

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



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
February 2008**

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

**Salmon Troll Fishery** (FIGURE 1)

The winter fishery opened on October 11, 2007. The season remains open through April 30, 2008 unless 45,000-treaty chinook salmon are harvested prior to that date. The fishery is confined to those waters of Southeast that are east of the winter boundary line and includes the waters of Yakutat Bay. To date, 266 permits have made 1,155 landings totaling approximately 5,900 chinook salmon. This season has been slow with reduced effort and catches, probably due in large part to poor weather. Price remains the highest seen for this period and is averaging more than \$8.00 per pound.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab** (FIGURE 2)

The 2006/07 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened Tuesday, August 15, 2007. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.7 million pounds.

The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. There have been 32 landings in this fishery, and approximately 99 percent of the eastern Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) TAC of 2.7 million pounds has been harvest at this time. The western IFQ TAC is 2.43 million pounds. To date, about 65 percent of the IFQ TAC has been harvested in 17 landings. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2008.

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

The IFQ TAC for this season was 18.3 million pounds. This season the complete TAC was taken in 245 landings. The fishery closed by regulation January 15, 2008.

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

The 2007/08 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2007 and will remain open through May 15, 2008 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2008 in the Western Subdistrict. Effort is increasing, and there have been 73 landings to date, producing approximately 10 million pounds.

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

The season opened on October 15, 2007 and will remain open through March 31, 2008. The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W longitude, with a separate TAC for each area. The catch to date for the eastern district is about 460,000 pounds (15 percent of the TAC). The catch from the western district is minimal at this time, with only four landings occurring.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries** (FIGURE 6)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Kodiak from January 14-18. The board rejected several groundfish proposals dealing with observer coverage and bycatch issues. The board also delegated the adoption of an Emergency Regulation (ER) to the commissioner through their statutory authority AS 16.05.270. This ER addresses mirroring changes in the federal regulations on seabird avoidance measures. Federal regulations were adopted by reference. This ER is valid for 120

days, and the board will address permanent regulatory changes at their March 3-9, 2008 meeting in Anchorage.

**Alaska State Legislature** (FIGURE 7)

House Bill 16 was heard in the House Special Committee on Fisheries on January 30, 2008. HB 16 would delay the sunset date to repeal the authority of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to maintain the vessel-based commercial fisheries limited entry systems for Bering Sea Korean hair crab and weathervane scallop fisheries. The Chairman opened the hearing by stating he did not intend to move this bill forward. The department has prepared draft management plans for state waters scallop fisheries, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be deliberating action during their March 3-9, 2008 meeting in Anchorage.

New HB 121<sup>(?)</sup> = introd - same issue

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Figure 1.

