



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

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report include those for crab and groundfish.

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** During the 2018/19 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab**

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2018 and closed on May 15, 2019 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W longitude and 173° W longitude) and on May 31, 2019 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). A total of 61 vessels have harvested 100% of the TAC (27.58 million pounds).

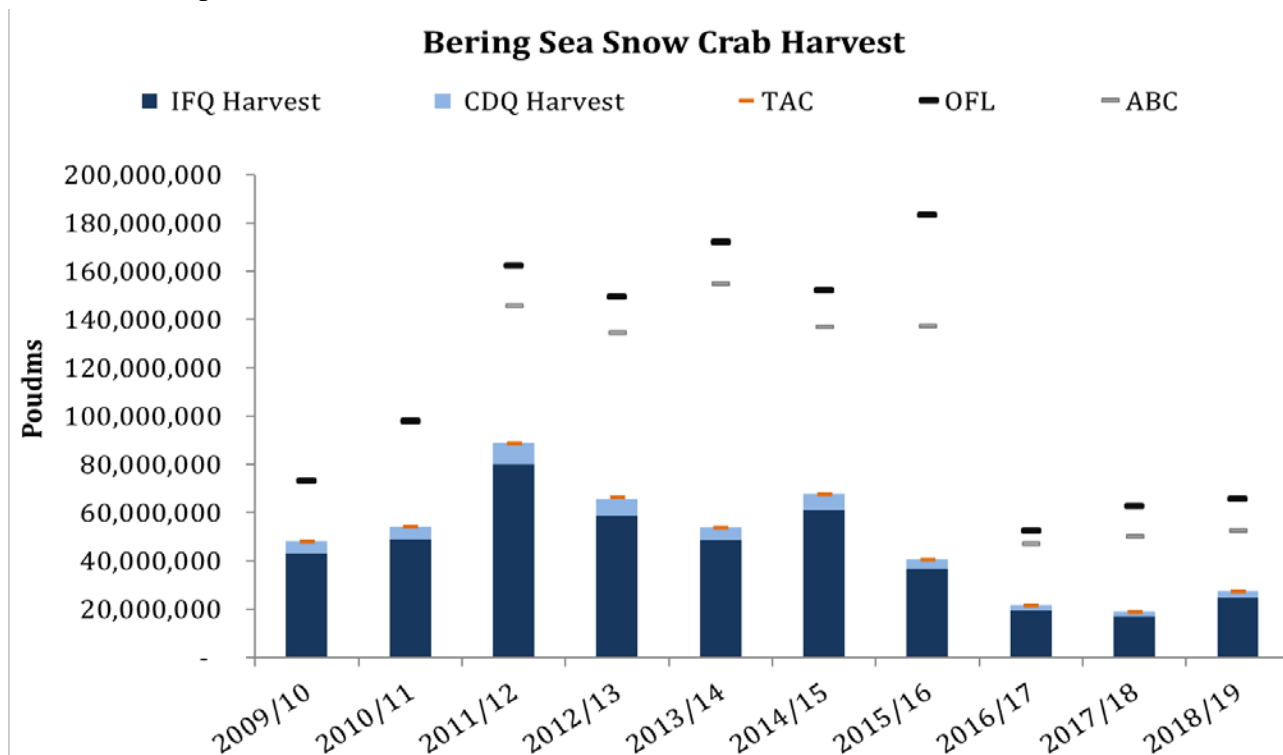


Figure 1. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2009/10 – 2018/19 seasons.

**Norton Sound Red King Crab.** The overall Norton Sound red king crab GHLL is 150,600 pounds and is allocated 92% to the summer season (138,552 pounds) and 8% (12,048 pounds) to the winter season.

7.5% of the total GHL (11,295 pounds) is allocated to a CDQ fishery and available for harvest during the winter or summer season. The winter fishery closed on April 30 with less than 3,500 pounds harvested due to a lack of shorefast ice throughout most of Norton Sound this season. The unharvested winter GHL will be added to the summer fishery GHL and the summer season opens by emergency order on or after June 15.

