

**Agenda Item: "B-5"**



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 2004**

Fisheries managed under delegated authority to the State of Alaska since the last council report includes salmon, crab and groundfish.

**Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)**

The Southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest quota was 383,500 fish for all gears (the largest quota since 1985 when the Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed). The 2004 chinook salmon quota for troll gear was approximately 287,000 fish. The department's management program to rebuild stocks in Southeast Alaska streams for U.S. and Canada transboundary rivers began in the 1970's. Harvests were selectively decreased on chinook stocks by managers to allow escapements and stocks to increase. During the early 1990's, ADF&G improved and expanded the management program. Mark-recapture tagging projects were established on many of the large glacial rivers to estimate total escapement and enable better, more precise management on the Alsek, Chilkat, Taku, Stikine, Unuk and Chickamin Rivers. In addition, Biological Escapement Goals have been established for 11 key systems using sophisticated analysis of the

production data for the stocks. Chinook salmon harvests and escapements were excellent for 2004, banking on improved ocean survival and the department's commitment to comprehensive, long range chinook salmon rebuilding programs. The first general summer troll opening commenced on first of July, and ran through the fifteenth of the month. Catch was about 190,000 chinook salmon. The second chinook opening for trollers ran from August 12-15, 2004. During that period the fleet harvest rate that was approximately 4,400 fish/day greater than the previous high. Summer troll catches totaled approximately 245,000 chinook salmon. Preliminary "final" chinook numbers for this 2004 troll catch (winter, spring and summer seasons) total approximately 354,635 (highest catch since 1978 and second highest since statehood). Net catches in Southeast totaled about 63,900 (highest since statehood). The Southeast chinook salmon sport fish harvest has been estimated at 81,000. Therefore the total chinook salmon catch in Southeast reached approximately 501,000, making it the highest catch since 1952.

Prices paid during this summer were the highest seen for several years in that fishery, peaking at approximately \$2.40/lb.

Coho salmon abundance was also high this summer. While scheduled to close by regulation on September 20, 2004, the department extended the troll season through the end of the month. Region-wide power troll catch rates had been excellent for the past couple of weeks and were significantly above the record level established in 1994 in the southern and central outside areas and Icy Strait/Cross Sound area.

As an aside, the coho salmon season this summer was unusual due to warm weather and higher water temperatures. Fish were very deep with trollers generally catching them at twice their normal depth fished. Water temperatures this summer reached more than 64°F, with several area reports topping the 70°F mark.

The 2005 Winter Troll chinook salmon fishery begins on October 11, 2004.

### **Western Aleutian Islands Golden king crab (FIGURE 2)**

The eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on August 15, 2004 and closed on August 29, 2004. Harvest is estimated at 2.9 million pounds from a Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) of 3.0 million pounds. This is the shortest season on record. Nineteen vessels participated, and catch rates were high. The fishery value is approximately \$9.1 million. The golden king crab fishery west of 174° W continues at this time. There are six vessels participating in the fishery at this time. Currently, landings total less than one million pounds on a GHL of 2.7 million pounds.

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

The Bristol Bay red king crab stock is estimated to be above the minimum stock size and mature female abundance thresholds. The Effective Spawning Biomass (ESB) of the Bristol Bay red king crab stock is estimated to be 61.9 million pounds. Based on the 2004 data, ESB increased 7% between 2003 and 2004. Mature male abundance increased 6% over the 2003 estimate and legal male abundance increased 3%. Since the ESB estimate is greater than 55.0 million pounds, a 15 percent exploitation rate was applied to the estimated mature male abundance to derive guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the 2004 season as follows:

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>GHL (millions)</b>
Bristol Bay (General Fishery)	14.267*
Bristol Bay (CDQ Fishery)	1.157
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.424</b>

\*The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has capped the American Fisheries Act (AFA) vessels to their historic proportion of the Bristol Bay red king crab harvest during the general fishery. The 41 AFA vessels' harvest will be capped at 10.96 percent (1.564 million pounds) of the general fishery GHL.

### **Bering Sea C. opilio crab (FIGURE 4)**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have completed analysis of NMFS trawl survey results for the Bering Sea District snow crab stock.

The total mature biomass (TMB) of male and female snow crabs in the Bering Sea is estimated to be above the minimum threshold for a fishery opening under the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) harvest strategy. The 2005 snow crab guideline harvest level (GHL) is 20.932 million pounds. Of this total, 1.57 million pounds are available to the Community Development Quota fishery with the remaining 19.362 million pounds available to the general fishery.

Total mature snow crab biomass increased 12% from the 2003 survey, to 343.7 million pounds, and is below the minimum stock size threshold of 460.8 million pounds. The estimated abundance of males greater than four inches carapace width (CW) is 67.6 million crabs, an increase from the 2003 abundance level of 65 million crabs. Old and very-old shell males constitute 33% of males greater than four inches CW, which is comparable to the 2003 estimate of 30%.

