FRANK H. MURKC

AGENDA B-24 DECEMBER 2005

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD of FISHERIES

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September 13, 2005

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director North Pacific Fishery Management Council 605 W. Fourth Ave., #306 Anchorage, AK 99501-2252



Dear Chris:

The Board of Fisheries will address a number of groundfish proposals during its 2004/2005 meeting cycle. I have enclosed two proposals that may be of interest to the council. The board will discuss these proposals with staff and the public at the December 1-6, 2005 meeting in Valdez.. Final action will be delayed on the enclosed proposals until March 2006, in order to receive any comment the council may have. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana Cote, Executive Director Alaska Board of Fisheries

Enclosures

cc: Earl Krygier, ADF&G

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 28.2XX. Dogfish possession and landing requirements in Prince William Sound Area. Establish a new regulation as follows:

An experimental fishery to study the biomass and explore the market.

ISSUE: The growing dogfish (shark) population in the Gulf of Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The last five years with climate changes, the dogfish population keeps growing, crab population and longliners have problems with this many dogfish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen and other species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having a fishery is the only way to get information or another climate change someday.

PROPOSED BY: Jerry McCune (HQ-05-F-104)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 28.263. Prince William Sound Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) During a directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery, no more than <u>60</u> [40] percent of the guideline harvest level may be taken from any one section described in (a) of this section.

ISSUE: The current regulations create three pollock fishing sections and restrict the harvest from any one section to 40 percent. This has proven to be unworkable because pollock aggregations do not typically occur in all three sections on an annual basis. The current management approach increases fishery bycatch by forcing fishing to occur in areas with relatively low pollock catch rates. When fishing occurs on identified pollock aggregations, pollock catch rates increase and bycatch rates decrease.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing effort will continue to occur in other sections when pollock catch rates are lower and bycatch rates are higher.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The pollock fleet should benefit from greater efficiency and bycatch resources should benefit from decreased exploitation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game	(HQ-05-F-278)
*********************************	*******

PROPOSAL 428, PAGE 320, 5 AAC 34.905(c) Description of Registration Area Q Districts. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(1) Norton Sound Section: waters north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof (61 O 49' N. lat.), and south of the latitude of (66 N. lat.).

Kotzebue Sound section: all remaining waters of the district.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Divide the Norton Sound Section (Q3) and the St Lawrence Island Section (Q4) into two new sections at 66° north latitude.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 34.905(c) Description of Registration Area Q (c) Northern District: waters of Registration Area Q north of the latitude of Cape Newenham (58 0 39' N. lat.).

- (1) Norton Sound Section: waters east of 168 °W. long., north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof (61 °49' N. lat.), and south of the latitude of Cape Prince of Wales (65 °36' N. lat.);
- (2) Saint Lawerence Island Section: all remaining waters of the district.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Owners of Norton Sound red/blue king crab permits would be able to expand their fishery into all of Section Q4 south of 66° north latitude. As written, the area of Section Q4 south of 66° north latitude would become part of the Norton Sound superexclusive registration area.

<u>BACKGROUND:</u> Some Norton Sound red/blue king crab fishermen want to expand their fishing area.

<u>DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:</u> The Department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal due to its allocative nature.

<u>Cost Analysis</u>: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. This would occur in the case where a person who could previously fish in Section Q4 and other areas (for example Q1 or T) would now be subject to the superexclusive provision in the present Section Q3 regulations.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Wayne Reglin Acting Commissioner

Commercial Fisheries Division Doug Mecum, Director



Norton Sound Crab News Release

Page 1 of 2

March 15, 2005 Nome, Alaska

Results of Board of Fisheries Meeting March 2005

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) met in Anchorage from March 7 through March 12 to decide on fisheries proposals concerning king and tanner crab. Proposals affecting Norton Sound and Kotzebue shellfish were reviewed by the Board and regulations were adopted affecting crab fishing.

The following is a brief summary of the proposals considered by the Board along with the decision taken regarding each proposal.

Proposal 427 – This proposal would prevent a Norton Sound red/blue king crab CFEC permit holder from being a crew nember on another Norton Sound red/blue king crab boat in the same season.

