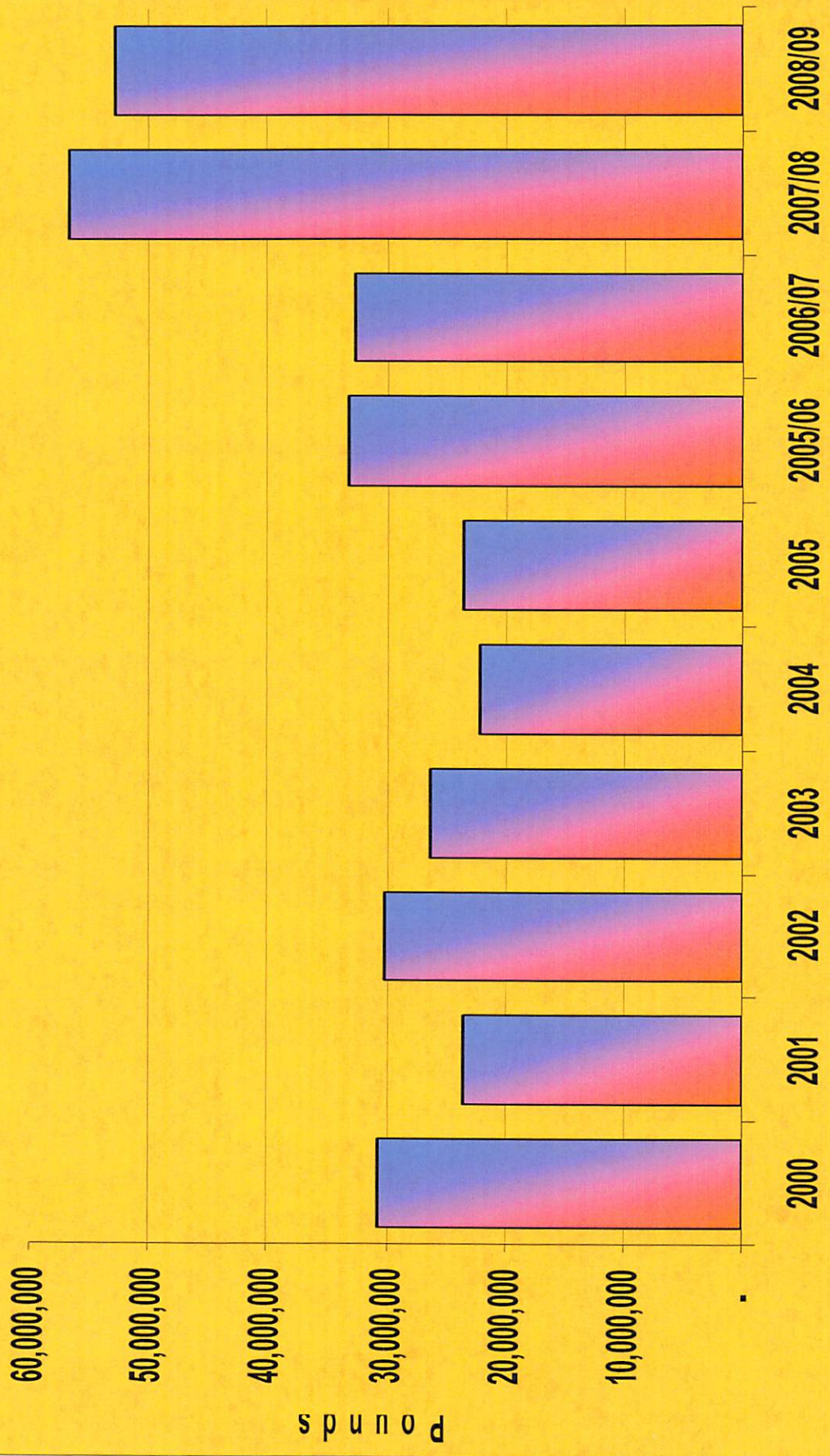


Figure 3.

Figure 4. 2009 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through May 15.

