



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
February 2011

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, 2010. It will remain open through April 30, 2011, 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. Latest catch estimates put the harvest at 13,481 Chinook salmon. Through December, approximately 90% of the harvest is estimated to be treaty fish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURES 2 & 3)

The 2010/11 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2010. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern individual fishing quota (IFQ) TAC is 2.835 million pounds. Through January 25, 2011, approximately 2.833 million pounds (99%) of IFQ TAC have been harvested by three vessels. All of the 315,000 pounds of community development quota (CDQ) TAC has been harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Total harvest at this point in the season is very similar to last year and two vessels are fishing so harvest data remains confidential. There has been no harvest of the Adak community allocation although one vessel has recently registered to fish. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2011.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (FIGURE 4)

The 2010/11 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery closed by regulation on January 15, 2011. The TAC for this fishery is apportioned 13.36 million pounds to the IFQ fishery and 1.48 million pounds to the CDQ fishery. Total harvest for the IFQ fishery was 13.35 million pounds, which was harvested by 65 vessels, and 10 vessels harvested 100% of the CDQ TAC.

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (FIGURE 5)

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010 with a TAC of 1.6 million pounds. A total of 1.44 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 160,000 pounds is apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Eleven vessels harvested approximately 1.107 million pounds (77%) of the IFQ TAC and three vessels harvested 156,314 pounds (97.5%) of the CDQ TAC through December 11, 2010. The season closed on February 1, 2011.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 6)

The 2010/11 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010 and will remain open through May 15, 2011 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2011 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2010/11 snow crab TAC is 54.28 million pounds and 48.85 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 5.43 million pounds is apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Harvest through January 25, 2011 is 8.57 million pounds of IFQ quota and 1.12 million pounds of CDQ quota.

Central Region Pacific cod (FIGURES 7 & 8)

Prince William Sound (PWS)

The PWS state managed Pacific cod season opens seven days after the close of the directed federal season in the Central gulf of Alaska (GOA) area. The 2011 guideline harvest level (GHL) is 1.435 million pounds (651 mt), 25% of the Eastern GOA Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC). The fishery is open to pot, jig, and longline gear and has an exclusive registration designation.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opens 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is calculated as 3.75% of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC. The 2011 GHL is 4.45 million pounds (2.02 mt) 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. 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%. Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

Westward Region Pacific cod (FIGURES 9 - 11)

Kodiak

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opens seven days after the close of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) inshore component of the Central GOA Pacific cod fishery. The 2011 GHL is 14.83 million pounds (6.7 mt) or 12.5% of the Central GOA Pacific

cod ABC. The GHL is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gear and 50% to pot gear. Vessel operators fishing with pot gear on vessels longer than 58 feet overall length are restricted to 25% of the GHL before September 1. The Kodiak Area is designated as an exclusive registration area for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

Chignik

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opens by regulation on March 1. The GHL is calculated as 8.75% of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC and is apportioned 90% to pot gear and 10% to mechanical jig and hand troll gear. The 2011 GHL is 10.38 million pounds (4.7 mt). The area is designated as a superexclusive registration area for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

South Alaska Peninsula (SAP)

The Pacific cod fishery for the SAP opens seven days after the close of the NMFS inshore component of the Western GOA Pacific cod fishery. The season opening may be delayed 24 hours (on a rolling basis for up to a week) if gale force winds are forecast in the area between Castle Cape and Cape Sarichef. The 2011 GHL is 16.74 million pounds (7.6 mt) or 25% of the Western GOA Pacific cod ABC. Vessels participating in the SAP fishery may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Pot vessel harvest is capped at 85% with the remaining GHL allocated to jig vessels. Daily catch reporting is mandatory for vessel operators using pot gear and the SAP is designated as an exclusive registration area fishery.

Alaska Board of Fisheries (FIGURE 12)

Kodiak Finfish, January 11-14, 2011

- 52 Close state waters of Sitkalidak Strait to pelagic trawling. Failed.
- 53 Close state waters of Marmot Bay to pelagic trawling. Failed.
- 56 Repeal one type of jigging machine gear (continuous line with 150 hooks). Passed.

Karluk River King Salmon Action Plan. The board adopted several regulatory changes as part of the Karluk River King Salmon Action Plan under the Sustainable Fisheries Policy. One of the changes include a year-round closure to pelagic and non-pelagic groundfish trawling in the waters from three nautical miles northeast and southwest of the mouth of the Karluk River continuing out to the state waters boundary.