*roposal Failed 0-6.

Proposal 428 - 5 AAC 34.905(c) Description of Registration Area Q Districts. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(1) Norton Sound Section: waters north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof (61 ^o 49' N. lat.), and south of the latitude of (66 ^o N. lat.).

Kotzebue Sound section: all remaining waters of the district.

Board tabled the proposal. It will take it up at the next State\Federal joint board meeting.

Proposal 429 – Require all Norton Sound crabbers that deliver in state waters to hold a federal LLP. The Board took No Action. The Board of Fisheries cannot require a Federal license.

Proposal 430 – 5 AAC 34.910(f). Fishing seasons for Registration Area Q. Change the red/blue king crab summer season dates in the St. Lawrence Section (Q4) from 12:00 noon August 1 through September 3 to from 12:00 noon June 15 through August 1.

The Board modified the proposal by adding a new subsection to read: 5 AAC 34.910. Fishing seasons for Registration Area Q.

- (f) in the St. Lawrence Section,
 - (1) male red and blue king crab may be taken only as follows:
 - (A) from 12:00 noon August 1 through September 3 (summer season); and
- (g) Not withstanding (f) of this section, waters north of 66 N. lat. (Kotzebue Section), male red and blue king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon June 15 through August 1 (summer season).

 Amended Proposal passed 6-0.

Proposal 431 – 5 AAC 77.114. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.116. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Repeal these regulations as obsolete.

Proposal passed 6-0.

Agenda Item: "B-4"



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL DECEMBER 2005

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include salmon, crab and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter troll fishery for chinook salmon began October 11, 2005 and will be open through April 30, 2006 or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested. The fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. Approximately 210 permits are participating in the fishery, although recent effort has dropped to about two dozen vessels as we approach the holiday seasons. Landings are above last year's fishery for this same time period, but below the most recent 5-year average. Price is considerably higher than for this same time period last year, with the mid-

November price as high as \$6.00 per pound. Overall, average prices this winter have been about \$0.74 per pound more than paid during the 2004/05 season.

Aleutian Islands Golden king crab (FIGURE 2)

The rationalized Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened by regulation on August 15, 2005. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the fishery is divided at 174° West longitude, with the eastern portion assigned a TAC of 3.0 million pounds (2.7 million to IFQ, 0.3 million to CDQ) while the western portion was assigned a TAC of 2.7 million pounds (2.43 million IFQ and 0.27 to the newly created Adak Community Allocation (ACA)).

There are currently 4 vessels fishing in Area O. Landings from Area O total approximately 4.0 million pounds at this time.

Bristol Bay red king crab (FIGURE 3)

The Bristol Bay red king crab TAC was set at 18.329 million, or approximately 16.496 million pounds for the IFQ fishery. There are 89 boats registered for the fishery, with approximately 15 fishing at this time. There are about 15,700 pots registered. The Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) to date is 24 retained legal crab per pot lift. This is about the same as last year's 23 per pot, and the highest seen since the 1980 season. The average weight is 6.6 pounds, which is consistent with the most recent 10-year average. Approximately 90 percent of IFQ TAC has been landed through to date.

Bering Sea Snow and Tanner crab (FIGURES 4a, 4b)

There were 109 vessels that registered for the snow and Tanner crab fisheries preseason. The Bering Sea snow crab TAC was set at 37.184 million pounds, which would be 33.466 million pounds for the IFQ fishery. Two vessels have registered inseason for the snow crab fishery, with only one boat currently fishing.

In the Bering Sea District west of 166° West longitude the 2005/06 TAC was determined to support an IFQ fishery of 1.458 million pounds, from an overall TAC of about 1.62 million pounds. Three vessels have registered inseason for the Tanner crab fishery, with only one boat currently fishing. The season CPUE has been 40 retained, legal crab per pot lift. The average weight has been approximately 2.2 pounds; similar to those seen when the fishery was last prosecuted years ago. Approximately 16 percent of IFQ TAC landed through the end of November.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Prince William Sound

The 2005 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 2, 2005, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL has been set at 896,620 pounds, which is calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. Effort to date has been by two pot fishermen, so landings data remain confidential.