The 2005 Bering Sea snow crab pot limit will be 70 pots for vessels less than or equal to 125 feet in overall length and 90 pots for vessels greater than 125 feet in overall length. The regulatory opening date for this fishery is noon on January 15, 2005 in all waters of the Bering Sea District west of 166° W long. The preseason vessel registration deadline to participate in the 2005 Bering Sea snow crab fishery is 5:00 PM December 24, 2004.

#### **Bering Sea *C. bairdi* crab (FIGURE 5)**

As a reminder to the Council, during development of crab rationalization, current state management practices were inadvertently overlooked when the Council defined the bairdi fishery. A directed fishery for this species has not occurred since the 1997 season. The council listed the bairdi fishery as Eastern Bering Sea Tanner. However, the department has been directed to manage the resource as two distinct groups of crab since implementation of the Eastern Subdistrict C. bairdi crab harvest strategy by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 1999. Current state regulations split management of the Bering Sea bairdi fishery at 168° W longitude. The department has submitted a proposal to the Board of Fisheries that would modify that regulation. The proposal, number 421, is a placeholder for consideration of a multitude of state regulations which may need to be modified in conjunction with the federal rationalization of crab

fisheries in the Bering Sea. Consideration of that proposal will occur at their scheduled March 7-13, 2005 meeting in Anchorage. Proposed changes would provide for an area split for the Tanner crab GHL to be along the 166° W longitude line. This represents a better historic boundary as the eastern Tanner crab Total Allowable Catch could be harvested along with Bristol Bay red king crab while western Tanner could be harvested with snow crab.

At their recent meeting in Juneau, the Crab Plan Team discussed the rationale for the change in the boundary. It was explained that the boundary was initially drawn at 168° W longitude due to concurrence with Bristol Bay red king crab, but that recent fishery performance and evidence shows that a better alignment with snow crab fishery would be at 166° W longitude. While the purpose of the original split in GHL was biologically based, the movement of the line from 168° W to 166° W longitude would be for improved management under concurrent fisheries. Public in attendance noted that the industry has had numerous discussions with the Board of Fisheries, the Crab Rationalization Task Force and the department, and that the department worked with industry to draft the appropriate line. The Crab Plan Team unanimously approved a motion to endorse the movement of the line. Please review a very good discussion paper on management of a rationalized *C. bairdi* fishery as two stocks, prepared by Dr. Mark Fina (that should be available from Council staff). Finally, this topic should be scheduled for discussion and possible action at a future meeting.

### **Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)**

#### **Cook Inlet**

In Cook Inlet, the state waters fishery opened twenty-four hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL for the 2004 state waters season has been set at 2.37 million pounds. The GHL is calculated as 3.0% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. The GHL is split 50% to pot and 50% to jig gear.

This fishery opened February 1, 2004, which was 24 hours after the closure of the federal fishery. Eleven pot vessels participating in the fishery harvested their

portion of the GHL by the third week in February, and the fishery closed to pot gear at 5 pm on February 23, 2004. Their catch was just less than 1.5 million pounds. Twenty-five jig vessels have landings that stand at about 326,000 pounds to date. As this was less than 50% of the GHL by the September 1, 2004 roller over date, the fishery reopened to pot gear, by regulation, at that time.

### **Prince William Sound**

The 2004 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 7, 2004, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL has been set at 970,000 pounds, which is calculated as 10% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. To date only two pot vessels have participated in the fishery and catch remains confidential.

### **Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)**

Pacific cod fisheries in both Kodiak and the South Alaska Peninsula fisheries harvested their GHLs and closed last Spring.