Chignik Finfish and Adak Cod, January 16-19, 2011

- 83 Establish 58-foot vessel limit in parallel Pacific cod fisheries. Passed.
- 84 Modify Pacific cod fishery registration requirements. Failed.
- 85 Reduce jig allocation to 5 percent for state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Failed.
- 86 Establish rollover criteria for state-waters Pacific cod jig allocation. Failed.
- 87 Reduce jig allocation to 5 percent for state-waters Pacific cod fishery and allow pot fleet to take jig allocation if no jig vessels register. No Action- support by proposal author withdrawn.
- 88 Change season opening date for state-waters Pacific cod fishery to March 15. Passed.

- 90 Establish pre-season registration deadline to participate in state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Failed.
- 91 Implement prior participation requirements for registering for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. No Action due to lack of authority.
- 93 Repeal one type of jigging machine gear (continuous line with 150 hooks). Passed.
- 332 Stellar sea lion protection measures in Aleutian Islands. Passed. The board wrote a letter to NMFS to explain the basis of board action on Proposal 332 and to request NMFS officially classify the Kanaga Island Steller sea lion site as rookeries through federal regulation so that rookery sites can be treated consistently in state regulations.

Adak cod fishery. The board adopted an emergency regulation to open the A season Pacific cod parallel water fishery near Adak. The emergency regulation specified that in the Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Area, the state waters between 175° W. long. and 178° W. long. shall be open to fishing with trawl, pot, mechanical jigging machine gear, and hand troll gear by vessels no more than sixty feet in overall length and to fishing with longline gear by vessels no more than 58 feet in overall length. The board's intent was to have the emergency regulation effective immediately and continue for up to 120 days.

The board also generated a proposal to make this regulation permanent for the A and B season Pacific cod fisheries in the Adak area and scheduled the proposal for the March 22-26, 2011 meeting in Anchorage.