### SE AK Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Harvest

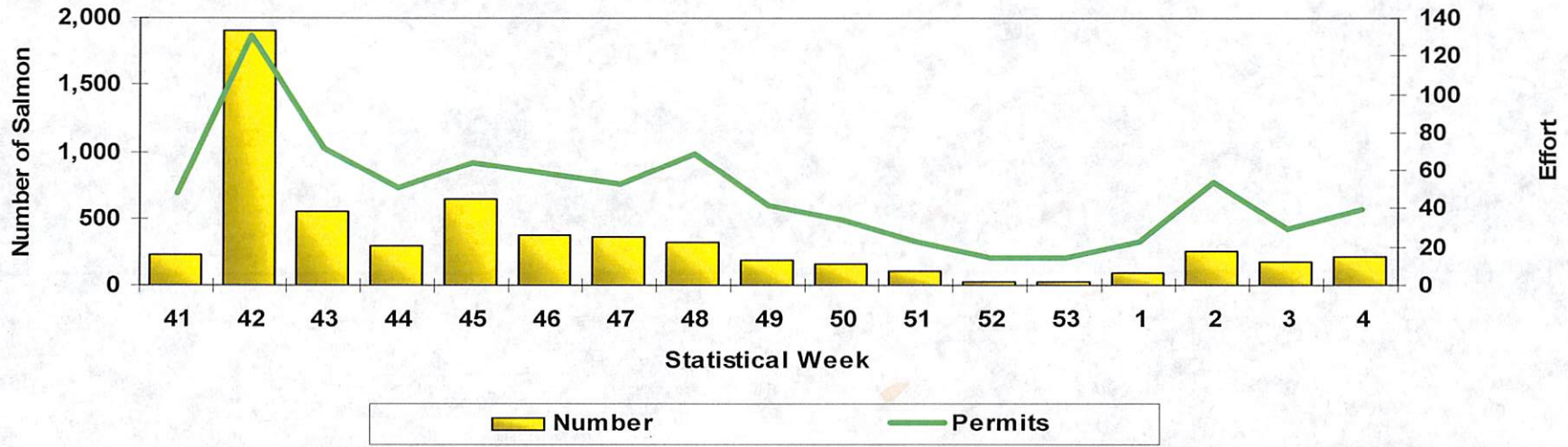
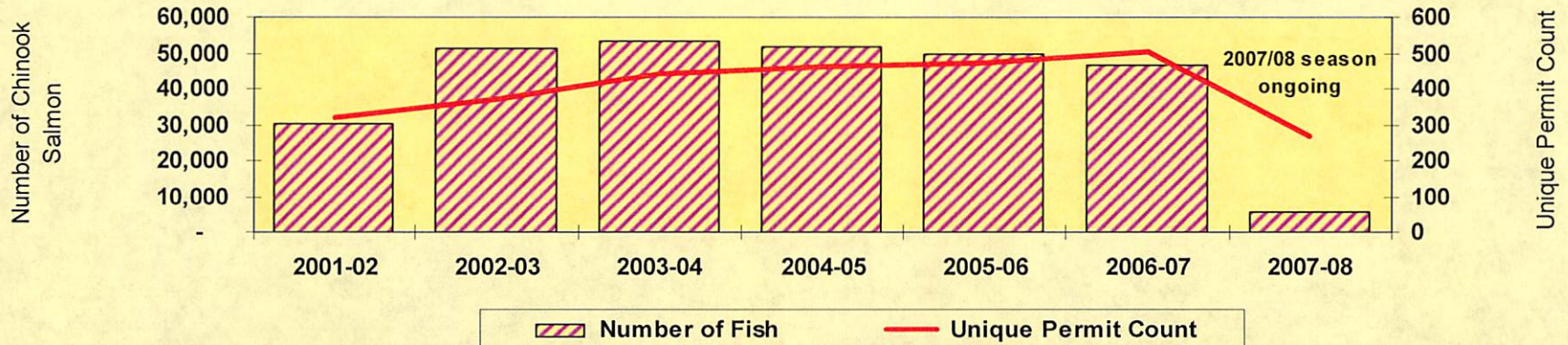


Figure 1a.

