

**Agenda Item: "B-4"**



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
February 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. Weather continues to play a role in participation and harvest; current catch is approximately 5,500 salmon. Yakutat Bay accounts for the largest single catch area, at 28 percent of the total. Current price remains high, averaging \$7.44 per pound.

**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 65 percent of that has been harvested to date.

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

**Bristol Bay Red King Crab** (FIGURE 3)

The 2008/09 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2008 and closed on January 15, 2009. The IFQ TAC for this fishery was 18.33 million pounds. That TAC was taken.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab** (FIGURE 4)

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 8.3 million pounds, or 16 percent of the IFQ TAC.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab** (FIGURE 5)

The season for *C. bairdi* open on October 15, 2008 and will close 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 is 2.49 million pounds, while the Western IFQ TAC is 1.38 million pounds. To date, there have been about 840,000 pounds (34 percent) taken in the Eastern District.

**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 is 488,000 pounds. Once the fishery opens, it is expected to continue through the end of the calendar year.

#### **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. 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 2009 pot gear harvest cap for vessels greater than 58 feet in length is 651,600 pounds. In addition to the directed fishery, Pacific cod may be retained in state waters as bycatch to other directed groundfish and halibut fisheries at a maximum of 20 percent.

#### **Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)**

The Kodiak state waters Pacific cod fishery will open 7 days after NMFS closes 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% of the GHL until September 1. The Kodiak Area is designated exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

#### **Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)**

The Chignik state waters Pacific cod fishery opens 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.

**South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 10)

The GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula state waters Pacific cod fishery is 11.89 million pounds. The fishery opens 7 days after NMFS closes the inshore, directed Western GOA Pacific cod fishery. In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, a 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect. Pot gear will be restricted to 85 percent of the GHL. 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)).

**Southeast Groundfish** (FIGURE 11)

The directed fishery for demersal shelf rockfish opened in the waters of East Yakutat (EYKT) and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) districts. There was insufficient quota in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) districts to conduct an orderly fishery in those areas.

Directed fishing is open now for Pacific cod in internal waters and for black rockfish on the outer coast.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries** (FIGURE 12)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Petersburg, Alaska from January 21 through 27, 2009. Their agenda included one Southeast District 16 scallop proposal.

**Proposal 187** asked to amend the fishing season opening date from July 1 to June 1. The proposal was withdrawn after it was demonstrated this period covered the spawning season, and therefore the board took no action.

The board will meet again to discuss Central and Westward region scallop proposals in Anchorage from March 16 through March 20, 2009. Those proposals are:

**Proposal 358 - Kodiak Scallops:** Open a closed-water area to scallop fishing under an exploratory scallop fishing permit.

**Proposal 359 - Statewide Scallops:** Clarify reporting requirements for statewide scallops.

**Proposal 360 - Cook Inlet Scallops:** Repeal Commissioner's permit for Kamishak District scallop fishery and put into effect management elements previously stipulated in permit.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NPFMC  
Agenda Item B-4**



**February 2009**



Figure 1.

### 2008/09 Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Harvest

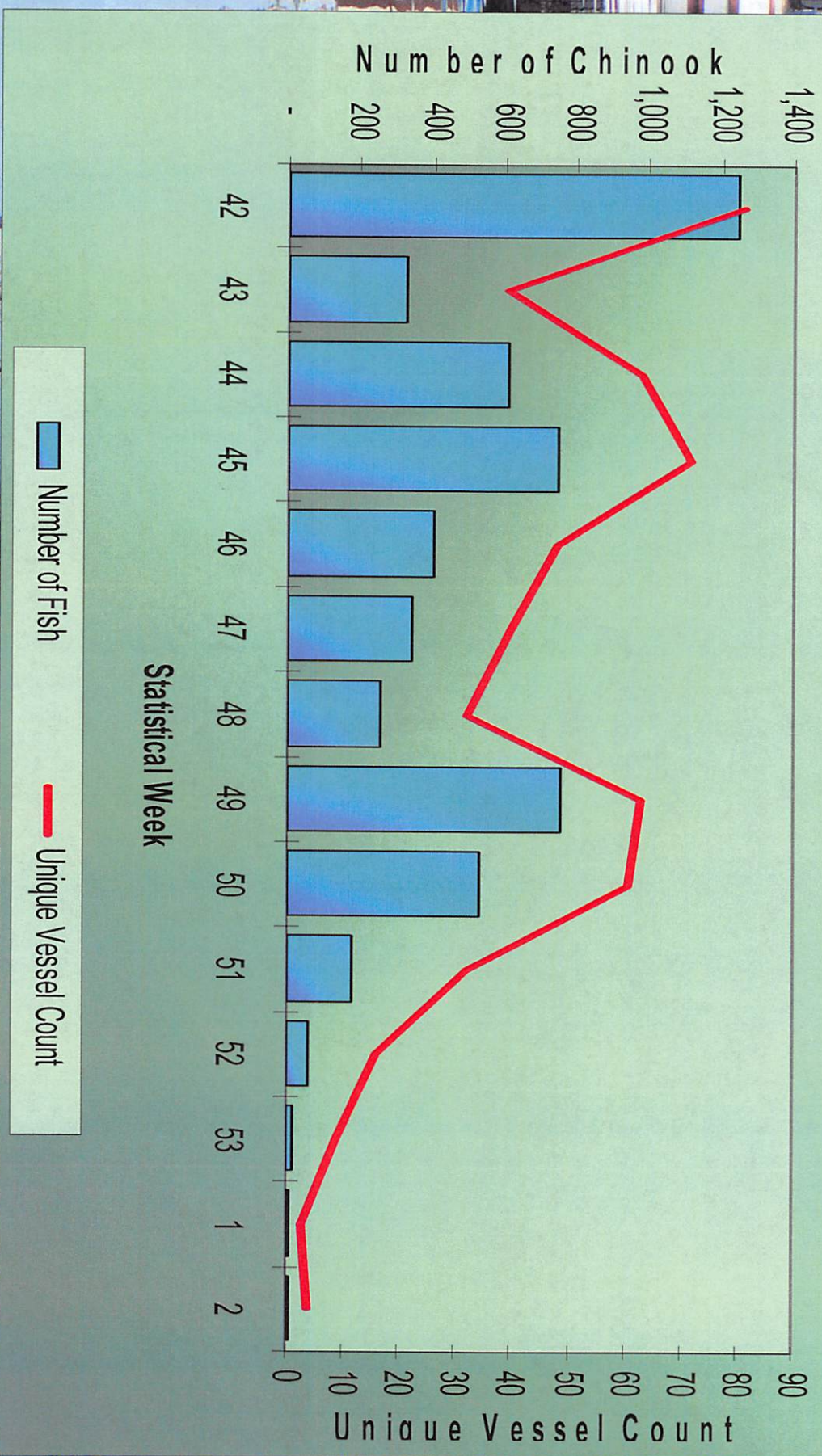


Figure 2.

# Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Harvest IFQ fishery only

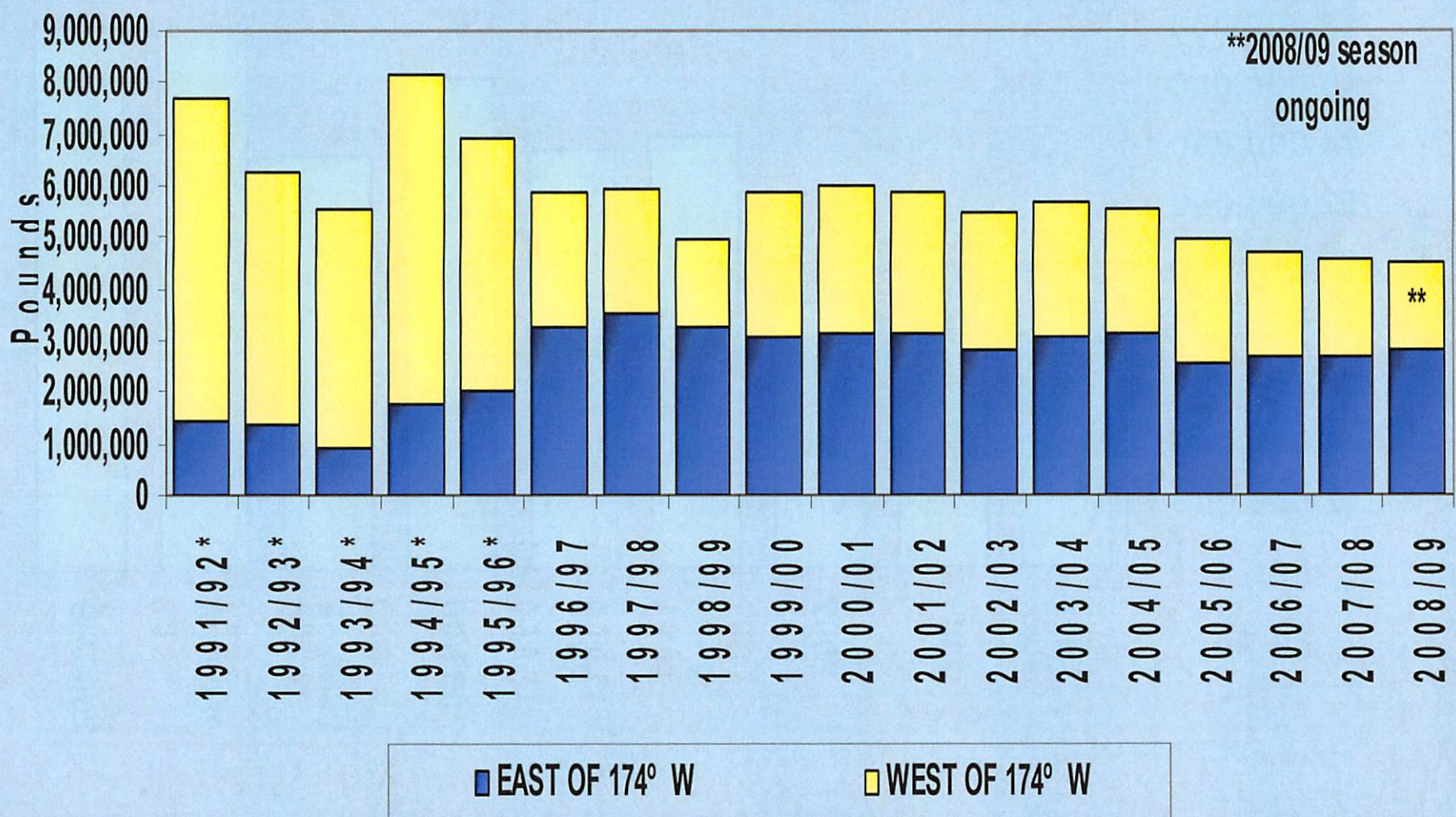
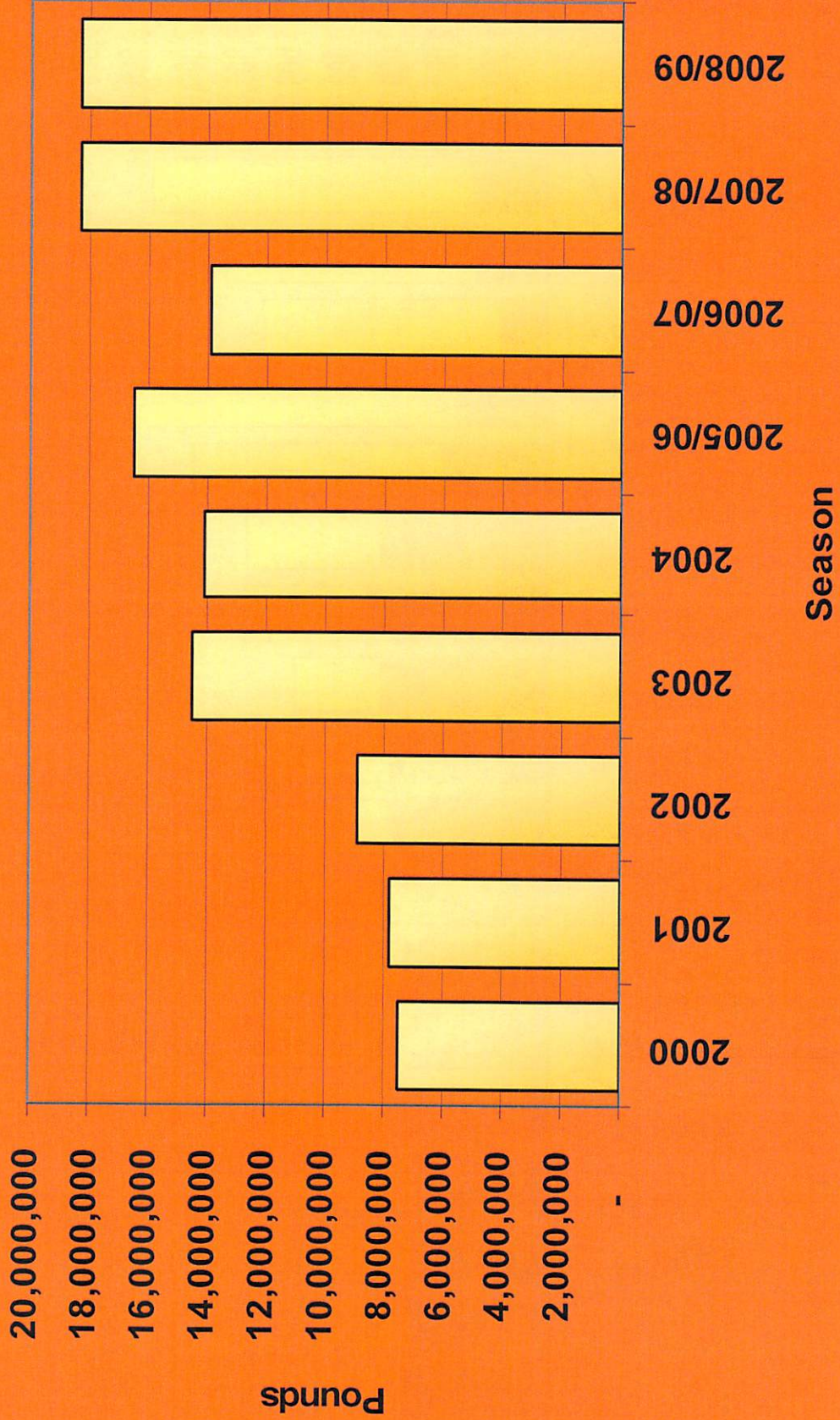