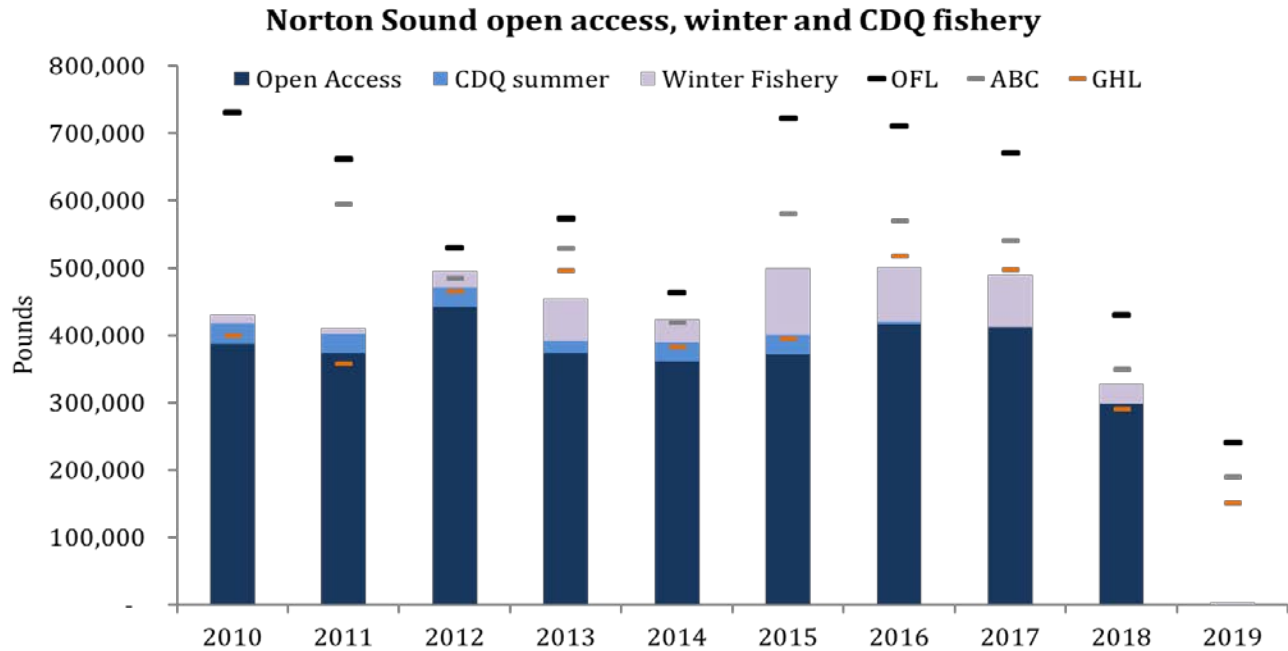


Figure 2. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, GHL, OFL, and ABC; 2010 – 2019 seasons.

**Pacific Cod.** State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs as follows:

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC	2019 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%	425
Chignik	CGOA	8.75%	671
Kodiak		12.5%	958
Cook Inlet		3.75%	288
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%	2,290
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	8%	14,480
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	AI	31%	6,386

**Central Region Pacific Cod**

**Prince William Sound:** The state-waters pot season opened on February 7, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery and remains open. No vessels have registered to fish with pot gear. The state-waters longline season opened March 15, concurrent with the IFQ halibut fishery and a total of 284,000 pounds have been harvested by vessels using longline gear. The state-waters jig season opens 24 hours after the initial federal jig season closes.