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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl	0	0	0	2	<i>confidential</i>	<i>confidential</i>
Longline	17	33	209,809	20	30	34,144
Pots	5	17	70,442	-	-	-
Totals	22	50	280,251	22	34	34,355
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	*STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS					
	*Cook Inlet Management Area			*Prince William Sound		
GHL (lb)	2,606,393			487,746		
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Longline	-	-	-	19	37	704,866
Hand troll	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jigs	12	38	124,867	-	-	-
Pots < 58'	10	118	1,361,922	-	-	-
Pots > 58'	3	20	644,834	-	-	-
Totals	25	176	2,131,623	19	37	704,866
State seasons:	Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Jigs	noon Jan 28 -			12:00 noon Feb 3 - 12:00 noon March 27		
*Status	Open			Closed		
Pots, <58', CI only	noon Jan 28 - noon March 18			12:00 noon Feb 3 - 12:00 noon March 27		
*Status	Closed			12:00 noon Feb 3 - 12:00 noon March 27		
Pots, >58', CI only	noon Jan 28 - 6 a.m. March 18			12:00 noon Feb 3 - 12:00 noon March 27		
*Status	Closed			Closed		
Longline (PWS Only)	12:01 AM March 14 - 12:00 noon March 27			12:01 AM March 14 - 12:00 noon March 27		
*Status	Closed			Closed		

*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 5

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

UPDATED : 5/18/2009



	KODIAK				CHIGNIK				SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA				
Vessels Registered	Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		
Registered	138	39	99		13	13	0		69	49	20		
2009 GHL	8.69 Million Pounds				6.08 Million Pounds				11.89 Million Pounds				
ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1 Jigs = 4.345 million, Pots = 4.345 million, >58' pots 2.172 before Sept.1				90% Pots, 10% Jigs Pots = 5.47 million Jigs = .61 million				85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 10.11 million Jigs = 178 million				
DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	
	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		35	101,995	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3/1-3/7/09	-	-	51	127,050	17	926,008	-	-	25	607,248	-	-	-
3/8-14/09	-	-	39	159,931	15	804,873	-	-	71	2,119,561	-	-	-
3/15-21/09	-	-	21	59,242	9	232,954	-	-	38	1,310,969	-	-	-
3/22-28/09	-	-	20	59,237	33	1,372,700	-	-	94	3,035,852	-	-	-
3/29-4/4/09	-	-	29	149,782	20	1,150,064	-	-	98	3,171,292	-	-	-
4/5-11/09	-	-	48	319,879	23	994,353	-	-	6	200,044	-	-	-
4/12-18/09	-	-	32	140,304	Closed 4/8/09		-	-	Closed 4/4/09		-	-	-
4/19-25/09	-	-	61	450,769	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	24,053	-
4/26-5/2/09	-	-	38	154,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9,764	-
5/3-9/09	-	-	72	571,238	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	110,508	-
5/10-16/09	-	-	69	488,066	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	181,466	-
ACCUMULATIVE	138	4,141,053	586	2,913,863	117	5,480,952	0	0	332	10,444,966	50	325,791	
CATCH	(Total combined) 7,054,916				(Total combined) 5,480,952				(Total combined) 10,770,757				

Figure 6.