Figure 1

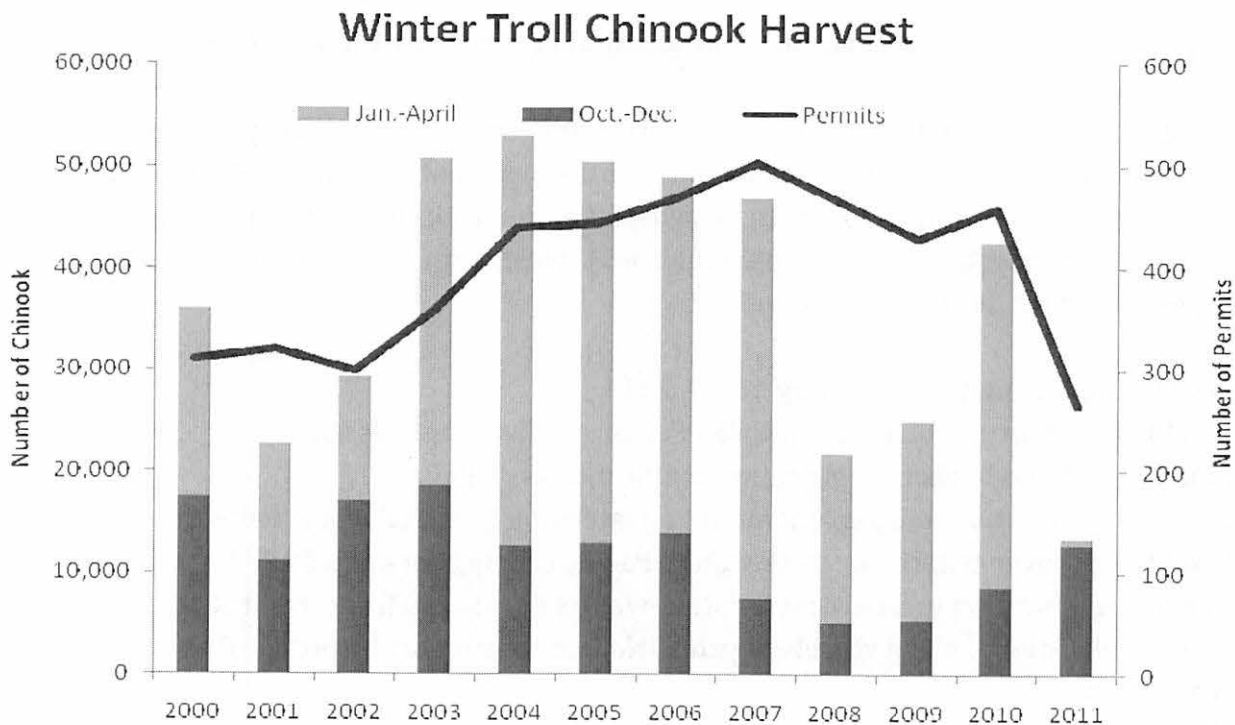


Figure 2

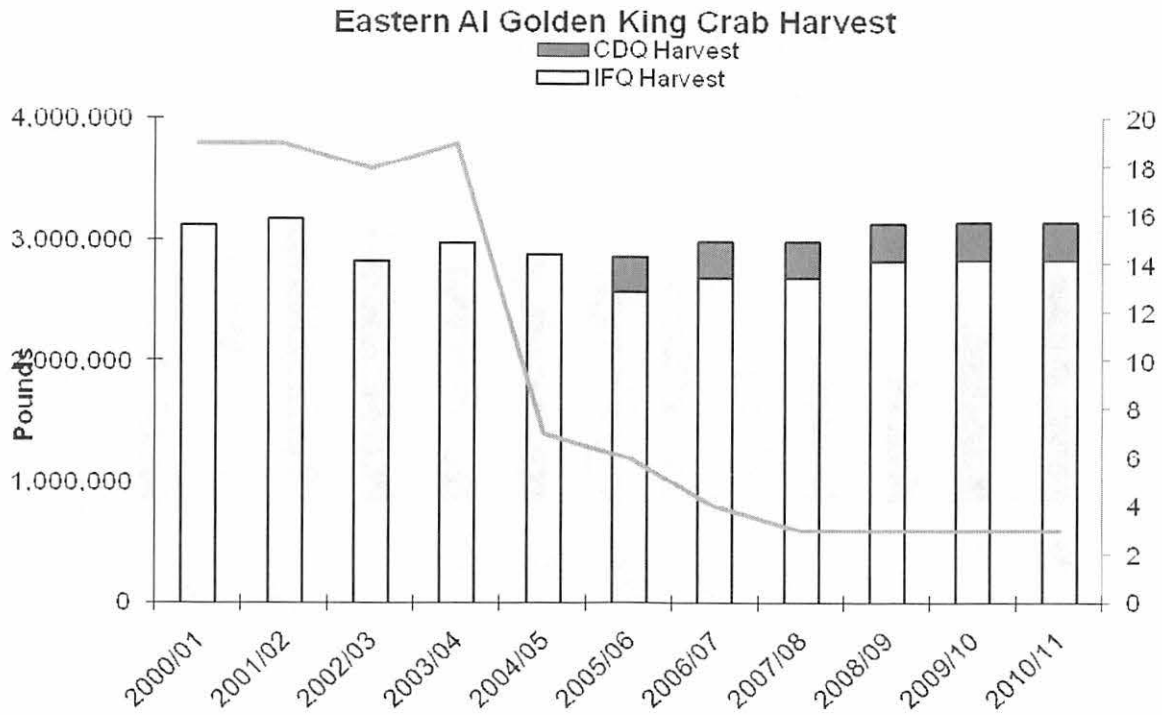