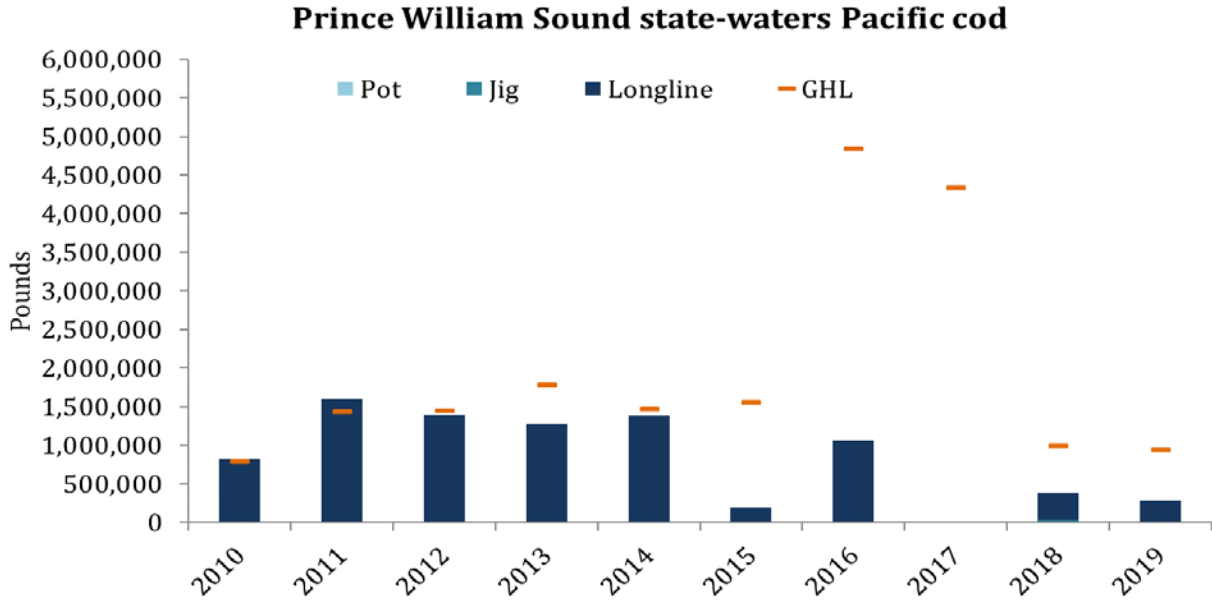


Figure 3. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2010 – 2019.

#### Westward Region Pacific Cod

**Kodiak.** The 2019 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area is 2.11 million pounds which is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 1.056 million pounds each. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 3 and closed on February 15, 2019. Total harvest by 14 pot vessels was 1.15 million pounds (109% of the pot allocation). The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 12, 2019. Thirty-one jig vessels have harvested 362,100 pounds (34%) of the jig fishery allocation.