Figure 3.

# Bristol Bay Red King Crab (IFQ fishery)



**Figure 4.**

# Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvests

IFQ only

2008/09 TAC only

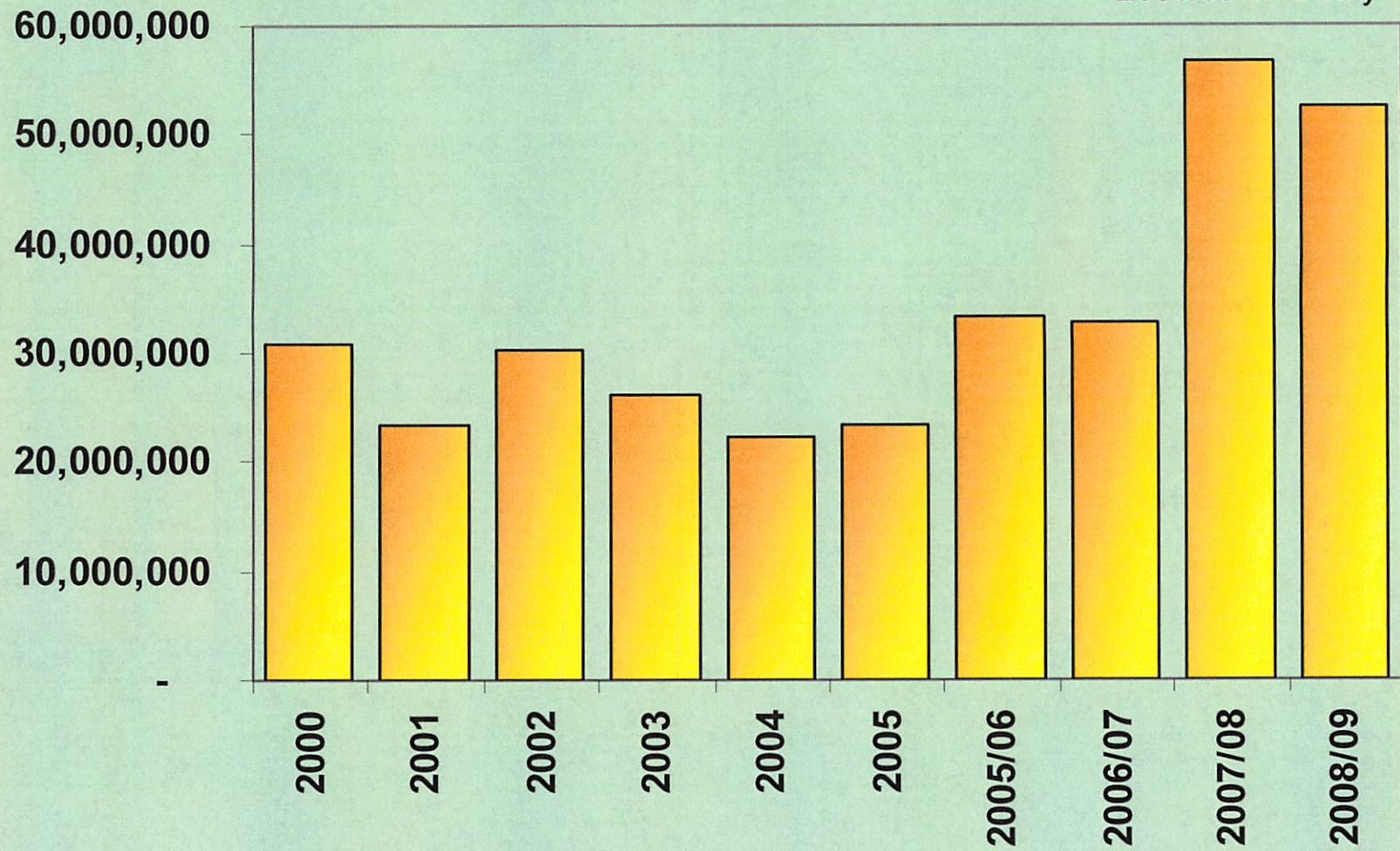


Figure 5.

