

Agenda Item: "B" Reports, Supplemental



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
JUNE 2003**

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

Salmon Troll Fishery

(FIGURE 1) The Southeast Alaska chinook salmon winter troll fishery opened October 11, 2002. The Board of Fisheries adopted changes to several regulations impacting this fishery at their February 2003 meeting in Ketchikan. One significant change was to increase the winter troll season by an additional two weeks. The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter chinook salmon troll fishery was to remain open until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2003, or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon was harvested. That cap had never been a factor in the fishery before. However, this year Treaty chinook salmon appear to be exceptionally abundant. This abundance, coupled with good weather, apparently warmer than normal water off of Sitka and a significant herring population in and around Sitka Sound have resulted in the increased catches realized during the

fishery. Additionally, the winter catch in Yakutat Bay was the highest ever. These, and other factors, lead to the troll closure on April 12, 2003, the very first closure due to cap constraints since the cap was enacted. Final harvest was approximately 50,800 fish. Trollers in Southeast are now participating in the spring fishery, where the catch is currently just under 8,000 chinook salmon.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab

(FIGURE 2) The Aleutian Islands (Area O) opened to commercial fishing for golden king crab on August 15, 2002 with guideline harvest levels (GHL) of 3.0 million pounds east and 2.7 million pounds west of 174° W long. That portion of Area O east of 174° W longitude closed to commercial fishing on September 7, 2002. Catch was approximately 2.82 million pounds of crab. Fishing effort west of 174° W longitude closed to commercial fishing at 11:59 PM March 8, 2003. Catch in this area totaled approximately 2.7 million pounds. Crab prices ranged from approximately \$3.30 to \$3.50 per pound during the season.

Pribilof Islands Golden King Crab

The Pribilof District of king crab Registration Area Q (Bering Sea) opened to commercial fishing for golden king crab at 12:01 AM January 1, 2003 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 150,000 pounds. A total of three vessels had participated in the fishery since the end of March. The Pribilof District closed to commercial fishing for golden king crab for the remainder of 2003 at 11:59 PM, Thursday, May 1, 2003, when it was projected that the GHL would be taken. Landing data remain confidential given the low number of participants.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 3)

Cook Inlet

In Cook Inlet, the fishery opened on February 10, 2003, twenty-four hours after the close of the Federal fishery. The 1.44 million pound GHL was allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear. The GHL was calculated as 2.25% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. This year there was more effort in the state waters fishery, the fish were larger and more abundant. Good catches by the pot fleet resulted in a closure on February 27, 2003. To date, 27 vessels have made 216 landings for a total harvest of approximately 1.2 million pounds.

Prince William Sound

The 2003 Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened February 16, 2003 with a 0.71 million pound GHL allocated 60% to pot gear and 40% to jig gear. The GHL is calculated as 10% of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. One vessel has participated to date in the fishery, so landing data remains confidential.

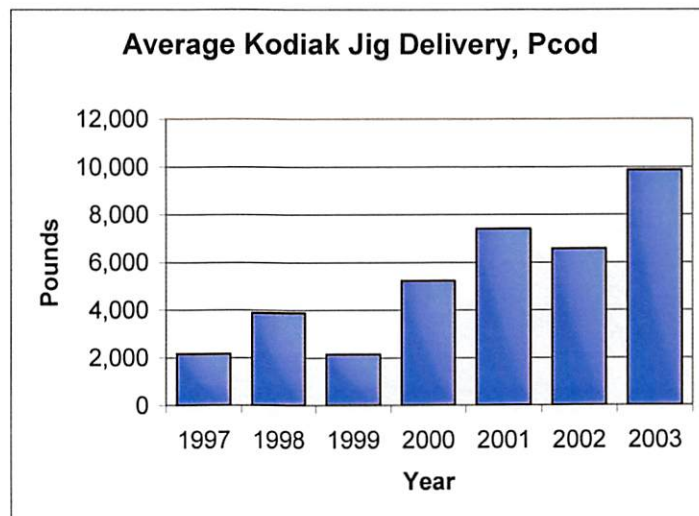
Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 4)

Kodiak (FIGURE 5) The Kodiak Area GHL was 8.0 million pounds, which was 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 50% to pot gear and 50% to jig gear. Vessels using pot gear that were greater than 58' in overall length were restricted to 25% of the GHL, or 2.0 million pounds before September 1, 2003.