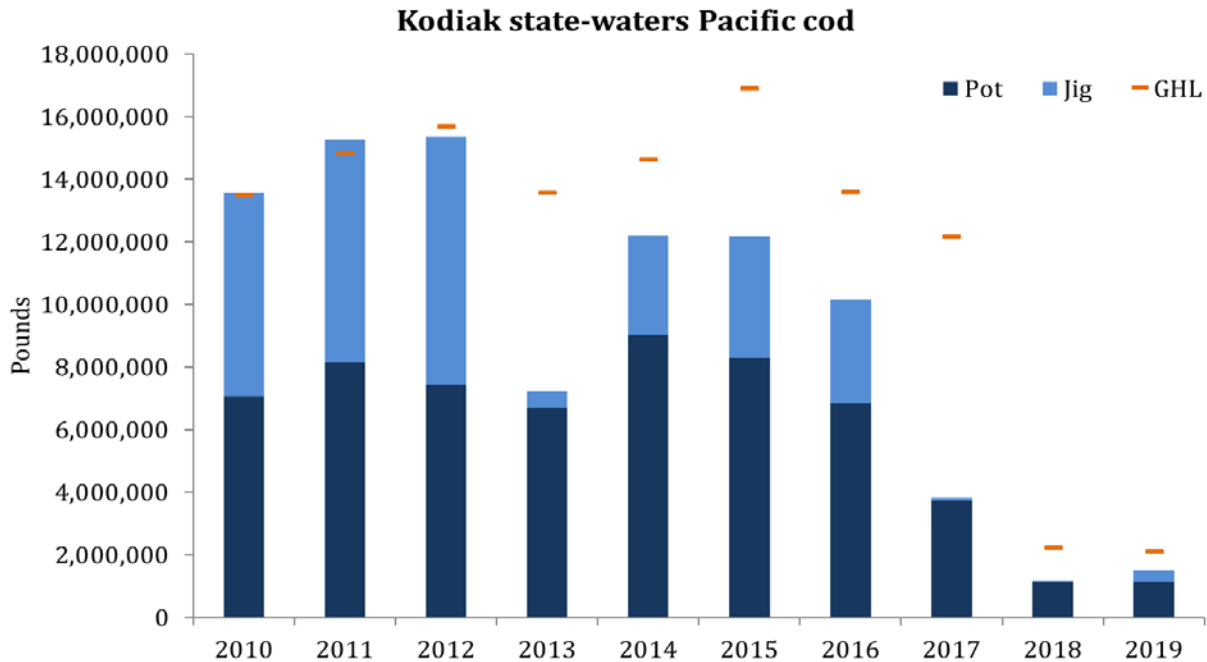


Figure 4. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2010 – 2019.

**Chignik:** The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 1, 2019 with a total GHL of 1.48 million pounds. Ninety percent of the GHL in the Chignik Area is allocated to pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. The pot allocation was fully harvested, and the pot fishery closed March 13, 2019. The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on March 15; however, no vessels have participated in this fishery yet.

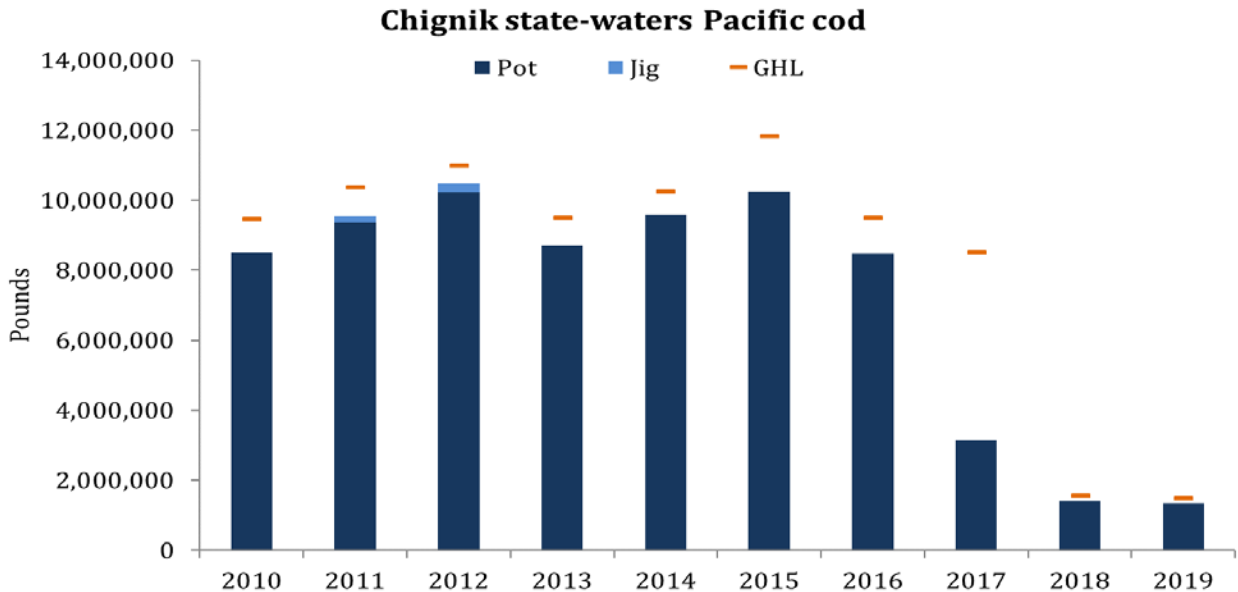


Figure 5. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2010 – 2019.

**South Alaska Peninsula:** The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 7, 2019 with a GHL of 5.05 million pounds. Eighty-five percent of the GHL in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Area is allocated to pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. A total of 24 vessels harvested 4.72 million pounds and the fishery closed March 17, 2019. The SAP state-waters jig fishery opened on March 13, 2019. Twenty-one jig vessels have harvested 358,500 pounds (47% of the GHL).