### Bering Sea Tanner Crab Harvest

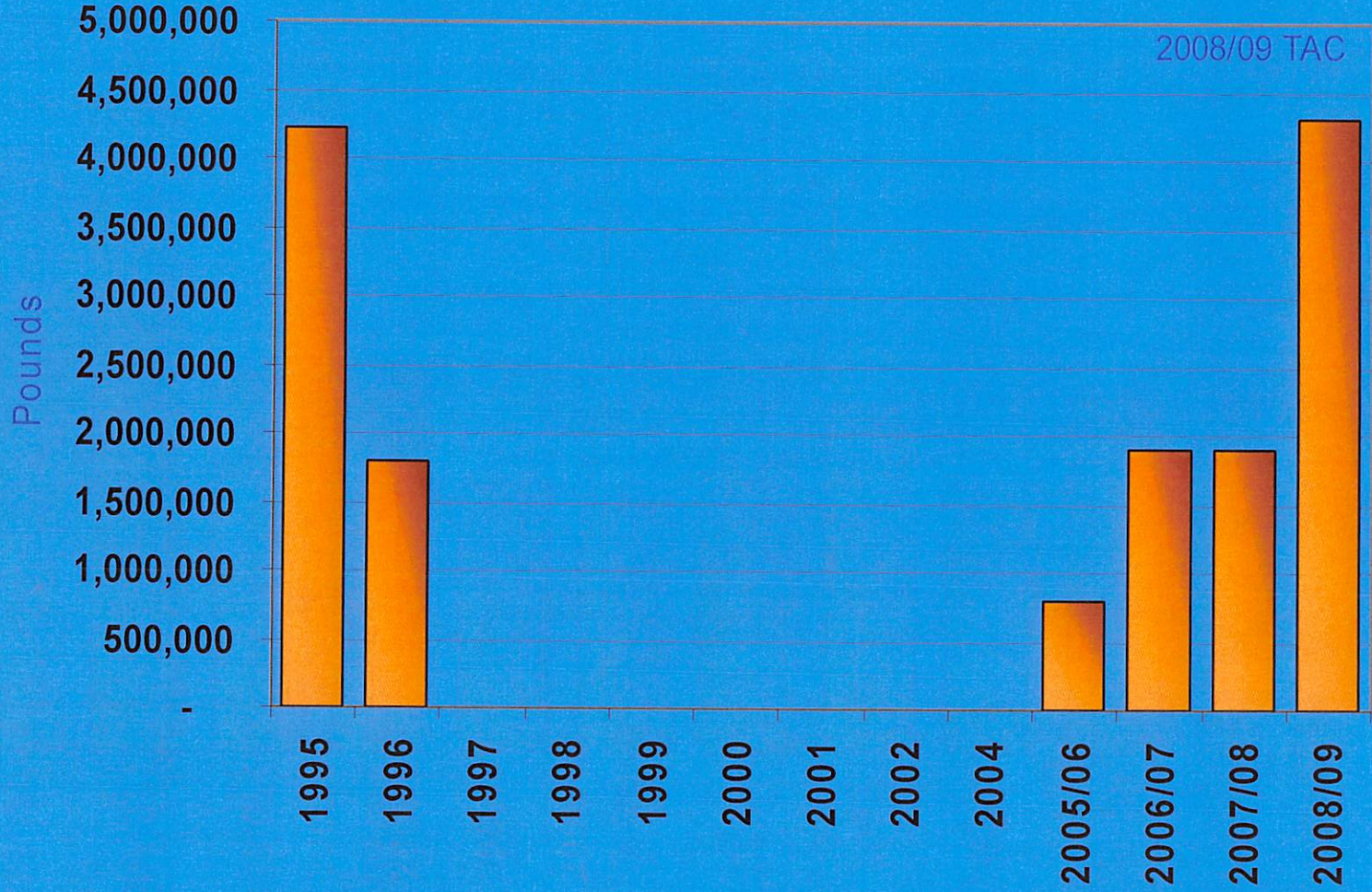


Figure 6.

### PWS State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

(censored for confidential data)