Cook Inlet

In Cook Inlet, the state waters fishery opened January 27, 2004, which was twenty-four hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL for the 2005 state waters season is 2.74 million pounds. That GHL was calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. To date, 23 vessels have made approximately 209 landings totaling approximately 2.2 million pounds. The season closed to pot gear on March 26, 2005, with total catches at just more than 2.1 million pounds. Since the jig fleet did not harvest their allocation by September 1, 2005, by regulation the fishery reopened to pot gear at that time. Both fisheries remain open.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

There has been very little activity in the region since the last report.

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)

The Kodiak fishery opened on February 2, 2005. The GHL is 9.13 million pounds, which is 12.5 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 4.56 million pounds each. In anticipation of reaching their quota, the fishery closed to the use of pot gear at 2 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2005. Fifty-three pot fishermen made 162 landings in twelve days, totaling approximately 4 million pounds of Pacific cod. After receiving the last fish tickets, it was determined that there were approximately 500,000 pounds remaining on the pot gear allocation. The department announced that we would reopen the pot gear state water fishery once the federal 'B' season closed. The federal 'B' season opened on September 1, 2005 and was expected to close sometime in November. Harvest and participation has been low. If this quota had been caught we were prepared to have a mop up fishery for the remaining state-waters pot quota, but that now does not appear to the case. The season closed to fishermen using jig gear on April 21, 2005, when it was determined that they had reached their allocation.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

The Chignik area Pacific cod season opened by regulation on March 1, 2005. The GHL is 6.39 million pounds, which is calculated as 8.75 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is split to allow pot fishermen 90 percent of the quota. Sixteen pot fishermen made 222 landings, catching approximately 5.65 million pounds of cod. That season closed on May 10, 2005. Nine jig fishermen continued to fish, with a catch of about 131,000 pounds from 43 landings to date. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan allows Pacific cod remaining on the 2005 jig-gear guideline harvest level (GHL) to be taken on or after August 15 by either pot or jig gear. Through August 15, 2005 there were 602,000 pounds remaining on the 2005 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL.

Effective August 15, 2005 both pot and jig gear may register and take Pacific cod until the total Chignik Area GHL is achieved or until the fishery closes on December 31, 2005. Harvest allocations between gear types will not be in effect for the remainder of the 2005 state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessel operators are reminded that the Chignik Area is superexclusive registration. Vessel size is limited to no more than 58 feet overall length. Operators in the Chignik Area will continue to be limited to no more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines per vessel. While the season remains open there has not been any activity.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)

The Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula opened on March 3, 2005, which was seven days after the closure of the federal fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska. The GHL is 11.53 million pounds, which is 25 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC. The harvest is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. There were 42 pot fishermen registered for the fishery and they made 286 landings totaling approximately 10.2 million pounds. As that exceeded their allocation, the fishery closed to the use of pot gear on March 24, 2005. The jig sector, with 47 fishermen registered to date, has harvested approximately 1.2 million pounds through 264 landings. The jig season had not closed prior to September 1, 2005. Under normal circumstances, the open state water season would pre-empt the federal season; however, there had not been any effort for several months, the amount remaining for harvest was small, and the opened federal season would not restrict jig fishing. The department therefore closed the state waters jig season to allow the federal parallel season to open within state waters. Fishing has been slow.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 10)

The Chatham Strait Sablefish longline fishery closed November 15, 2005. The harvest objective for Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) was 2,053,000 round pounds for the 106 permit holders. The reported catch is 2,011,000 lbs as of November 15, 2006. The Clarence Strait Sablefish pot fishery also closed November 15, 2005. The Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) combined harvest objective for longline and pot gear was 696,000 round pounds for the 28 permit holders. Approximately 100,500 lbs was harvested in the pot fishery, bringing the total SSEI combined harvest to 640,000 lbs.

The 2005 Fall season Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) directed fishery opens in NSEI and portions of SSEI on November 16, 2005. Allocations are 49,000 lbs and 46,000 pounds respectively.