Figure 3

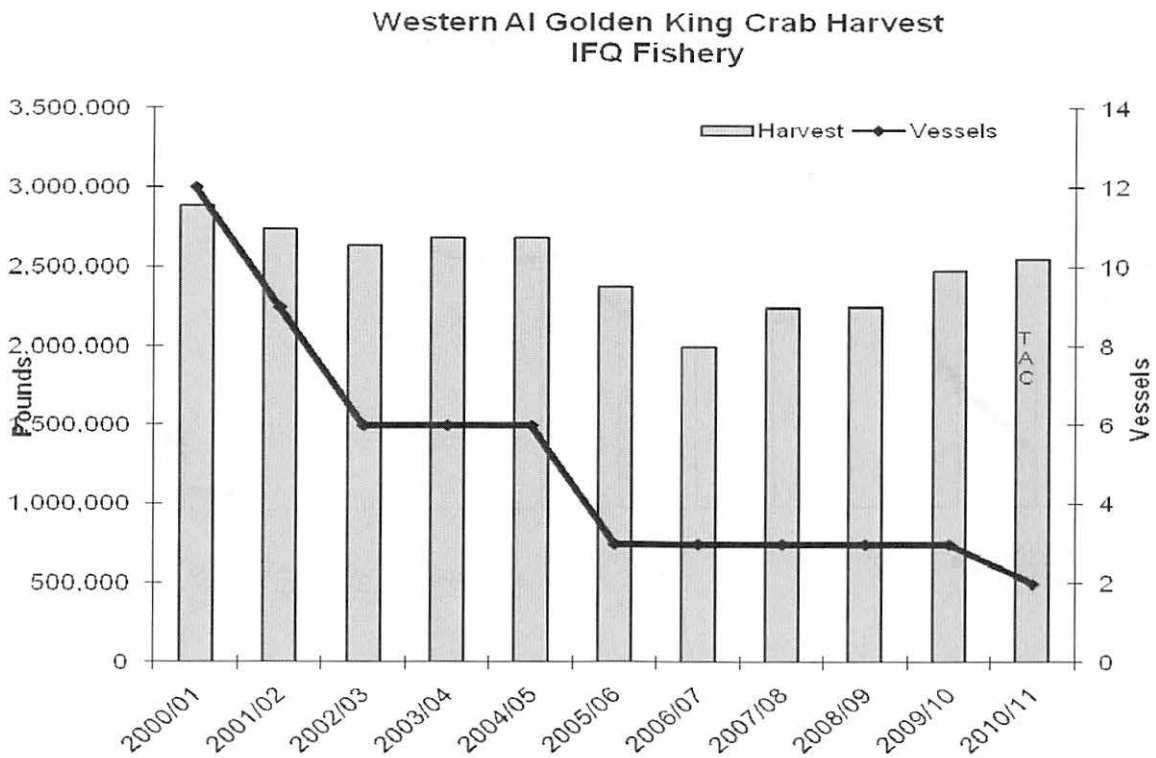


Figure 4

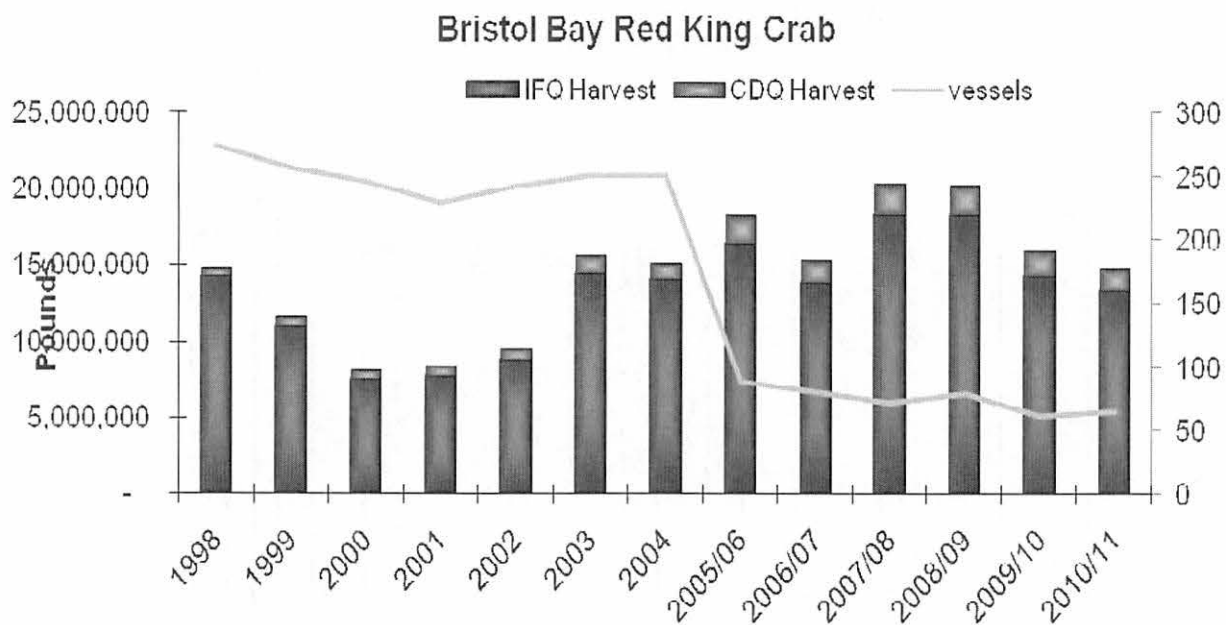