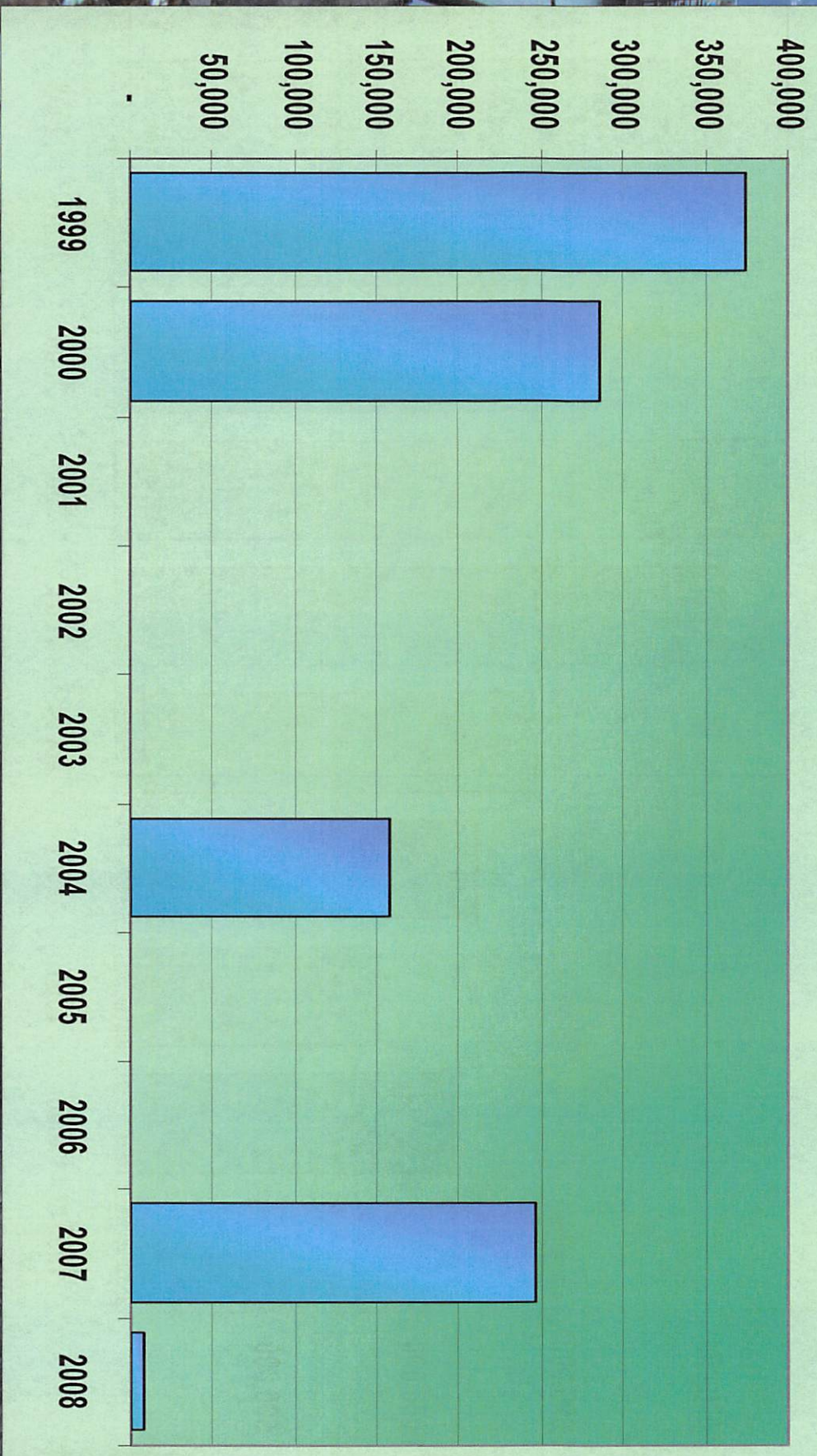


Figure 7.

### Cook Inlet State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

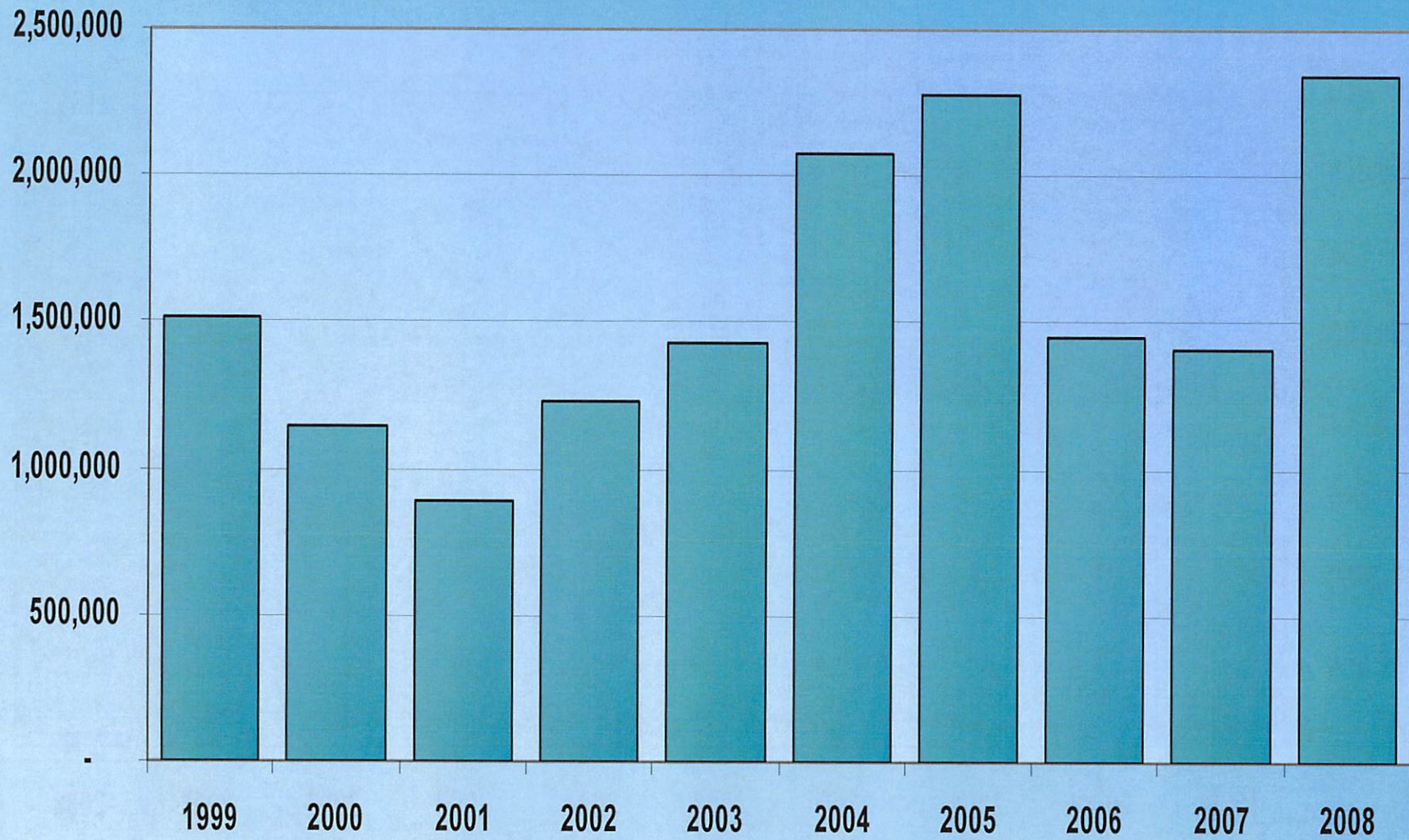


Figure 8.