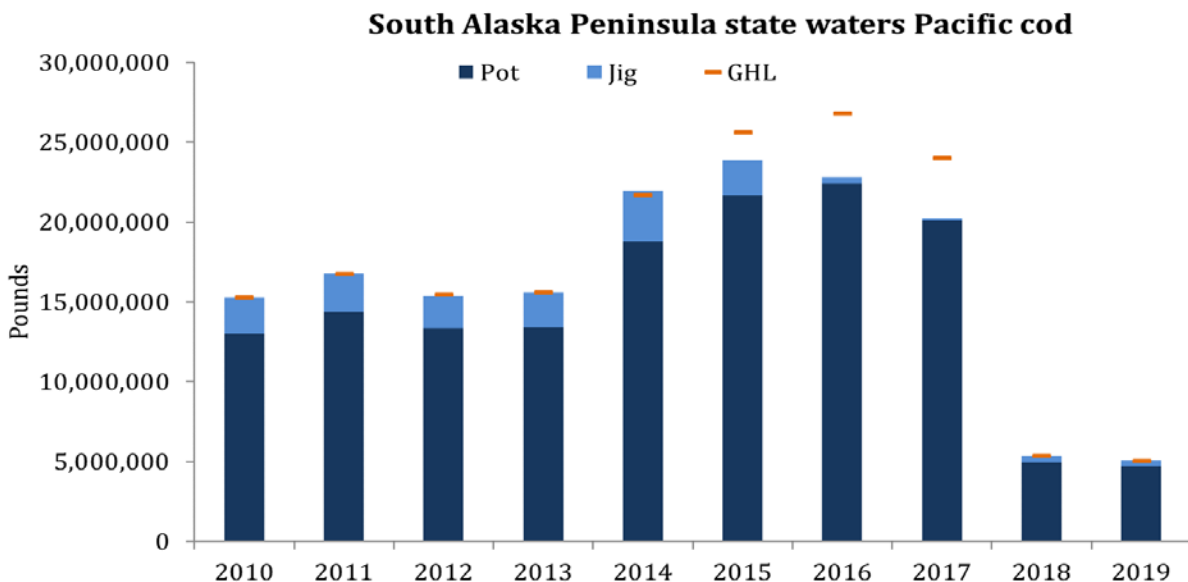


Figure 6. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2010 – 2019.

## **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Draft proposals for the 2019/2020 Board cycle are available online. The final proposal book is expected to be released in late July/early August 2019.

The 2019/2020 meeting schedule:

Work Session: October 23-24, 2019 (Anchorage)

Lower Cook Inlet Finfish: December 10-13, 2019 (Seward)

Kodiak Finfish: January 11-14, 2020 (Kodiak)

Upper Cook Inlet Finfish: February 7-20, 2020 (Anchorage)

Statewide King and Tanner crab and Supplemental: March 7-11 (Anchorage)

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 26, 2019

### **Draft proposals of interest:**

#### **KODIAK FINFISH-**

- Create a Kodiak state waters sablefish fishery open September 1 – December 31.
- Increase Kodiak state waters GHLL from 12.5% of CGOA Pacific cod ABC to 17.5%.
- Adjust the allocation split (50/50) between jig and pot gear in the Kodiak state waters Pacific cod fishery to 60/40 (with step up/down: maximum 80/20, minimum 50/50).
- Allow unharvested Kodiak state waters Pacific cod jig allocation to roll to the pot gear allocation the following year.
- Allow 50% of the unharvested Kodiak state waters Pacific cod jig allocation to be fished by vessels using pot gear after May 8.

#### **STATEWIDE KING AND TANNER-**

- Change the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery season from August 1 – April 30 to March 1 – October 31.
- Allow (2-5%) incidental harvest of *C.bairdi* crab when targeting *C.opilio* after the season for *C.bairdi* has closed.
- Revise the *C.opilio* harvest strategy definition of “exploited legal males” to allow for periodic changes in the size of exploited legal males.
- Adopt a new Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest strategy.