### **Chignik (FIGURE 8)**

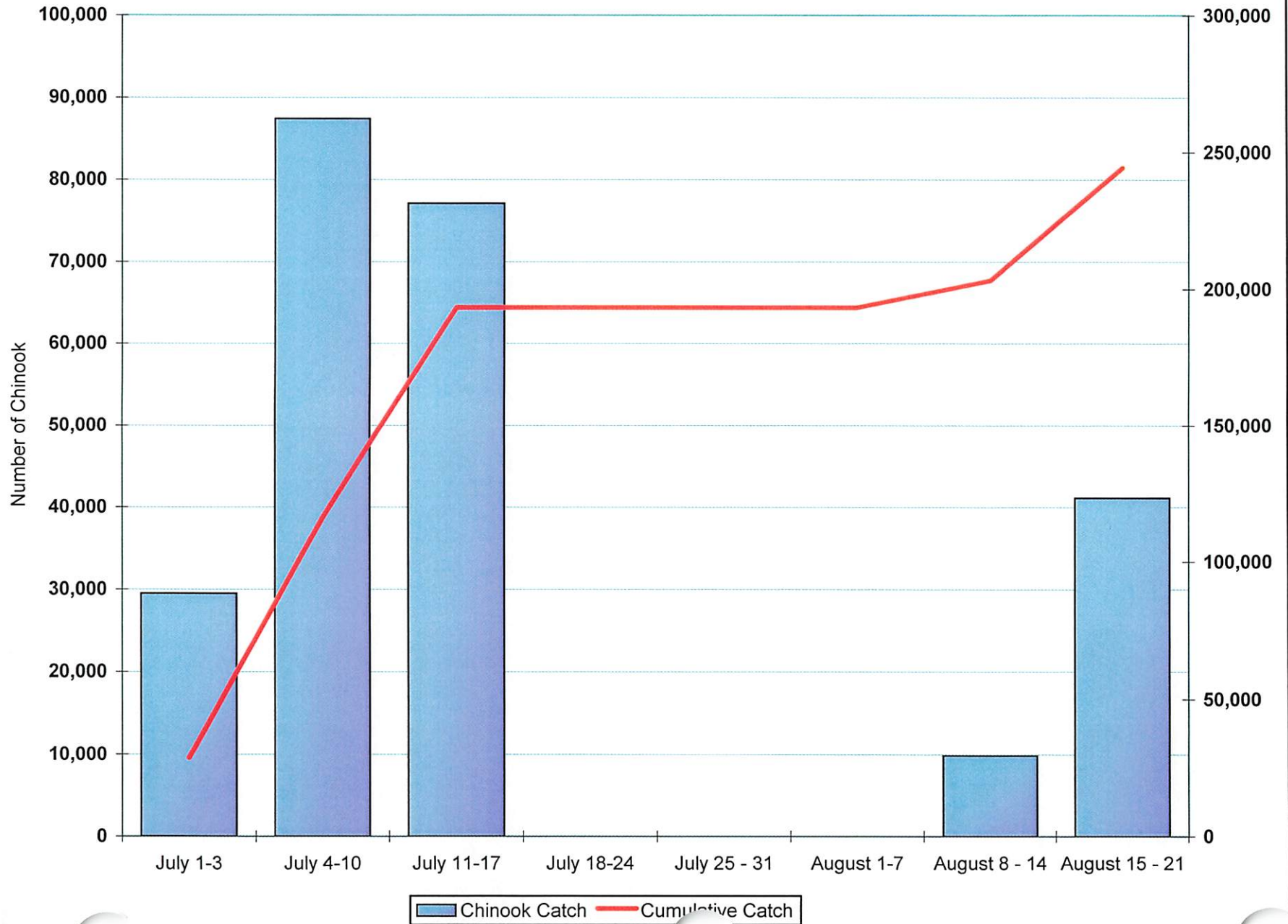
The Chignik state waters Pacific cod GHL is 6.9 million pounds. Thirty one permits registered for the fishery. The fishery opened by regulation on March 1, 2004. Initial effort by seventeen pot gear fishermen produced a harvest of approximately 5.6 million pounds and the fishery closed to the use of pot gear on May 13, 2004. Jig fishermen began their participation in late April, but effort dwindled during the salmon season. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan allows Pacific cod remaining on the 2004 jig-gear GHL to be taken on or after August 15, 2004 by either pot or jig gear. Harvest allocations between gear types will not be in effect for the remainder of the 2004 Pacific cod season. There are approximately 1.1 million pounds remaining to be taken by both pot and jig gear types. No parallel Pacific cod fishery will open in the Chignik area for the remainder of the year unless the state-waters GHL is achieved.

### **Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 9)**

In the Southeast District, between June 15 and September 2004, there was activity in the directed lingcod fishery, the directed black rockfish fishery, the directed Pacific cod fishery, and the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) sablefish fisheries. The directed lingcod fishery, in the Southeast District, opened on May 16, 2004 and to date the directed fishery has landed approximately 136,588 round pounds. The area season for the lingcod fishery, in the East Yakutat district (EYKT) was short with a closure on May 20, 2004. The Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Southern Southeast Outer Coastal (SSEOC) management areas remain open. The directed fishery for black rockfish, in the Southeast District, opened on January 1, 2004 and to date the directed fishery has landed approximately 28,000 round pounds. In early August the department made several statistical area closures in the NSEO and CSEO management areas in order to better distribute black rockfish effort throughout those management areas. The inside waters Pacific cod fishery opened January 1, 2004 with an annual quota of 1,000,000 round pounds, and to date the directed fishery has landed approximately 310,000 round pounds. It is anticipated that this fishery will remain open year round.

The NSEI Sablefish fishery opened on August 15, 2004 with a quota of 2,245,000 round pounds. The equal quota share for each of the 108 permit holders is 20,787 round pounds; to date 1,195,451 round pounds have been landed. The SSEI Sablefish longline gear fishery opened on June 1, 2004 and closed August 15, 2004 with a quota of 596,640 round pounds. The equal quota share for each of the 24 permit holders was 24,860 round pounds; 550,749 round pounds was landed in this fishery. The SSEI pot gear fishery opened on September 1, 2004 with a quota of 99,360 round pounds. The equal quota share for each of the 4 permit holders is 24,860 round pounds; to date no effort has been made in this fishery.