### Kodiak State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

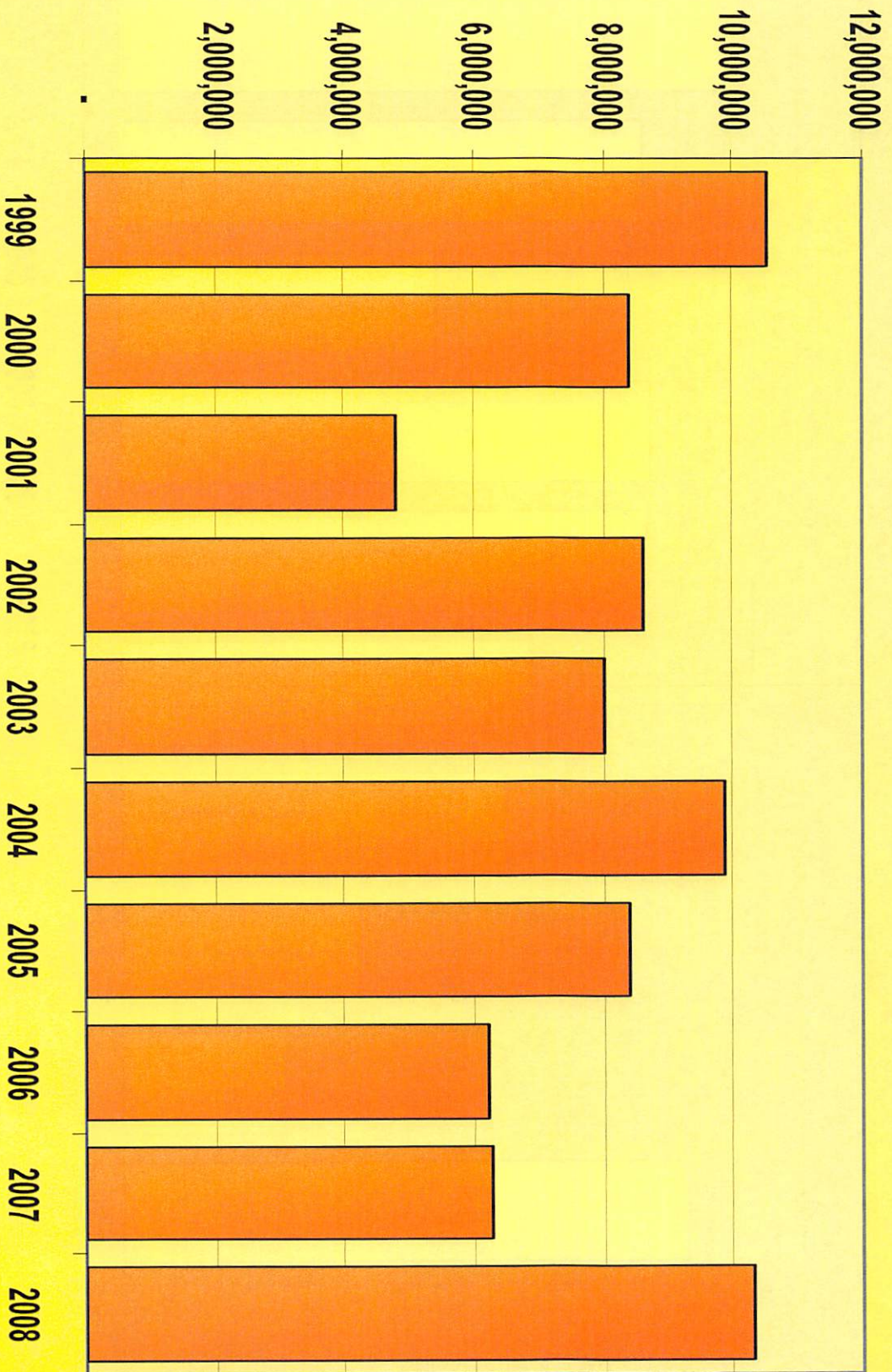


Figure 9.