Figure 5

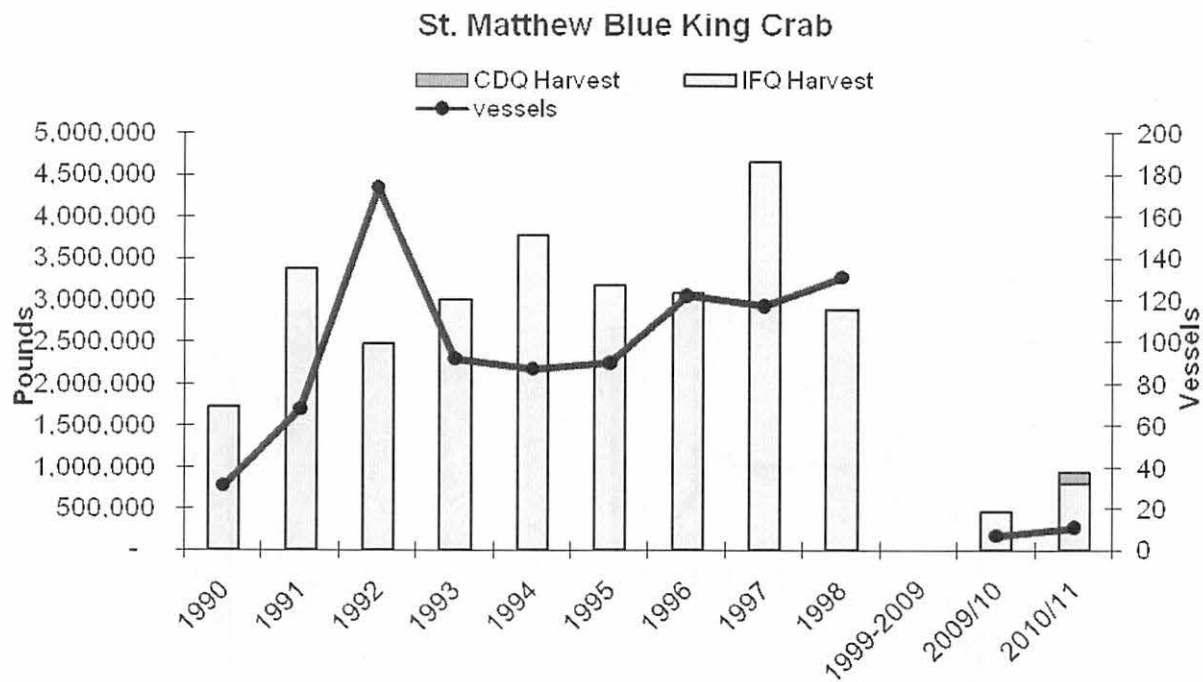


Figure 6

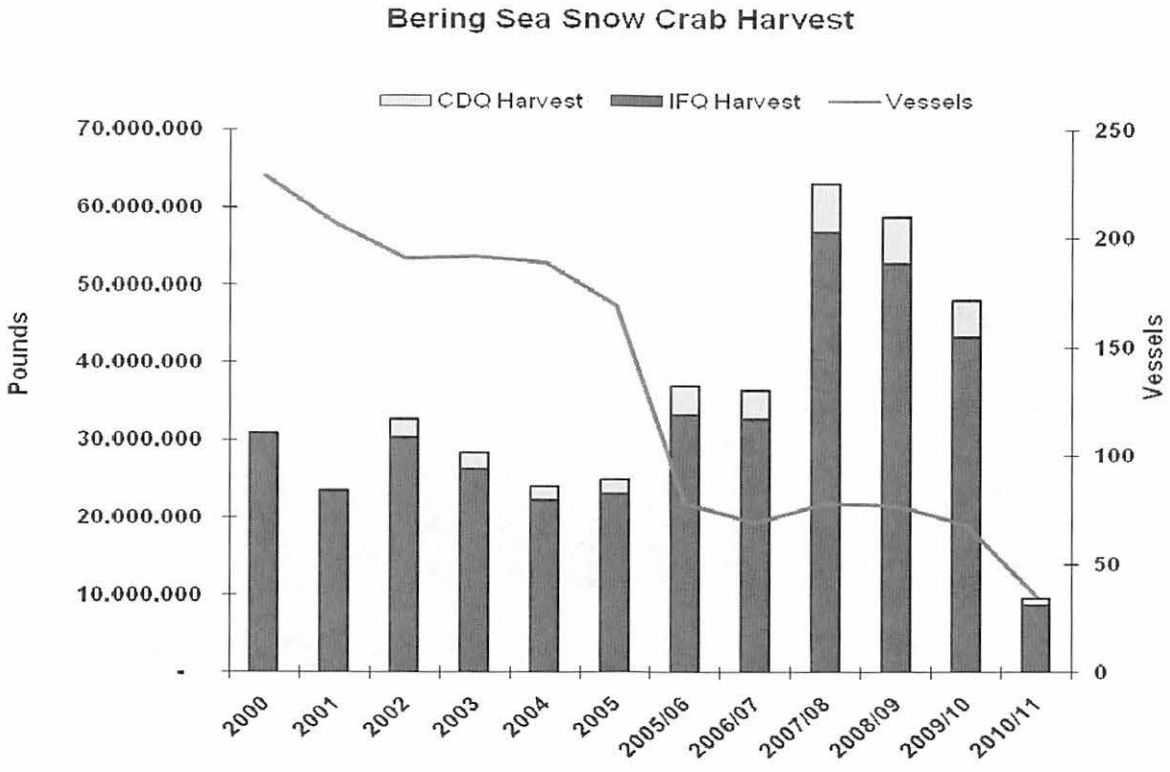