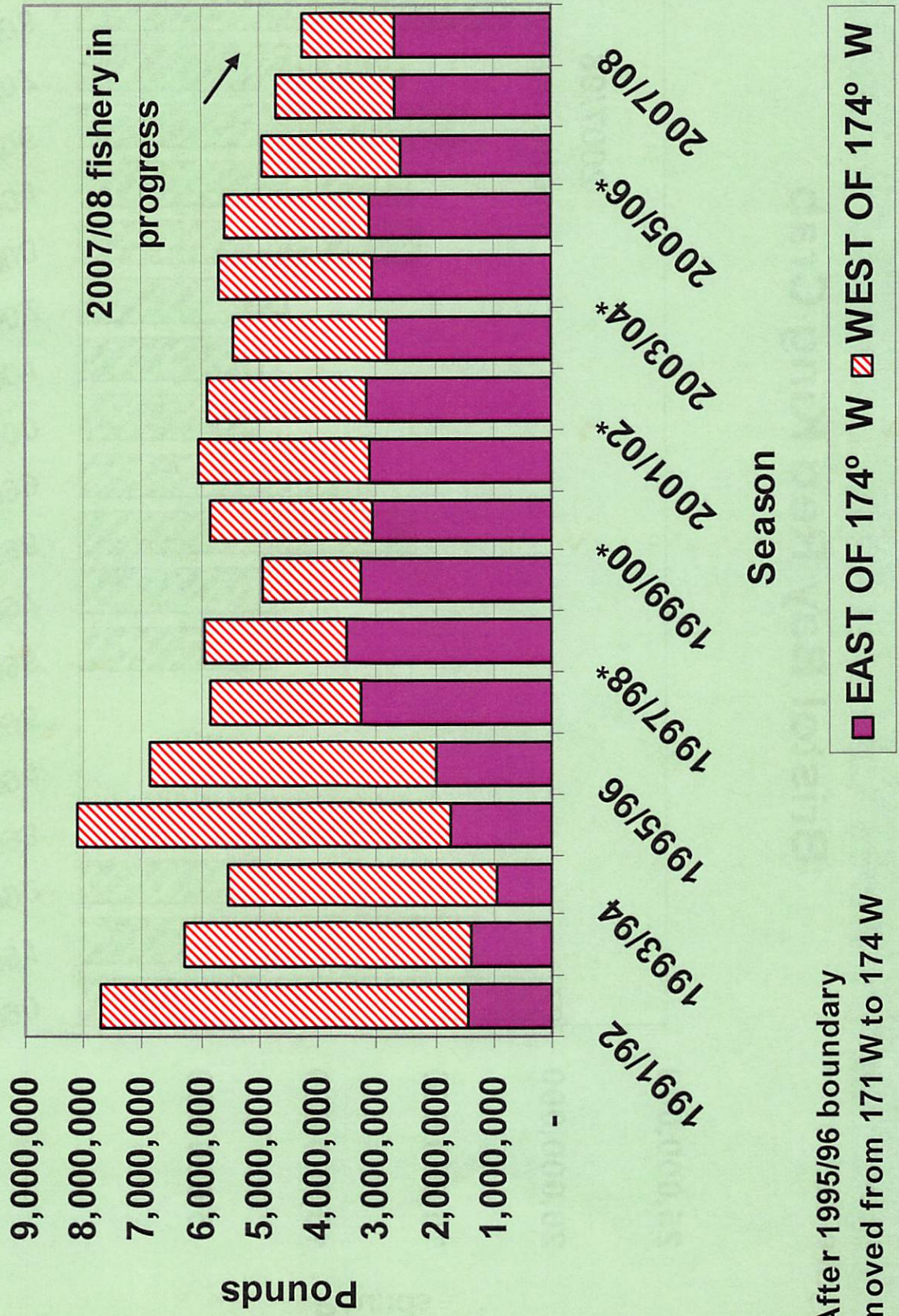
### SE AK Winter Troll Chinook Salmon 2001-2007