The Winter season DSR fishery will open January 1, 2006 only in NSEI and portions of SSEI. Waters of the Southeast Outside district will not open as the directed fishery has been preempted by bycatch in the commercial halibut fishery and by the guided and nonguided sport fish fishery in the Southeast Outside area.

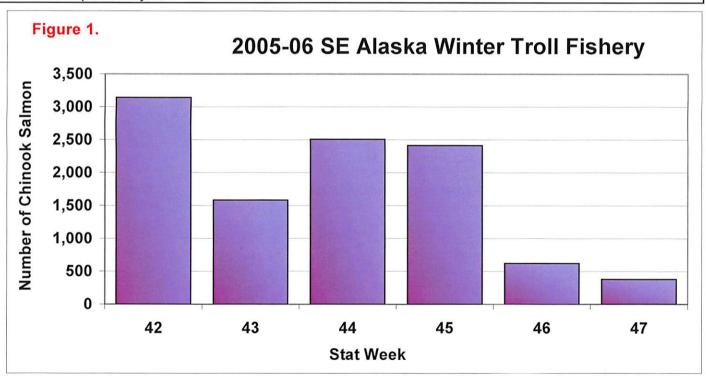
Other business (FIGURE 11)

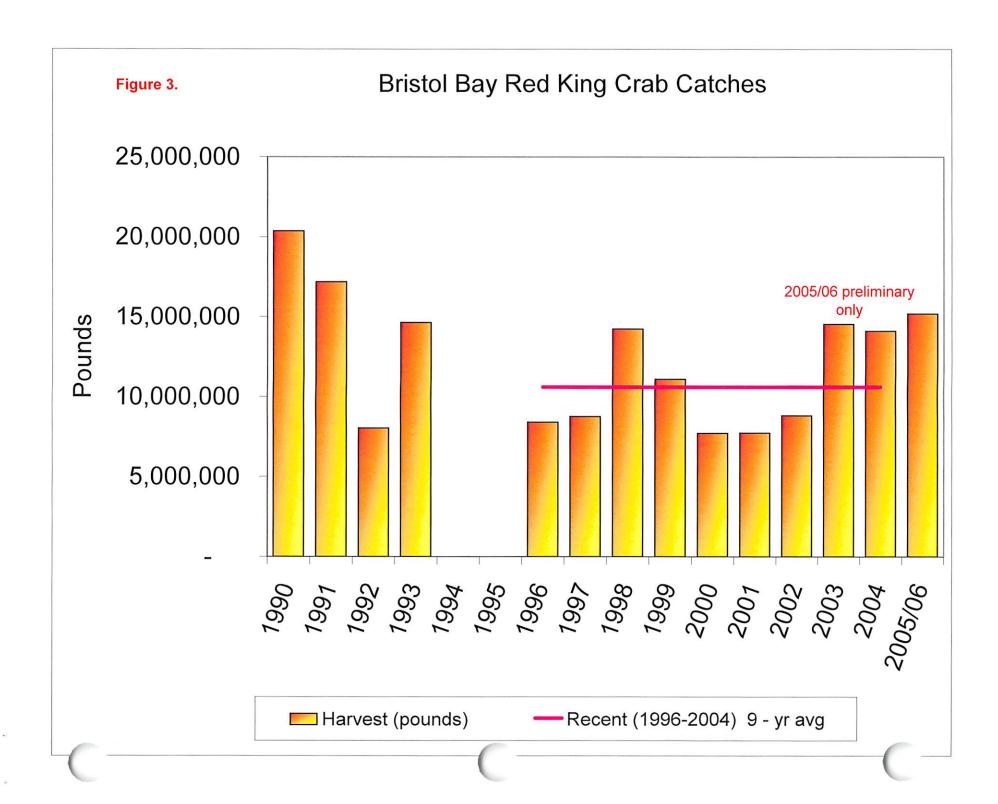
Review the following Alaska Board of Fishery proposals - 73, 75 and 428, and the Norton Sound Crab News Release dated march 15, 2005 under B-4 ADFG report. Proposal 73 is a groundfish proposal that addresses implementation of an experimental dogfish fishery in the Prince William Sound area. Proposal 75 was submitted by the department to improve management of the Prince William Sound directed pollock fishery and decrease bycatch in that fishery. Proposal 428 addresses changes to the red king crab fisheries in the Norton Sound area that would allow fishermen participating in that superexclusive fishery to expand current fishing areas. The fishery is prosecuted under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the king and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands.