Figure 1. SE AK Trawl Fishery - Chinook





**Figure 2.**

### Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Harvests

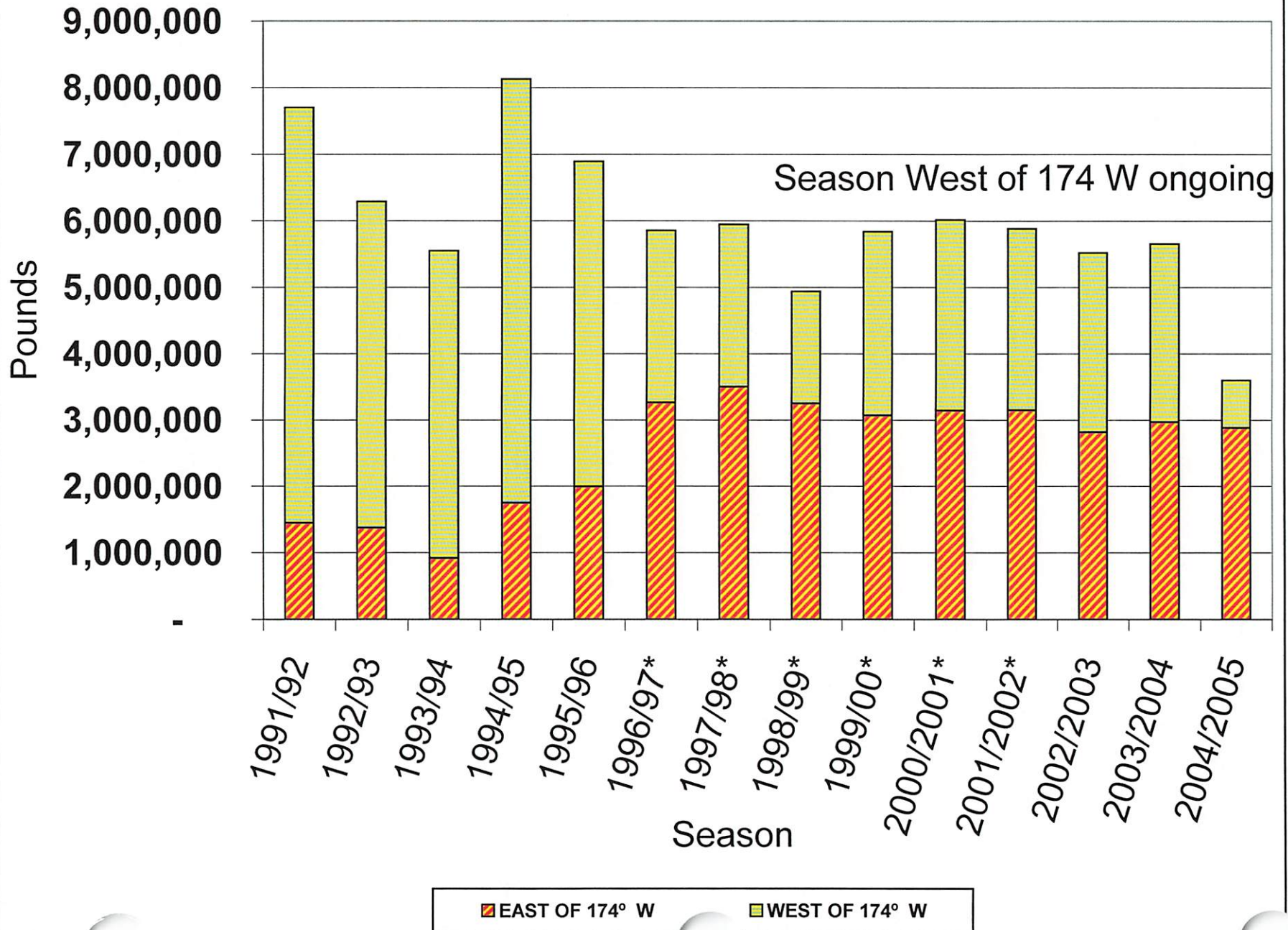


Figure 3.