**Figure 2.**

# Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab





**Figure 3.**

## Bristol Bay Red King Crab

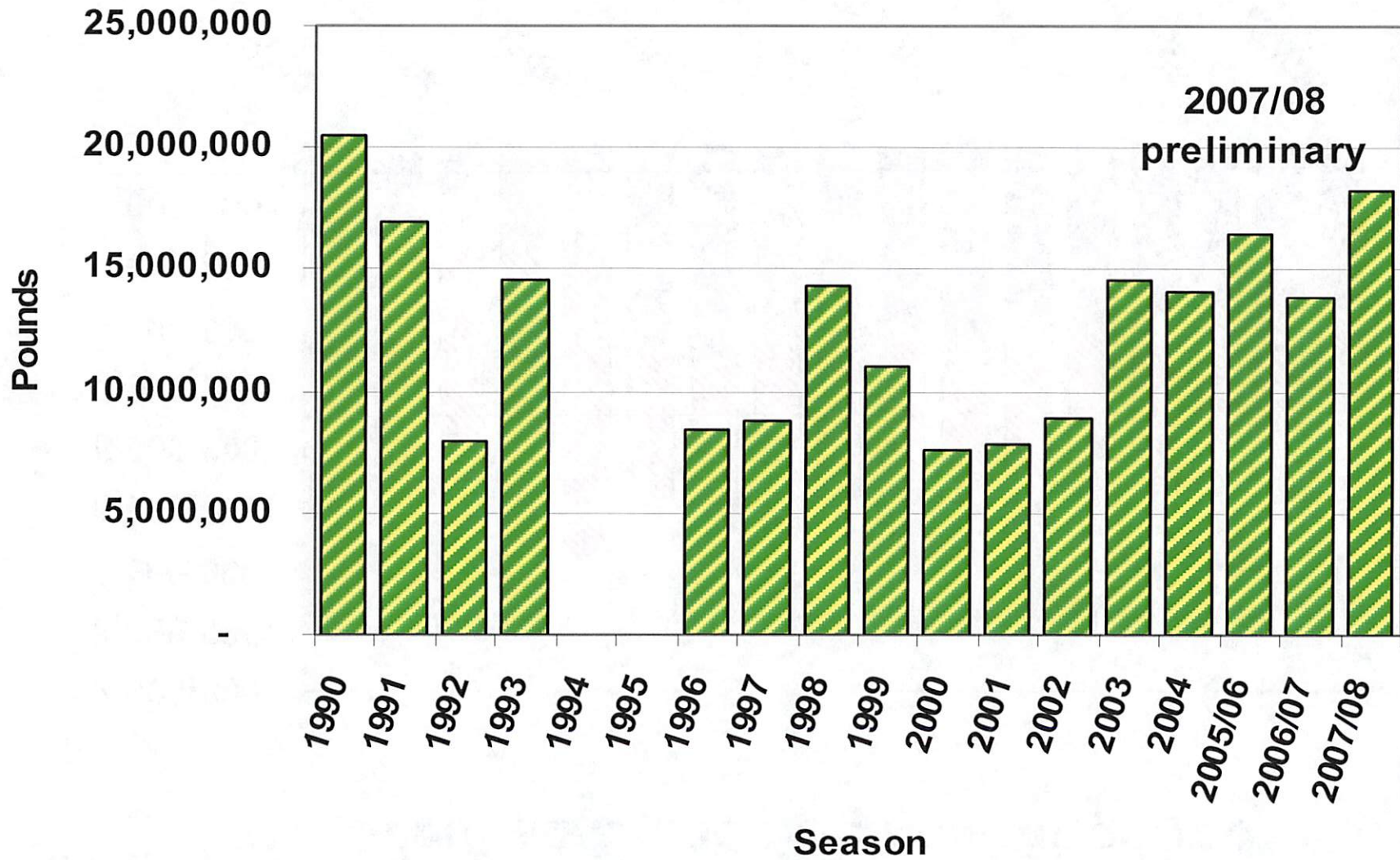
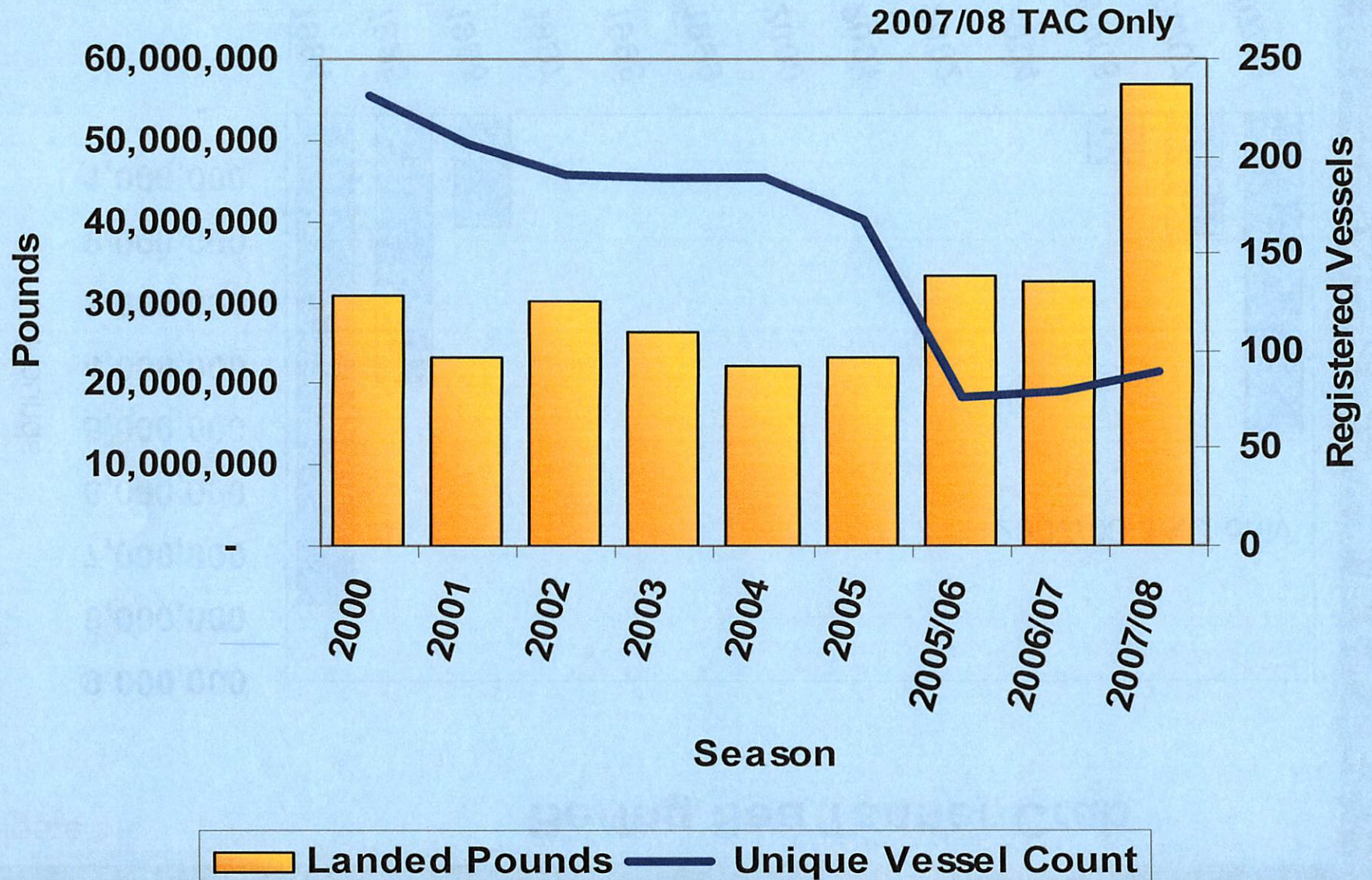