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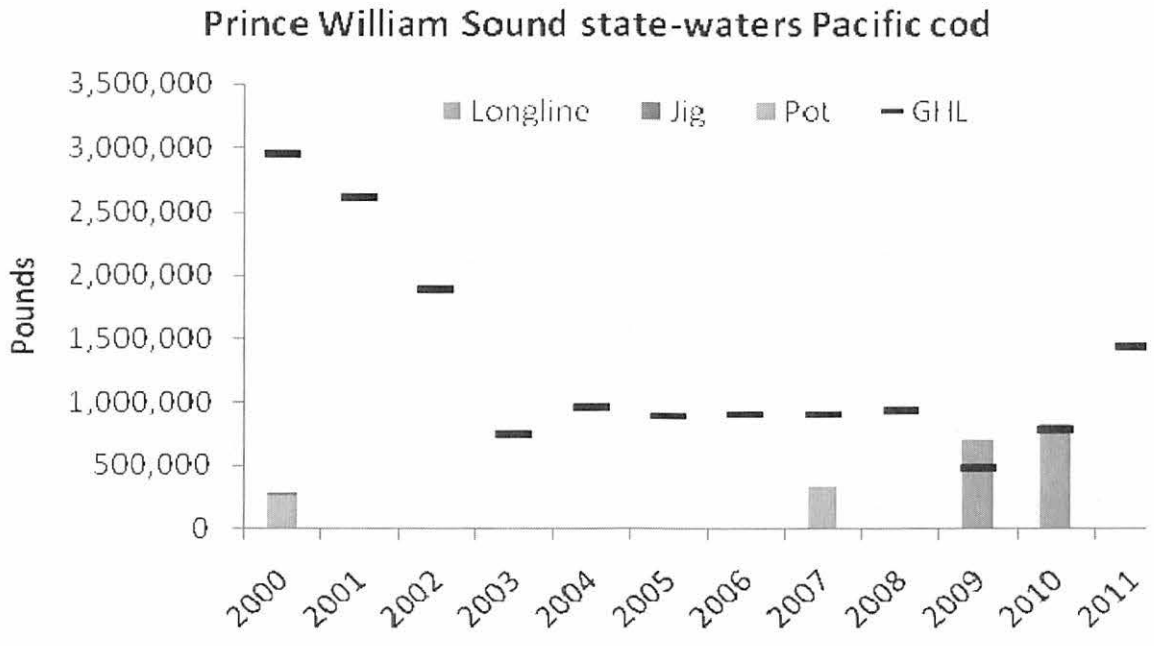