Kodiak State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

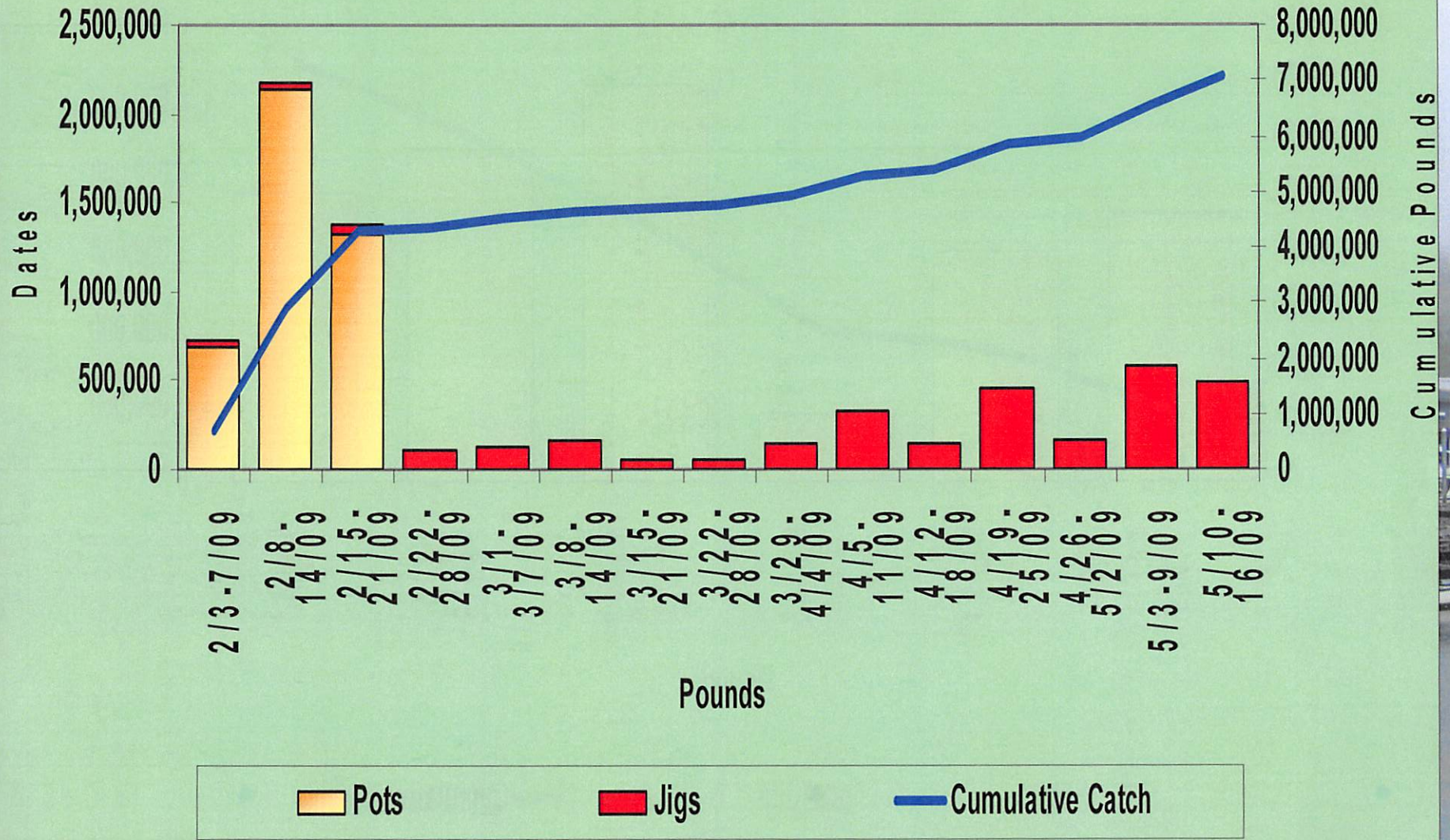


Figure 7.