## Chignik State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests

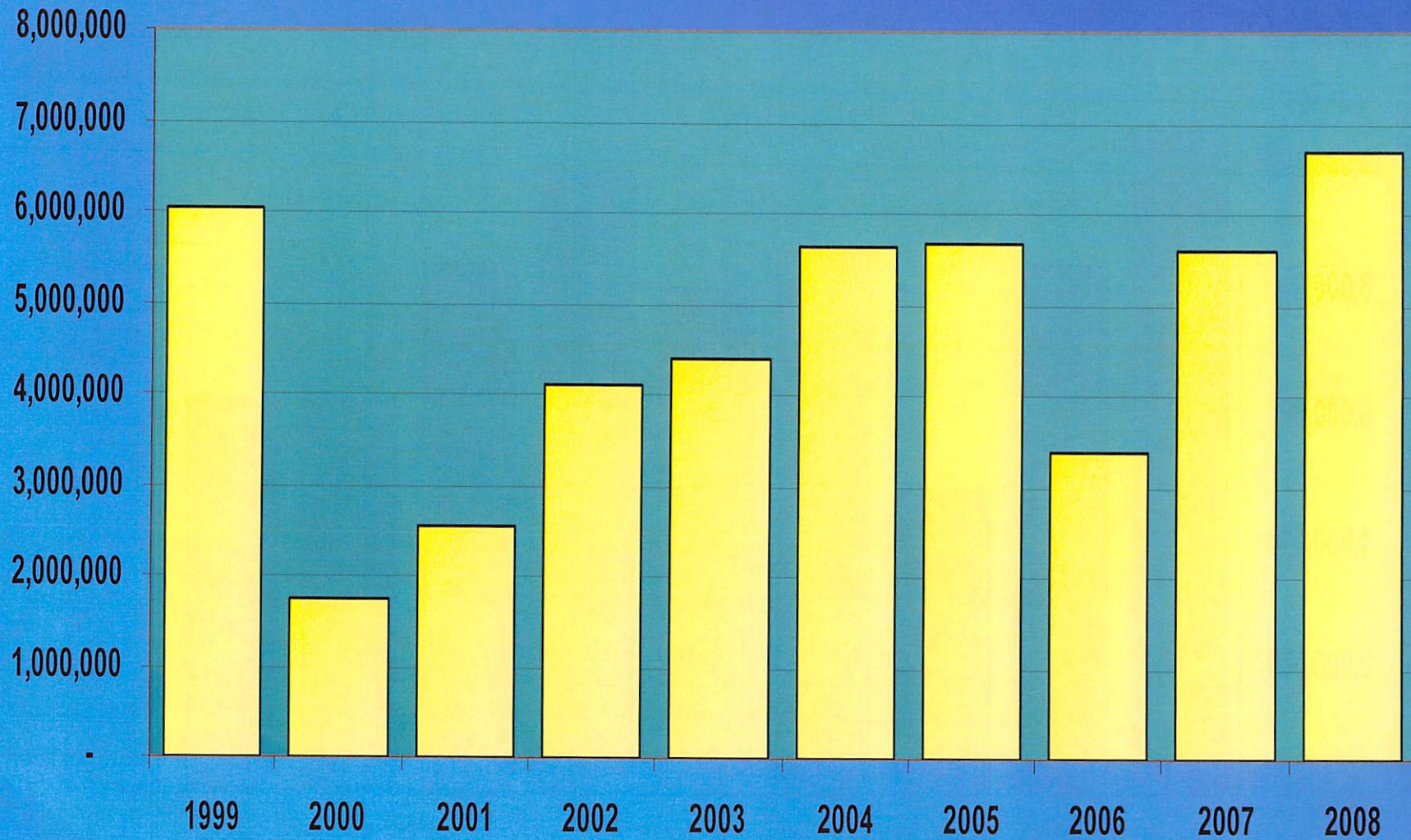
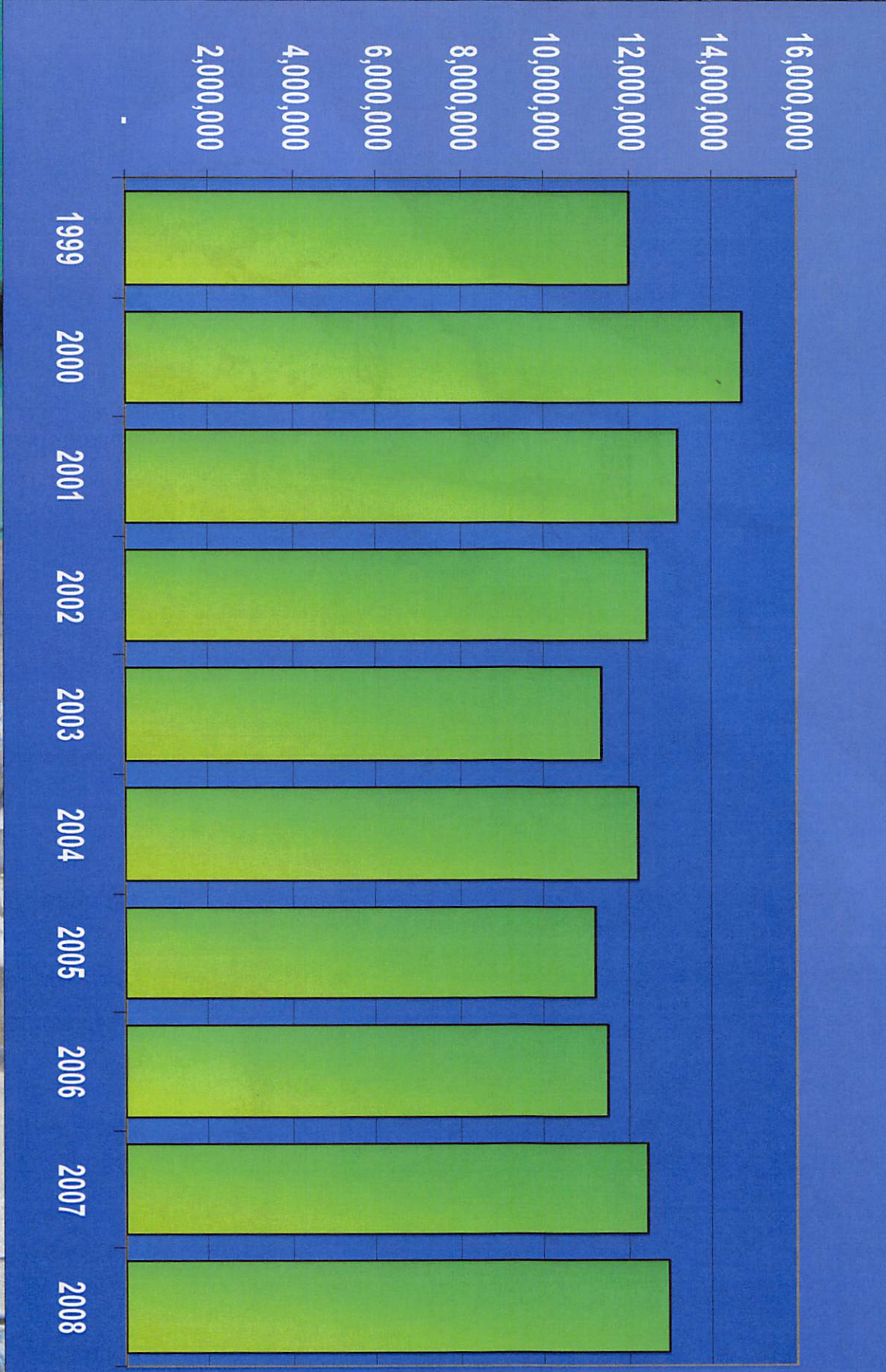


Figure 10.