### Bristol Bay Red King Crab Catches (General Fishery Only)

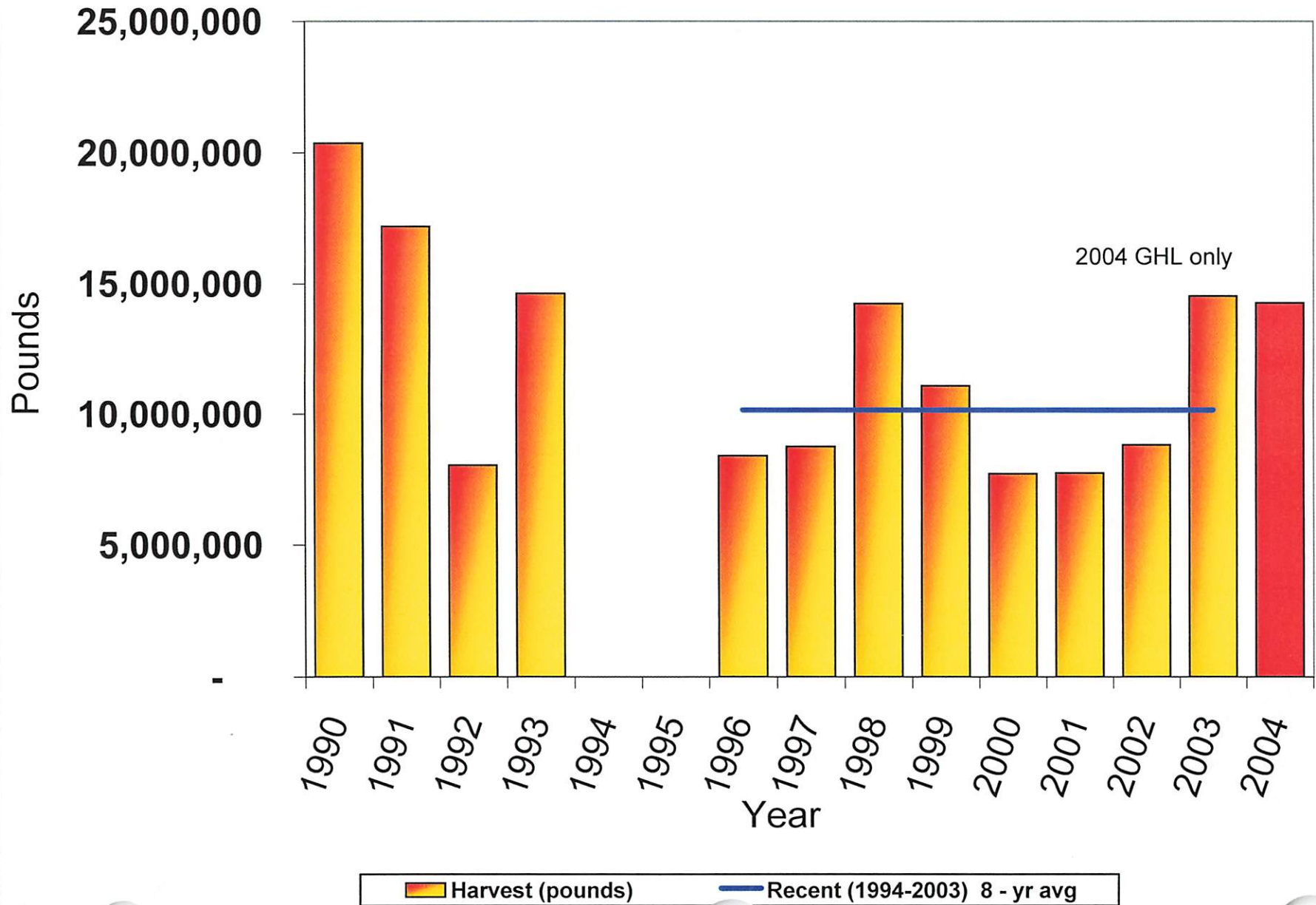


Figure 4.