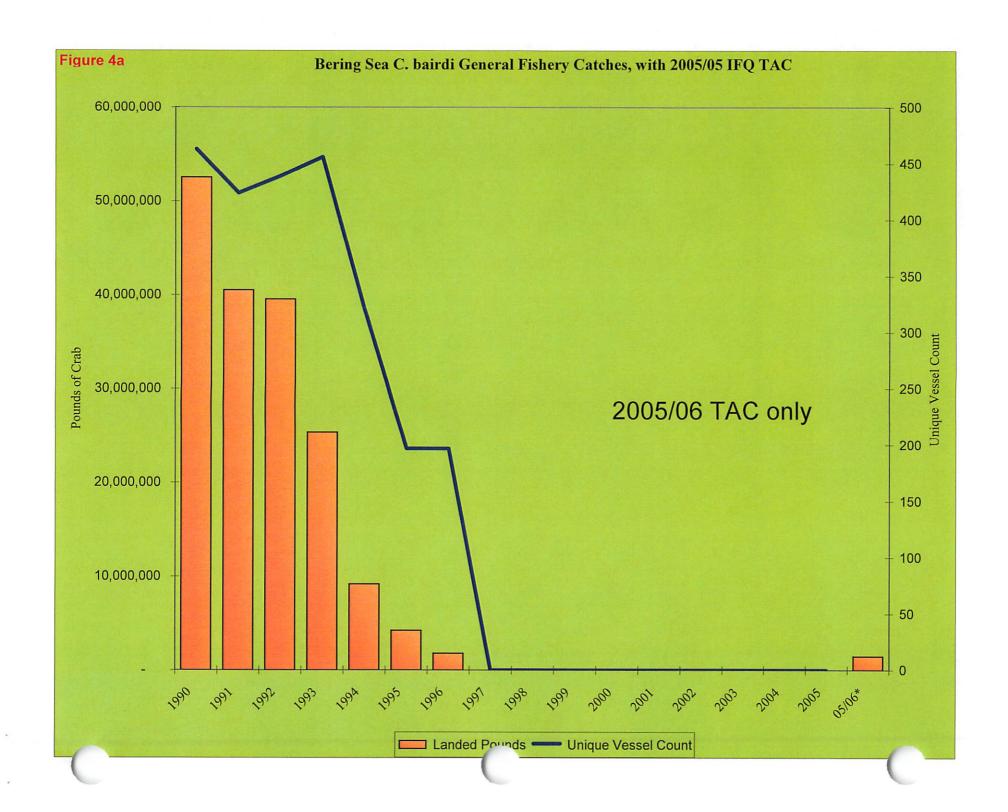
This would be a Category 2 management measure (frameworked in the FMP) under that falls under Section 8.2.4 of the FMP covering Districts Subdistricts, and Section Boundaries. It specifically is addressed under criteria number 5 of that section; that states "if part of an area is relatively unutilized and unexplored, and if creation of a new district, subdistrict, or section will encourage exploration and utilization". This area is not currently utilized by either opilio or king crab fishermen participating in the rationalized crab fisheries. You may elect to discuss and schedule any pertinent actions for your next Joint Protocol Committee meeting.