Figure 4.

# Bering Sea Snow Crab





# Bering Sea Tanner Crab

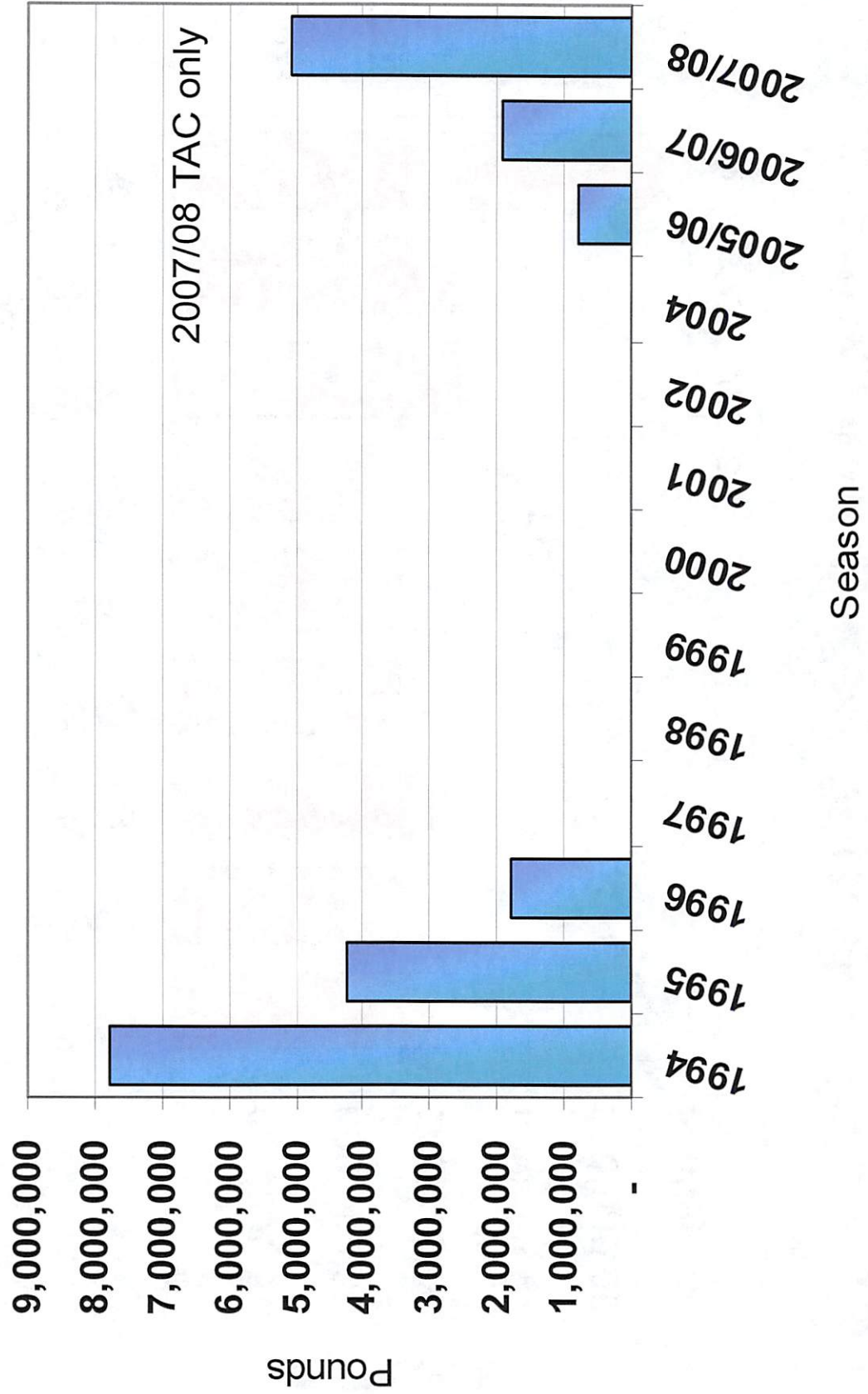


Figure 5.



- ✓ **Bycatch proposals rejected**
- ✓ **Observer proposal rejected**
- ✓ **Seabird Emergency Regulation**

Figure 6.