### Bering Sea *C. opilio* Harvests

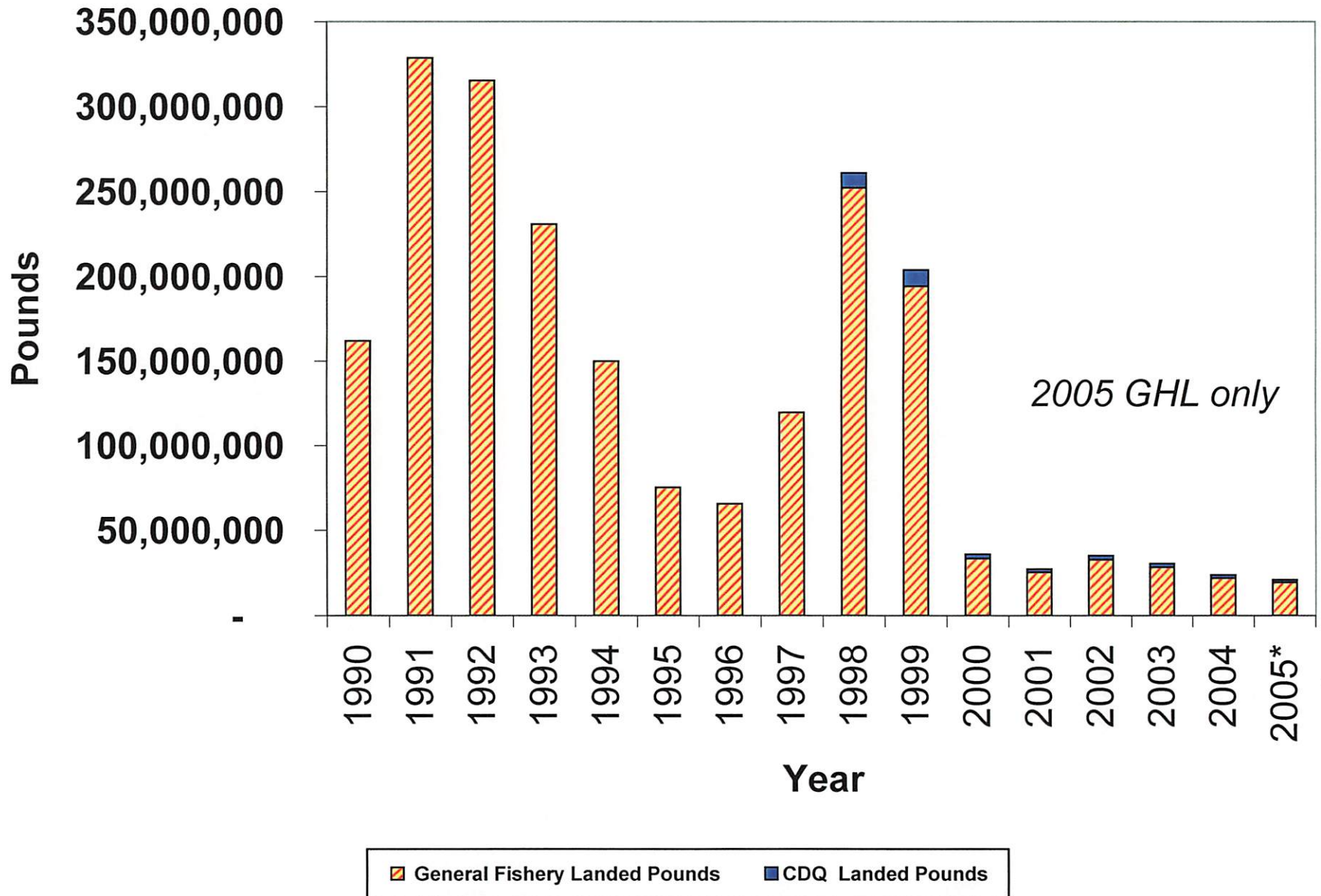
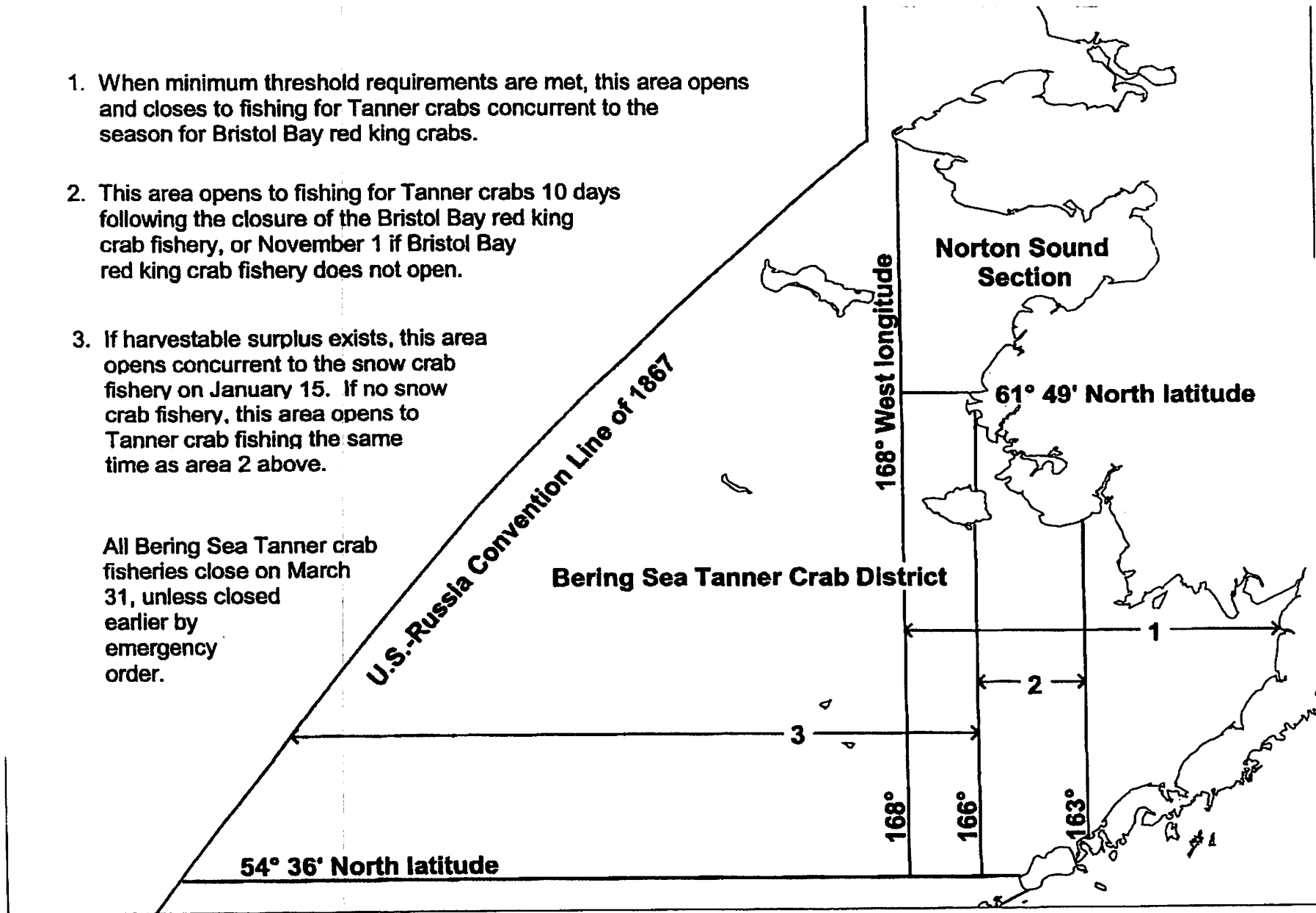