Southeast Alaska Winter Troll Fishery, through November 18, 2005

2006				Number of			
season	Week	Permits	Landings	Chinook	Pounds	Ave Price	Ave Wt.
	42	114	133	3,142	43,289	\$4.53	13.8
	43	89	117	1,583	20,115	\$4.47	12.7
	44	100	129	2,505	33,247	\$4.98	13.3
	45	107	161	2,414	31,685	\$5.45	13.1
	46	47	57	623	8,142	\$5.66	13.1
	47	24	25	381	4,937	\$6.00	13
	Total	210	622	10,648	141,415	\$4.95	13.3
Note: Data is	preliminary and	d based on fish	tickets receiv	ed.			•







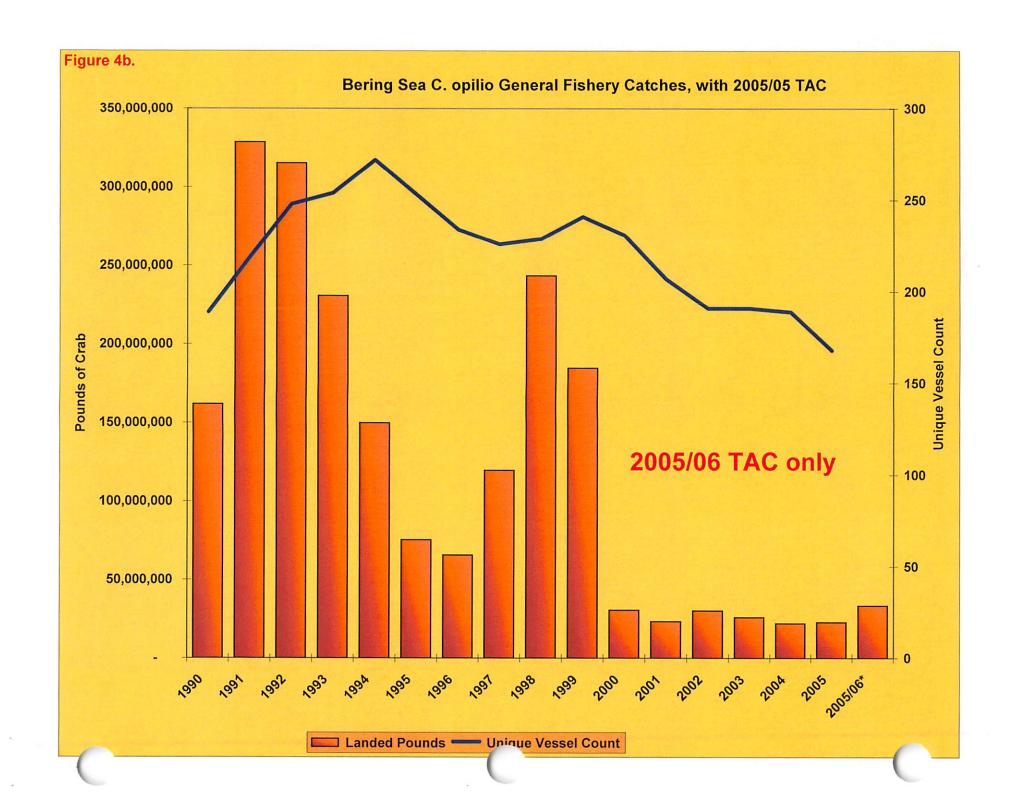


Figure 5. 2005 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through November 30

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 (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Jigs (26)	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	3	confidential	confidential		
Longline (61)	39	79	24,489	21	36	10,966		
Pots (91)	7	38	167,320	0	0	0		
Totals	46	117	191,809	24	36	10,966		
Status		Closed		Closed				
Federal seasons:	Directed Opened - Closed Directed Opened - Closed					ed		
Central Gulf	Jan 1 - noon Jan 26 Jan 1 - noon Jan 26							

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 In	let Managem	nent Area	*Prince William Sound			
GHL (lb)		2,740,000		896,620 @ 10% EGOA			
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jigs (26) 684,473	12	2 28 90,734		0	0	0	
Pots (91) 2,053,420	11	193	2,157,528	3	confidential	confidential	
Totals	23	221	2,248,262	3	confidential	confidential	
State seasons:	(Opened - Close	d	Opened - Closed			
Jigs (26)	noon	Jan 27 -		noon Feb 2 -			
*Status		Open		Open			
Pots (91)	noon	Jan 27 - noon M	March 16	noon Feb 2 -			
	noon March 16 - 3 PM March 26			0			
		Sept 1 -		0			
*Status		Open			Open		

^{*}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.