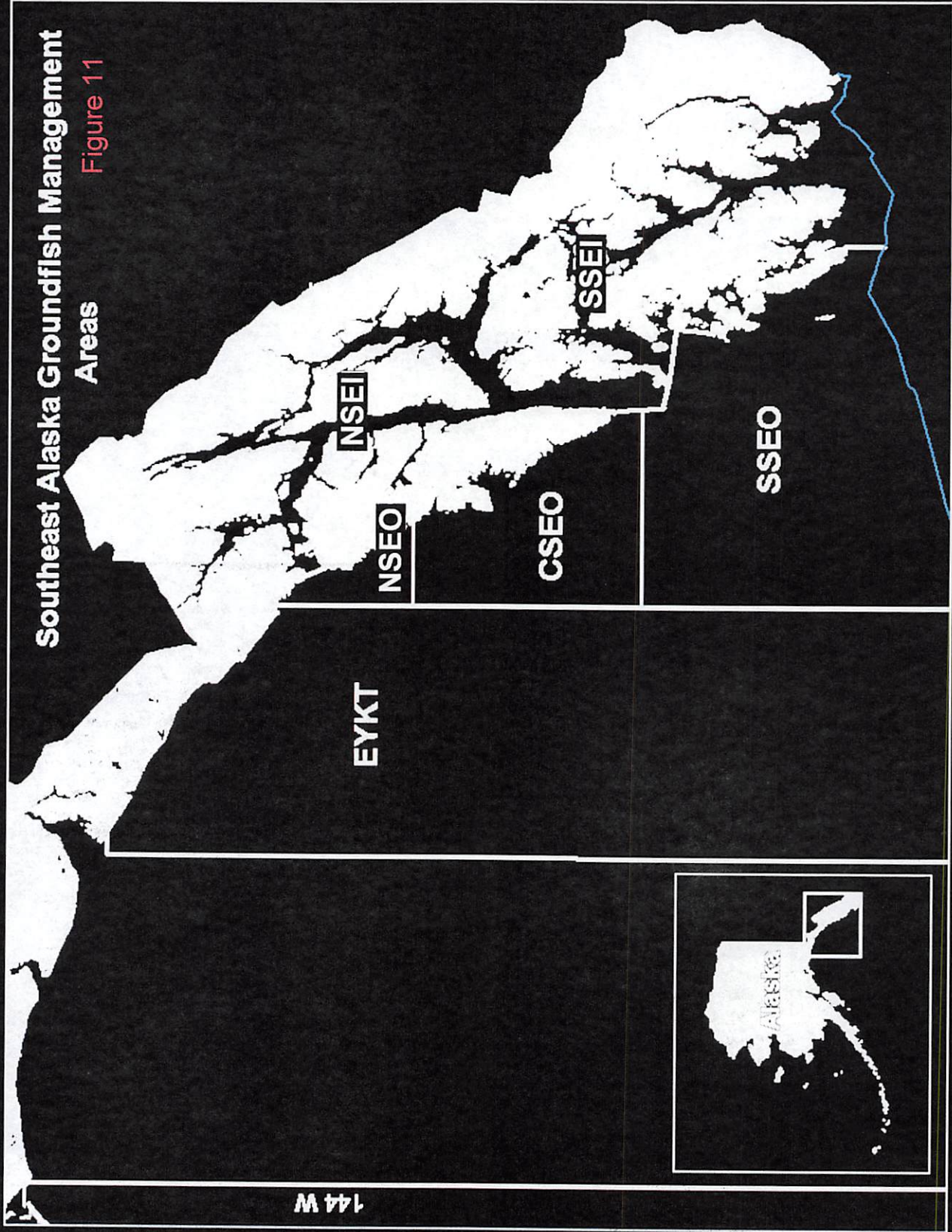
### South Alaska Peninsula State Waters Pacific Cod Harvests





# Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 11



# Alaska Board of Fisheries

Petersburg, Jan 21-27, 2009

Proposal 187 – Scallop Season

Anchorage, March 16-21, 2009

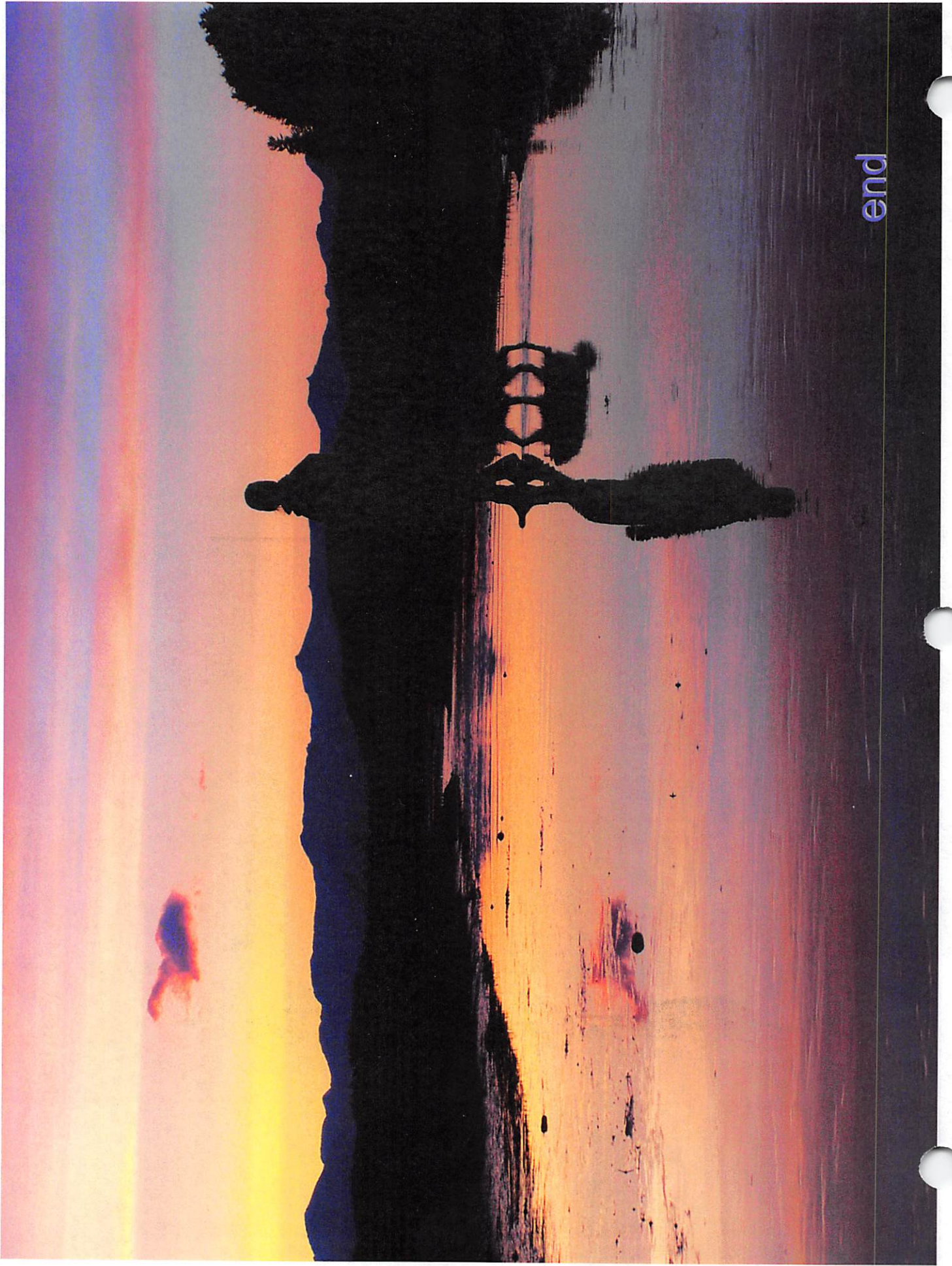
Proposal 358 – Kodiak Scallops: open area to fishing

Proposal 359 – Statewide Scallops: clarify reporting requirements

Proposal 360 – Cook Inlet Scallops: Kamishak District management strategies

Figure 12





end