FIGURE 5.

1. When minimum threshold requirements are met, this area opens and closes to fishing for Tanner crabs concurrent to the season for Bristol Bay red king crabs.
2. This area opens to fishing for Tanner crabs 10 days following the closure of the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery, or November 1 if Bristol Bay red king crab fishery does not open.
3. If harvestable surplus exists, this area opens concurrent to the snow crab fishery on January 15. If no snow crab fishery, this area opens to Tanner crab fishing the same time as area 2 above.

All Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries close on March 31, unless closed earlier by emergency order.



**Figure 6. Central Region 2004 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through Sept 30.**

This summary censored for CONFIDENTIAL reports or records.

**Pacific Cod**

**PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS**

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll (05)	1	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	1	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	1	confidential	confidential
Longline (61)	56	75	24,945	19	40	12,367
Pots (91)	7	43	360,637	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>385,582</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12,367</b>
Status		Bycatch			Bycatch	
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 31			Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Jan 31		

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\***

GHL (lb)	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
		2.37mil.			970,000	
<b>Gear</b>	<b>Vessels</b>	<b>Landings</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Vessels</b>	<b>Landings</b>	<b>Pounds</b>
Hand troll (05)	2	confidential	confidential	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	25	108	325,845	0	0	0
Pots (91)	11	98	1,461,666	2	confidential	confidential
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,787,511</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>confidential</b>	<b>confidential</b>
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status	Opened - Closed noon Feb 1 - <b>Open</b>			Opened - Closed noon Feb 7 - <b>Open</b>		
State seasons: Pots (91) Status	Opened - Closed noon Feb 1 - 5 PM Feb 23 Sept 1 - <b>Open</b>			Opened - Closed noon Feb 7 - <b>Open</b>		

\*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. WESTWARD REGION 2004 STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD CATCHES