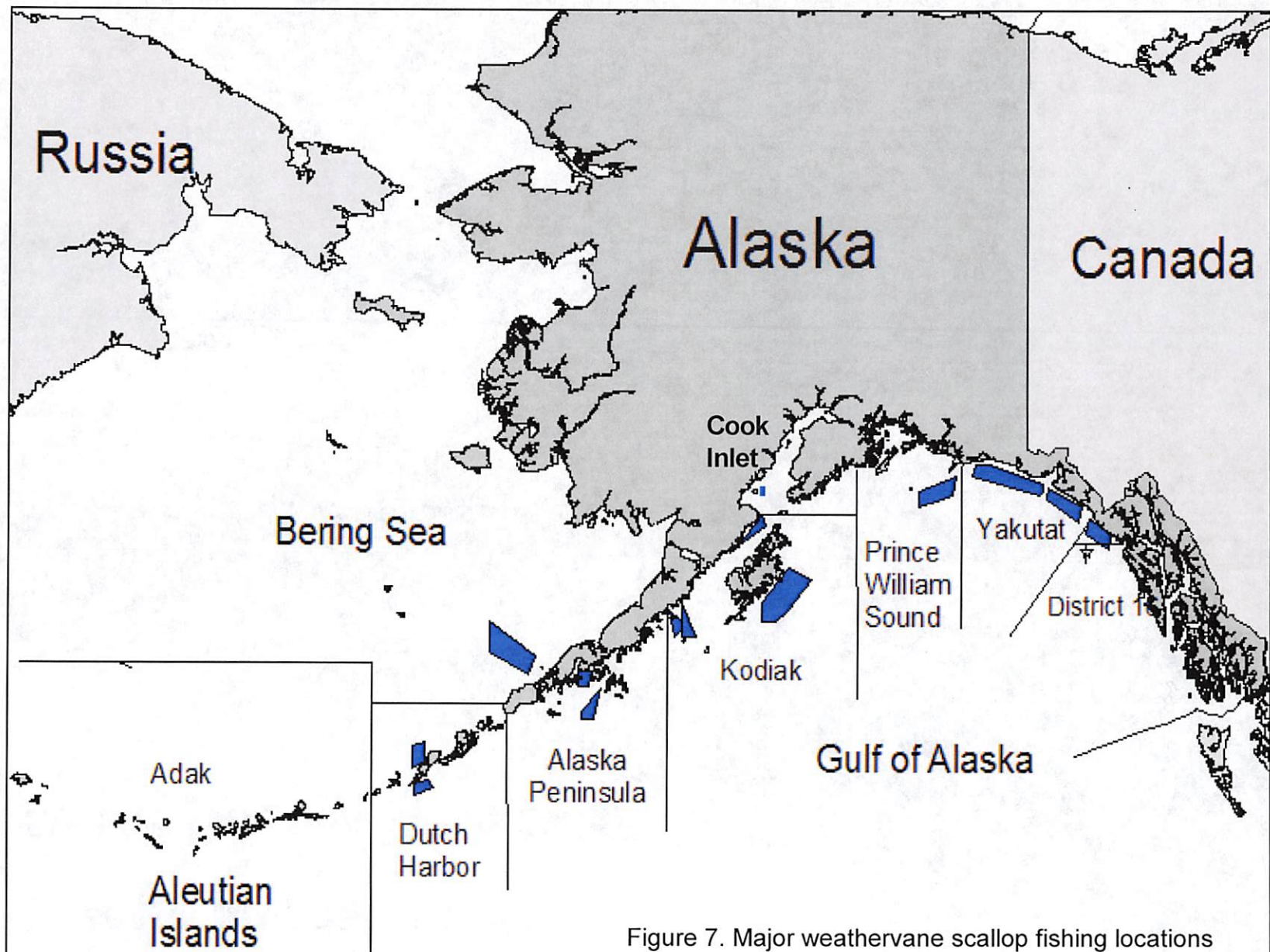
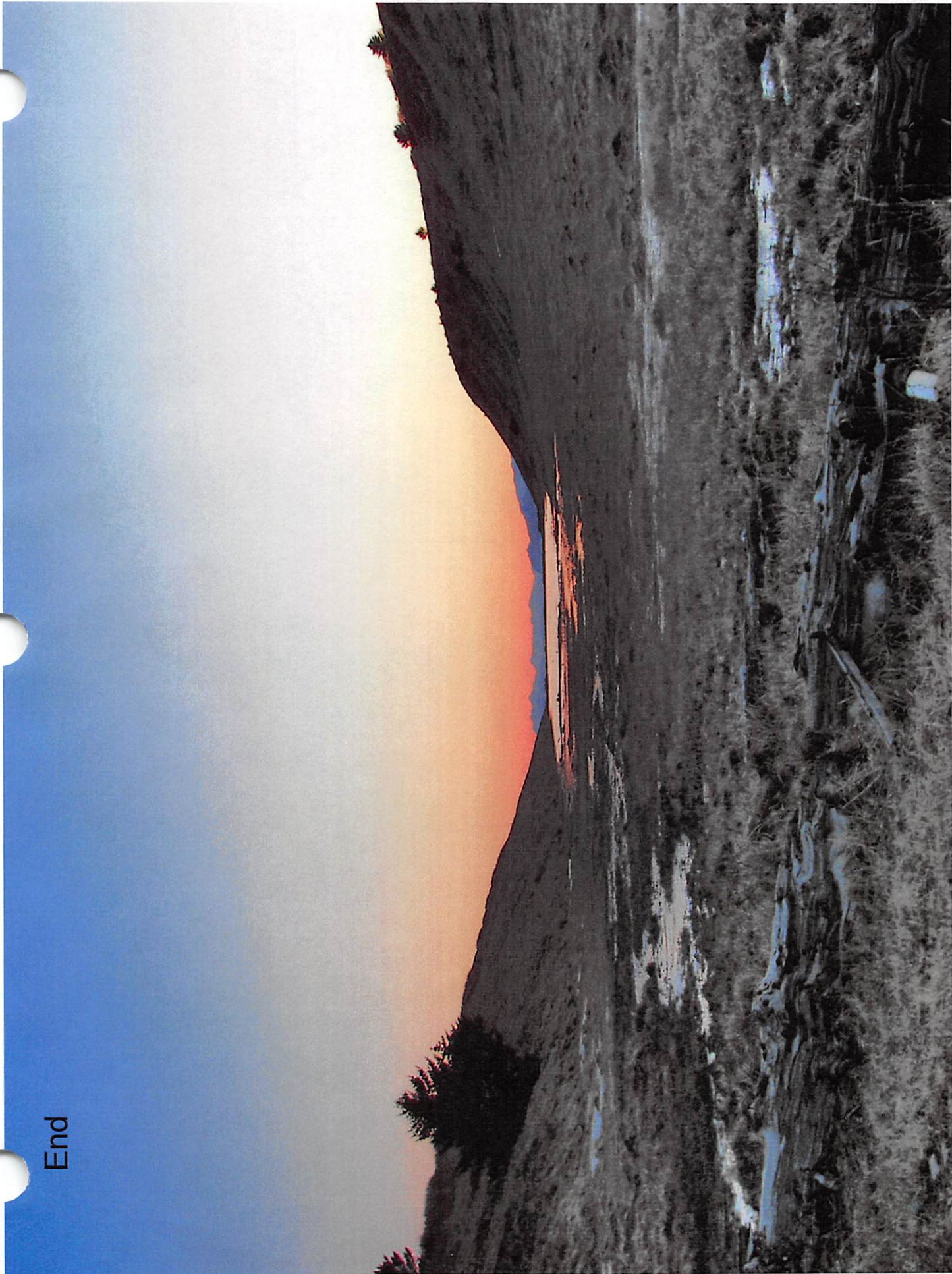