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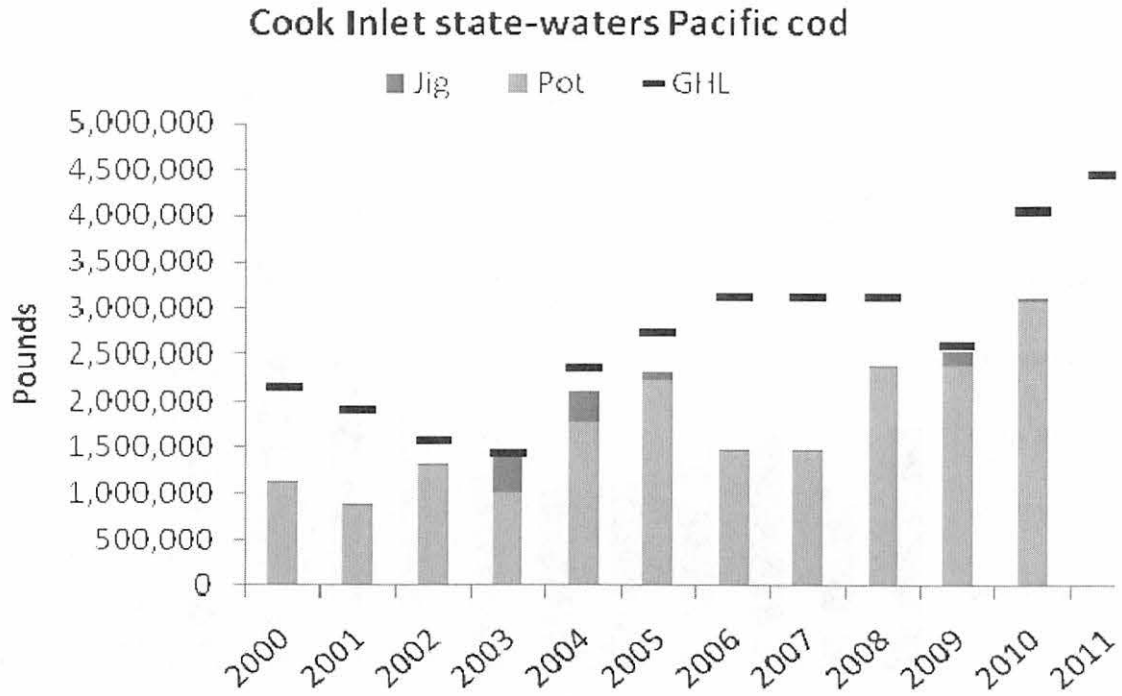