Chignik State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

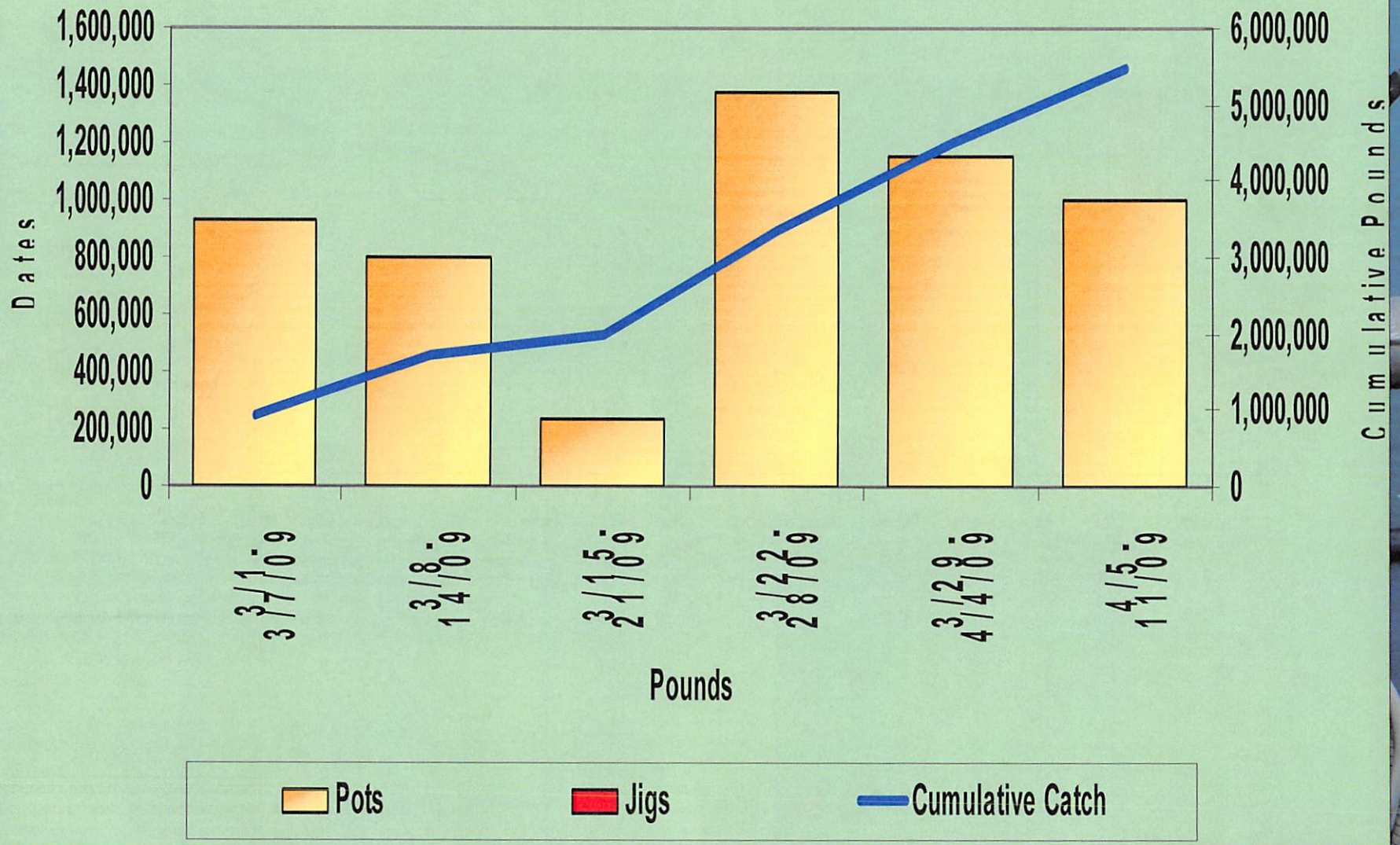
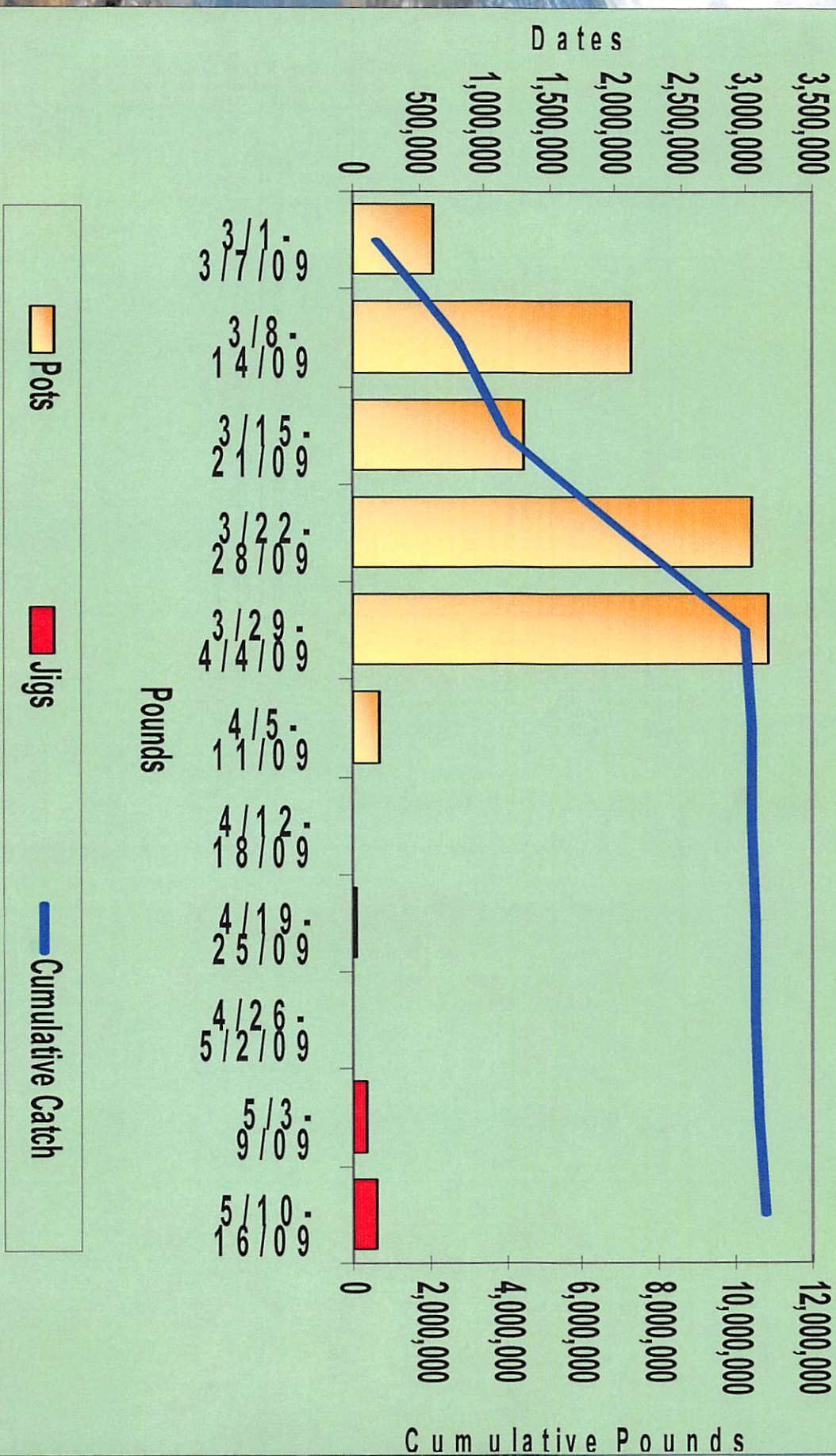