Figure 7. Major weathervane scallop fishing locations



End







**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

08-0XX

## **Habitat Division to Return to Department of Fish and Game**

February 5, 2008, Juneau, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today announced the Habitat Division will be returning to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The decision to return habitat permitting functions to the Department of Fish and Game acknowledges that the responsibilities of Habitat Division are better aligned with the overall mission and structure of the Department of Fish and Game.

After an extensive review, Governor Palin, Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin and Fish and Game Commissioner Denby Lloyd concluded that the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting has done an outstanding job of fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the Department of Natural Resources.

However, the move is expected to improve communications and avoid duplication of efforts while allowing Habitat Division to operate in the same manner it has at DNR to encourage responsible development and protect Alaska's resources.

"We are absolutely committed to the protection of wildlife habitat," Governor Palin said. "But we are just as committed to responsible development of our other resource industries such as oil and gas, mining and timber, and we're going to make sure that development occurs through strong oversight and cooperation between the departments."

The Governor emphasized that both departments share in the State's mission for responsible conservation and resource development and recognize that balancing these two functions is an integral part of their stewardship responsibilities.

"The department and I are committed to bringing these two functions together and making them work," said Commissioner Lloyd.

Both DNR and ADF&G commissioners acknowledge that Alaska's natural resources have not suffered because of the location of the habitat function at DNR. DNR and ADF&G are committed to continuing and supporting the successful work that OHMP has achieved while at DNR.

"I have nothing but praise for the professional staff and the work that OHMP has accomplished at DNR," Commissioner Irwin said. "I am committed to making this transfer successful and we will work closely with the ADF&G to ensure that we are working together to achieve resource development with protection for Alaska's great environment."

The Governor will submit an Executive Order to the legislature to return fish habitat permitting responsibilities to the Department of Fish and Game. Detailed planning for the move will begin immediately and movement of personnel and supervision will occur by July 1, 2008.

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