Figure 9

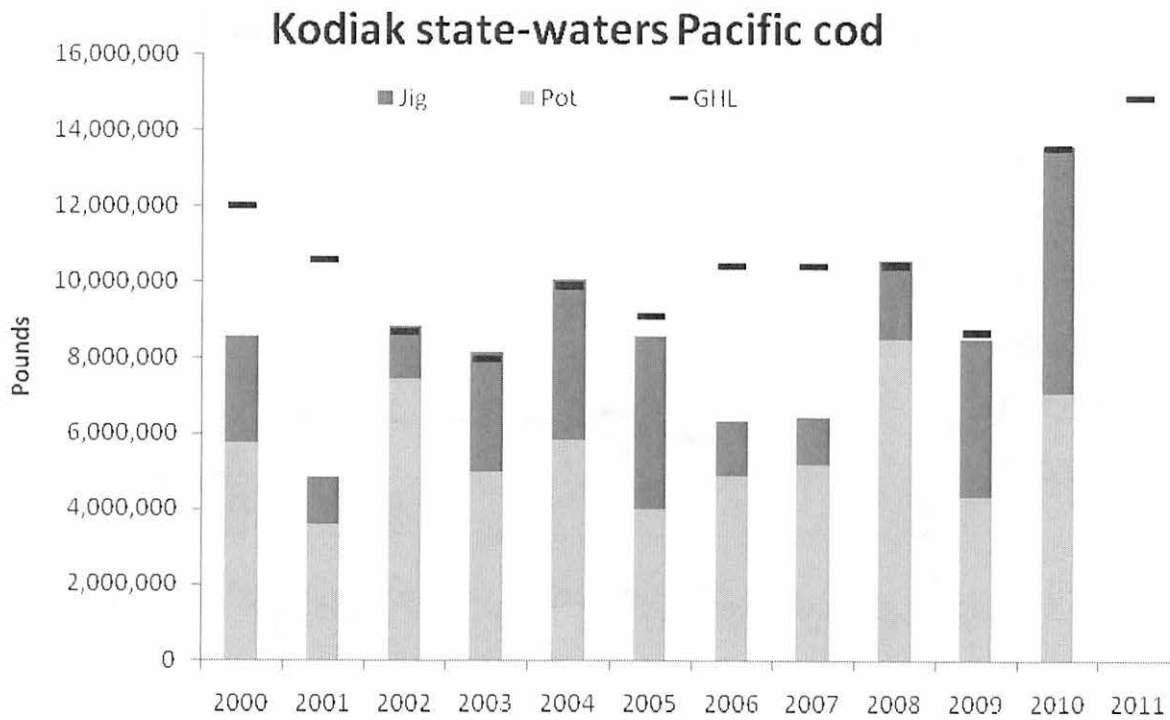


Figure 10

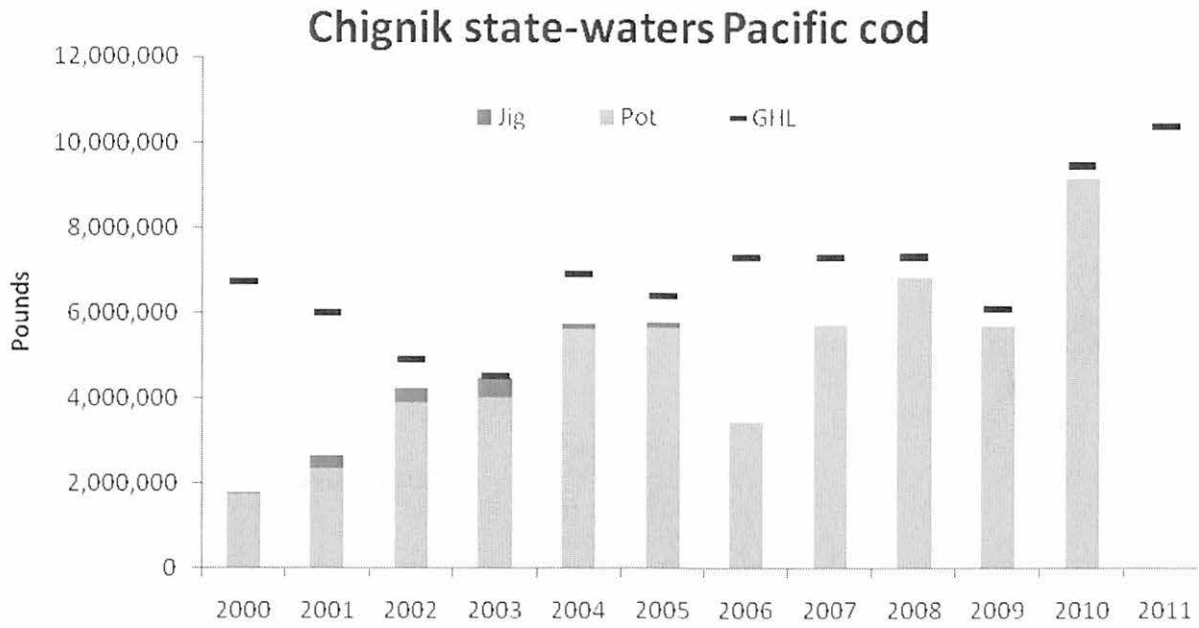


Figure 11

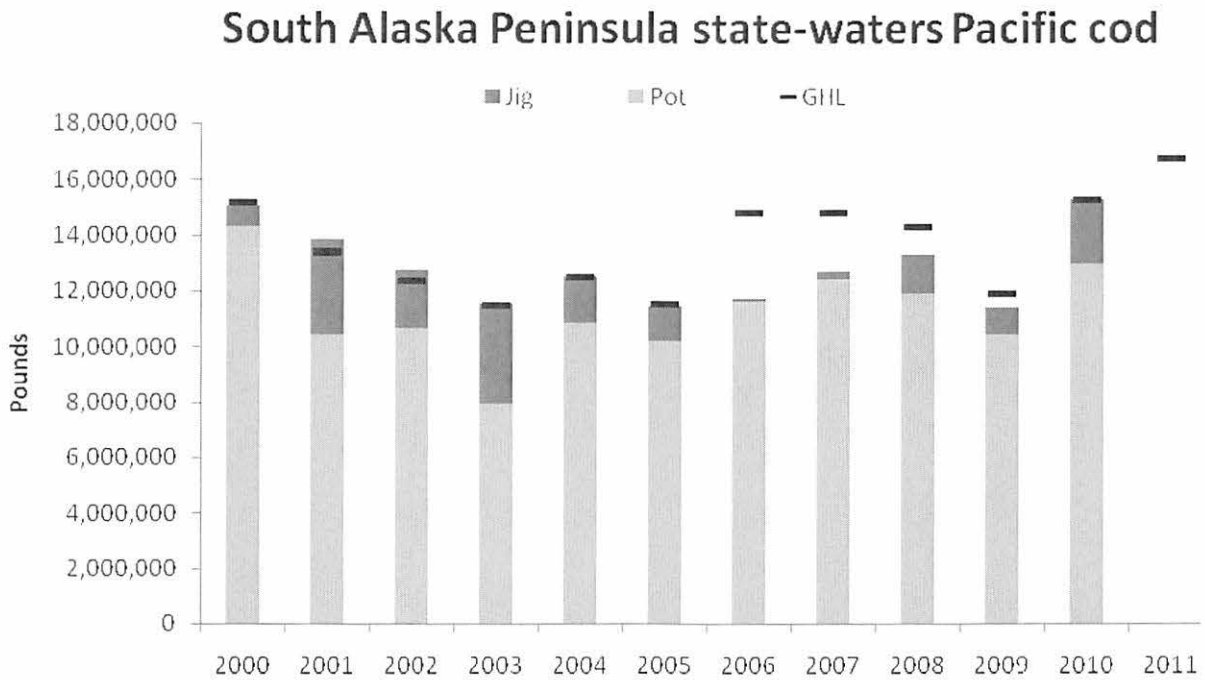


Figure 12