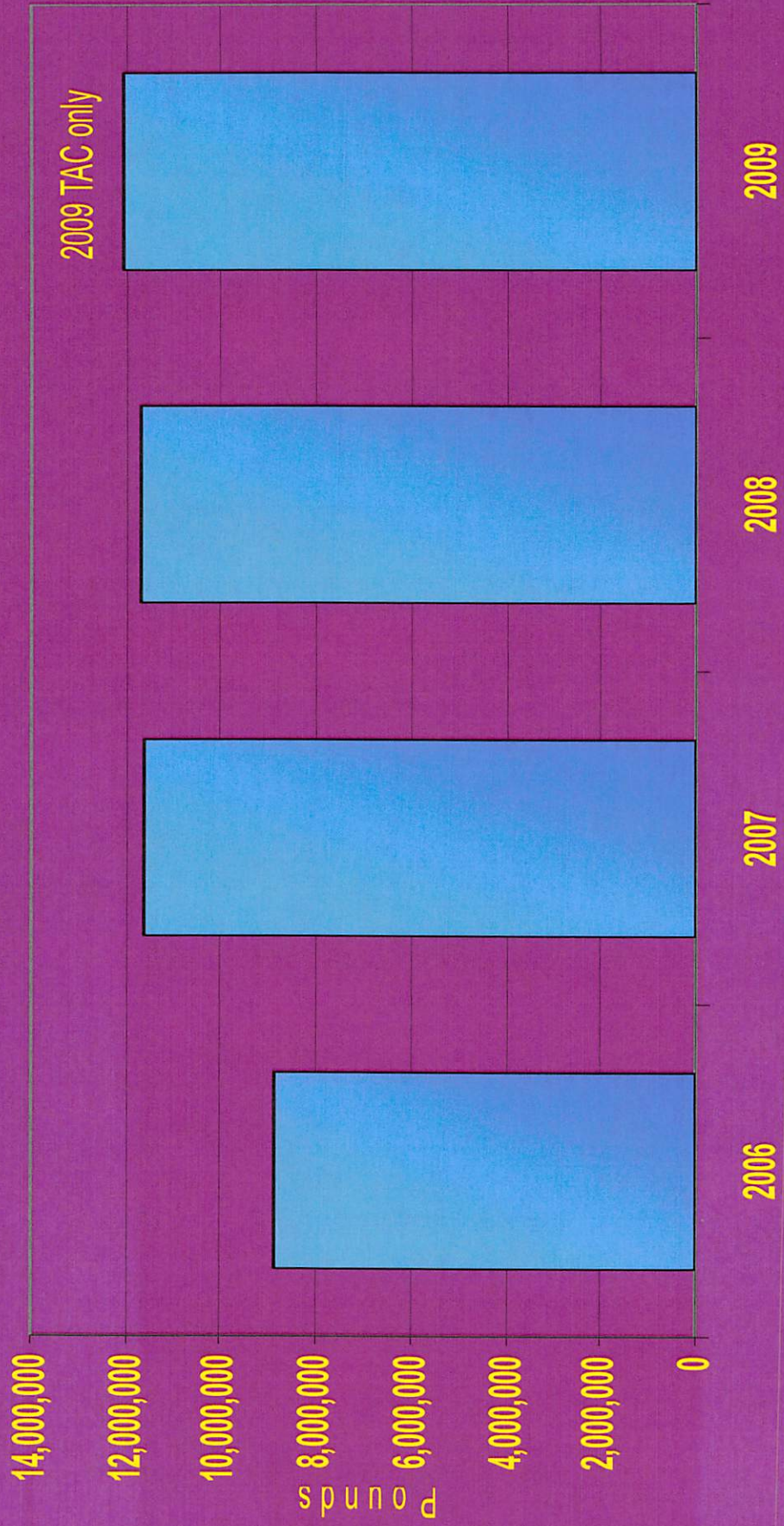
Figure 8.