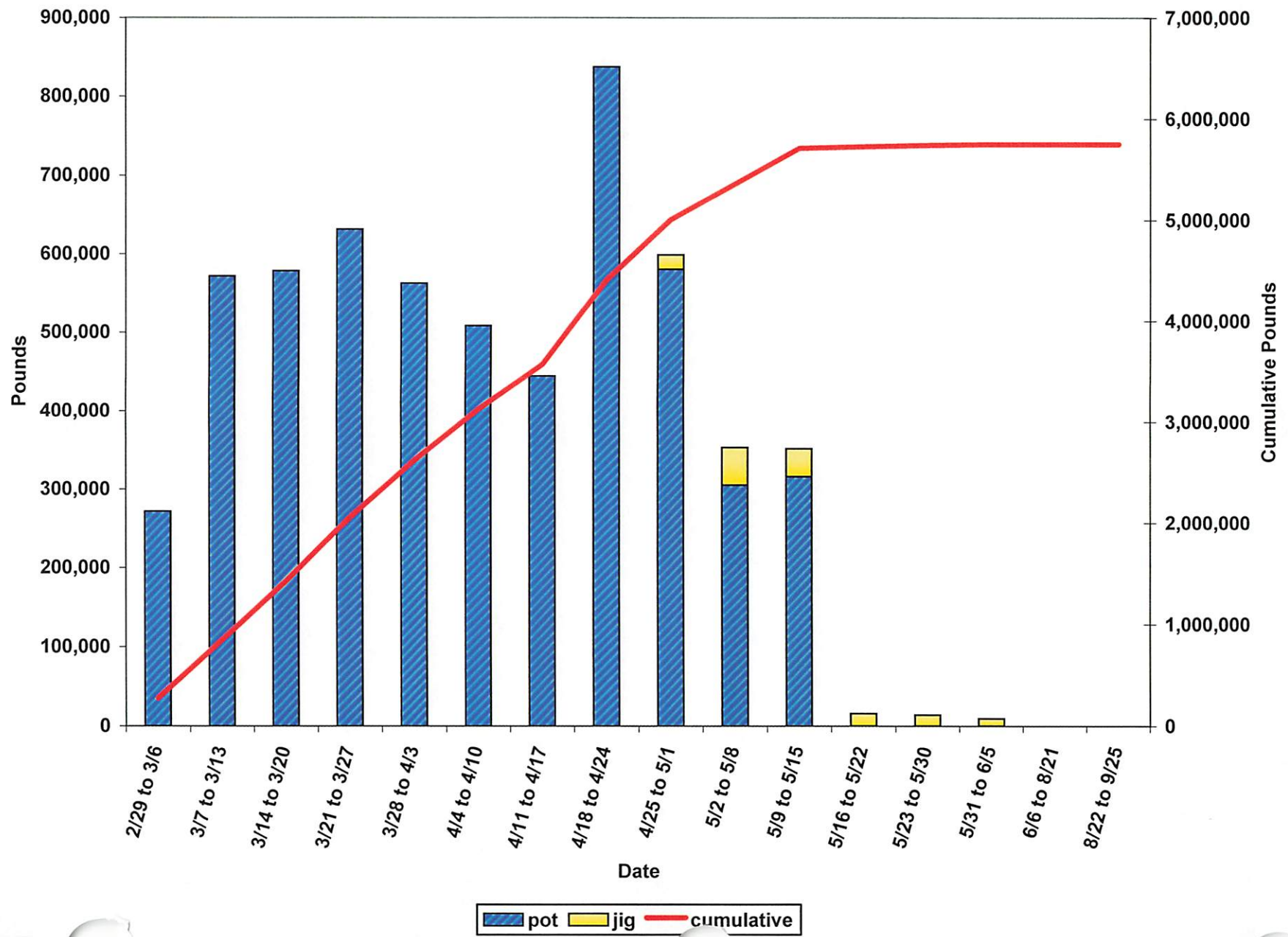
KODIAK					CHIGNIK				SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA				
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig		
	178	38	140		31	17	14		93	34	59		
2004 GHL	9.9 Million Pounds				6.9 Million Pounds				12.5 Million Pounds				
ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GHL before Sept. 1. Jigs = 4.95 million, Pots = 4.95 million, >58' pots 2.475 before Sept. 1.				85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 5.8 million Jigs = 1.1 million				85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 10.6 million Jigs = 1.9 million				
Opened 2/7 noon	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		
DATES:	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	
2/7	0	0	5	6,870	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes				
2/8 to 2/14	38	959,973	19	27,848	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes				
2/15 to 2/21	79	3,239,336	68	150,821	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 7 days after Federal WGOA closes				
2/22 to 2/28	44	1,624,295	66	215,593	Fishery Opens 3/1/04 at 12:01am				Fishery opens 3/2 at noon				
2/29 to 3/6	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	83	336,846	10	271,731	0	0	38	1,565,086	11	39,269	
3/7 to 3/13	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	96	333,728	24	572,007	0	0	72	2,932,505	37	164,649	
3/14 to 3/20	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	103	498,112	24	578,502	0	0	78	2,828,417	22	89,063	
3/21 to 3/27	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	119	595,448	26	631,403	0	0	89	3,460,939	55	280,658	
3/28 to 4/3	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	82	348,542	24	562,664	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	71	390,999	
4/4 to 4/10	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	73	334,586	29	508,431	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	73	469,041	
4/11 to 4/17	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	153	895,799	23	444,280	0	0	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	48	237,779	
4/18 to 4/24	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	82	468,686	35	837,612	confidential	confidential	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
4/25 to 5/1	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	24	580,419	11	18,419	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
5/2 to 5/8	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	16	305,154	12	47,990	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
5/9 to 5/15	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	9	315,877	10	35,803	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
5/16 to 5/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	Closed 5/13	Closed 5/13	6	15,769	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
5/23 to 5/30	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	Closed 5/13	Closed 5/13	7	14,133	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
5/31 to 6/5	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	Closed 5/13	Closed 5/13	5	9,583	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
6/6 to 8/21	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	Open 8/15	Open 8/15	No Effort	No Effort	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
8/22 to 9/25	Closed 2/22	Closed 2/22	Closed 4/20	Closed 4/20	No Effort	No Effort	No Effort	No Effort	closed 3/24	closed 3/24	Closed 4/14	Closed 4/14	
ACCUMULATIVE	161	5,823,604	949	4,212,879	244	5,608,080	51	141,697	277	10,786,947	317	1,671,458	
CATCH	(Total combined) 10,036,483				(Total combined) 5,749,777				(Total combined) 12,458,405				

Chignik Pot fishery closed 5/13 @11.59 PM



Figure 8.

### Chignik Pacific Cod Catches 2004



# Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 9

144 W

EYKT

NSEO

NSEI

CSEO

SSEI

SSEO