^{*}Gear and exclusive area registrations removed effective October 31

Figure 6. 2005 STATE MANAGED GROUNDFISH PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK

THE THE PARTY OF THE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	K	ODIAK				
Vessel Registration	Total	Pot	Jig			
Current	0	0	0			
Overall	196	53	143			
2005 GHL	9.13 Million Pounds					

Pot	Jig
0	9
16	9
	0

Total	Pot	Jig
47	0	47
89	42	47

UPDATED: 8/16/2005

ALLOCATIONS:

50% Jigs, 50% Pots

Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1.

Jigs = 4.56 million, Pots = 4.56 million, >58' pots 2.28 before Sept. 1.

90% Pots, 10% Jigs

Pots = 5.75 million

Jigs = .63 million

85% Pots, 15% Jigs

Pots = 9.80 million Jigs = 1.73 million

Fishery opened 2/2		ots	J	gs	F	Pots Jigs Pots			Jigs			
DATES:	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
2/2 to 2/5	42	998,831	26	105,197	Fish	ery Opens 3/	1/05 at 12:0	01am	Fishery ope	ns 7 days after	Federal W	GOA closes
2/6 to 2/12	78	1,966,597	25	62,537	Fish	ery Opens 3/	1/05 at 12:0	01am	Fishery ope	ns 7 days after	Federal W	GOA closes
2/13 to 2/19	42	1,012,408	44	203,824	Fish	ery Opens 3/	1/05 at 12:0	01am	Fishery ope	ns 7 days after	Federal W	GOA closes
2/20 to 2/26	Clos	ed 2/13	51	212,386	Fish	ery Opened 3	/1/05 at 12:	:01am		Fishery Open	ed 3/3/05 at	Noon
2/27 to 3/5	Clos	ed 2/13	65	283,483	7	223,205	0	0	19	378,654	C	onfidential
3/6 to 3/12	Clos	ed 2/13	8	41,792	14	383,642	0	0	64	1,603,059	4	20,215
3/13 to 3/19	Clos	ed 2/13	88	545,450	19	500,316	0	0	101	3,651,553	30	160,567
3/20 to 3/26	Clos	ed 2/13	109	625,020	21	634,046	0	0	93	4,056,265	59	359,480
3/27 to 4/2	Clos	ed 2/13	82	388,934	22	534,866	0	0	9	516,342	24	78,315
4/3 to 4/9	Clos	ed 2/13	114	664,102	22	461,062	6	19,201	Closed 3/24		53	267,507
4/10 to 4/16	Close	ed 2/13	127	773,548	22	609,634	4	8,923	Clos	ed 3/24	30	106,607
4/17 to 4/23	Close	ed 2/13	138	662,510	28	696,152	6	23,398	Clos	ed 3/24	27	117,662
4/24 to 4/30	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	26	643,696	6	24,605	Clos	ed 3/24	22	75,605
5/1 to 5/7	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	24	586,167	5	31,258	Clos	ed 3/24	11	39,074
5/8 to 5/14	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	17	377,797	Confi	idential	Clos	ed 3/24	C	onfidential
5/15 to 5/21	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Clos	ed 5/10	4	10,127	Clos	ed 3/24	4	14,537
5/22 to 5/28	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Clos	ed 5/10	12	13,954	Clos	ed 3/24		No Effort
5/29 to 6/4	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Clos	ed 5/10	Confi	idential	Clos	ed 3/24	1	No Effort
6/5 to 6/11	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Clos	ed 5/10	Confi	idential	Clos	ed 3/24	1	No Effort
6/12 to 6/18	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Clos	ed 5/10	No	Effort	Clos	ed 3/24	1	No Effort
6/19 to 8/13	Close	ed 2/13	Close	d 4/21	Ope	n 8/15	No	Effort	Clos	ed 3/24	1	No Effort
ACCUMULATIVE	162	3,977,836	877	4,568,783	222	5,650,583	43	131,466	286	10,205,873	264	1,239,569
CATCH	(Total combine			6,619	(Total combine		and the second second	2,049	(Total combined			,445,442

CONFIDENTIAL = less than 4 boats; data combined with following week