South Alaska Peninsula State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests



Aleutian Islands State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

Figure 9.



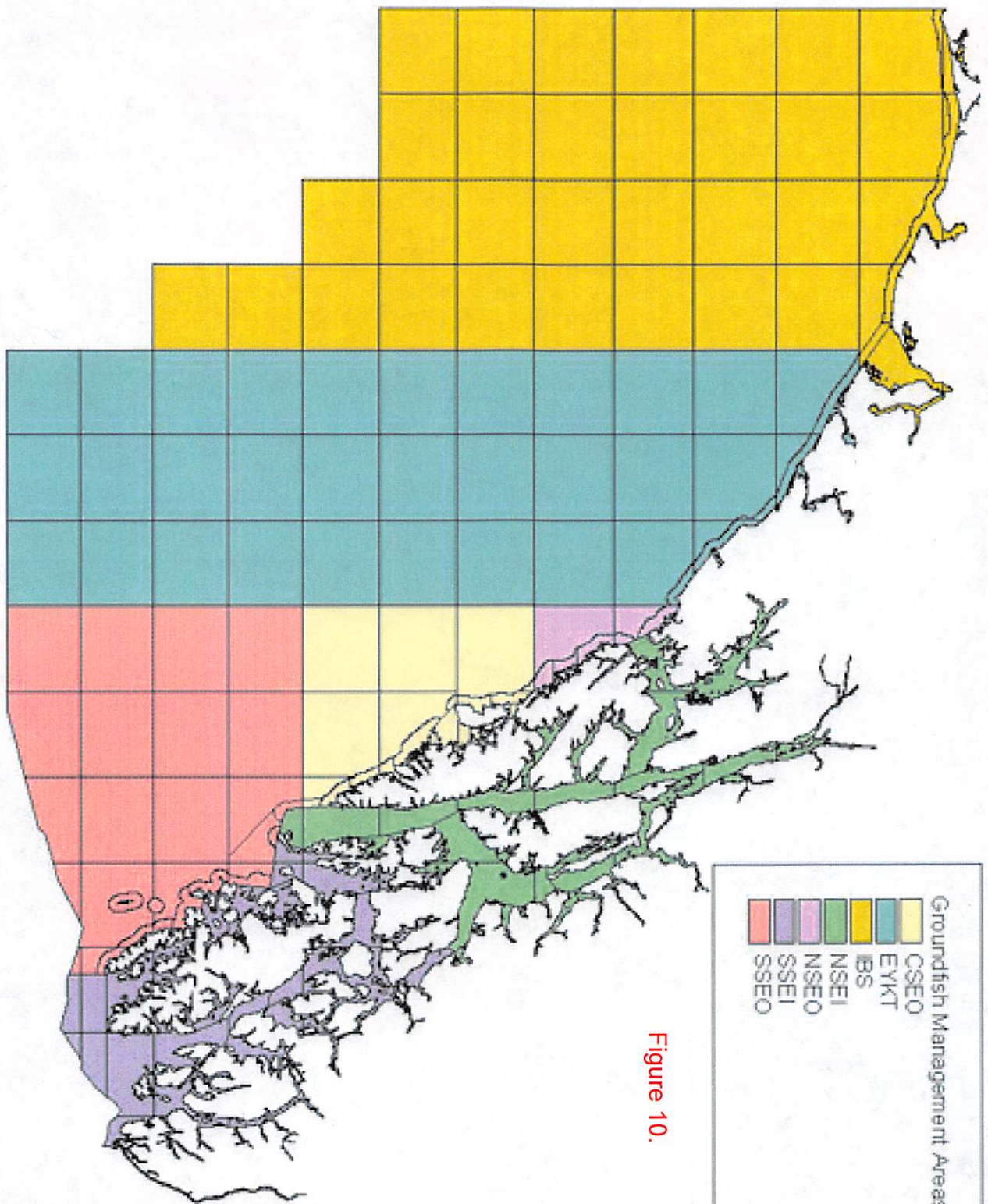


Figure 10.