The Kodiak Area closed to pot gear on March 2 for the remainder of the year. Forty-nine pot vessels harvested 4.9 million pounds, exceeding the pot allocation by 22%. One hundred and one jig vessels harvested 3.1 million pounds and fishing closed to that gear type on May 9, 2003 for the remainder of the year.

This is the first time in the seven-year history of the state-waters seasons that the jig allocation has been taken before the fall allocation rollover on September 1. Additionally, this was the first time the entire GHL for the Kodiak Area season has been attained before December. Possible factors for this include very high cod abundance (when compared to the late 1990s), a period of two weeks in April when the weather was perfect for fishing, average price per pound for cod in the mid \$0.30 range, fishermen looking for the 'economic alternative to salmon fishing' and finally, when cod abundance was this high several years ago, many of jig fishermen were just learning how to fish with this gear. Now that fish abundance is up again, these fishermen are using their gained experience to become much better harvesters. There were 101 vessels participating this year, and with the exception of last year, that number is about average for Kodiak over the history of the state-waters' fishery. However, the average Kodiak jig delivery has increased dramatically in the past few years:

YEAR	POUNDS
1997	2,158
1998	3,881
1999	2,141
2000	5,227
2001	7,392
2002	6,559
2003	9,860



Following the closure, state waters in the Kodiak Area will reopen under parallel fishing rules should any CGOA Pacific cod openings occur throughout the remainder of 2003. The 2004 allocation will again be 12.5% of the Central Gulf ABC for cod.

Chignik (FIGURE 6) The Chignik Area 2003 GHL is 4.5 million pounds, which is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The season opened on March 1, 2003. Sixteen pot vessels harvested 4.0 million pounds, reaching the pot allocation on April 11, 2003. Jig fishermen captured their allocation of 675,000 pounds as well, and the fishery closed to jig gear on June 4, 2003. Therefore, the entire Pacific cod allocation has been taken for the Chignik area and the fishery will not reopen for the remainder of 2003. By taking the entire allocation, the Chignik Area will receive its final incremental 'step-up' in 2004. The Chignik Area GHL in 2004 will increase to 8.75% of the Central Gulf ABC for cod.

South Alaska Peninsula (FIGURE 7) The South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL was 11.4 million pounds which was 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear.

The South Alaska Peninsula Area closed for pot gear on March 11, 2003 for the remainder of the year. Forty-nine pot vessels harvested 7.8 million pounds, approximately 17% under that gear types allocation. Sixty-five jig vessels harvested the remaining 3.6 million pounds and fishing closed to that gear type on April 22, 2003 for the remainder of the year.

This is the fastest that the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters season has ever been prosecuted. With the closure, state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area will reopen under parallel fishing rules should any WGOA Pacific cod openings occur throughout the remainder of 2003. The 2004 allocation to the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters season will again be 25% of the WGOA

Southeast Groundfish

(FIGURE 8) The winter demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery opened January 1, 2003 in Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO), Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside

(SSEI) management areas with the winter portion of the annual quota available for harvest. The East Yakutat (EYKT) and Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) management areas did not open for this fishery. The CSEO closed on January 4, 2003 after 94,287 round pounds of DSR had been harvested. The SSEO closed on January 11, 2003 with a harvest of 84,082 round pounds from that management area. The SSEI closed on February 5, 2003 with 38,932 round pounds harvested. The NSEI closed on February 9, 2003 with 34,596 round pounds harvested. All areas were closed as the winter allocation was reached except SSEO which exceeded the winter allocation and came in just 1 metric ton short of the annual allocation. This will result in the DSR fishery not reopening in SSEO in the fall.

Directed fishing for Lingcod opened May 16, 2003 in the EYKT, CSEO, NSEO and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) areas. The EYKT area closed on May 21, 2003 as the harvest quickly approached the 86,000 round pound quota. It is estimated that the quota has been reached or exceeded; however, all the tickets have not been entered at this time.

Several fishermen are participating in a directed fishery for black rockfish in CSEO, NSEO and SSEOC. Currently regulations are pending to set annual harvest limits in that fishery. To date, less than 10,000 round pounds have been landed.

The Clarence Strait Sablefish Fishery (Southern Southeast Inside) opened June 1, 2003 for longline gear. The SSEI sablefish quota will be 696,000 round pounds for 2003. The equal quota share (EQS) for each of the 28 permit holders will be 24,860 round pounds or the equivalent.

Figure 1. 2003 ALASKA COMMERCIAL WINTER TROLL CHINOOK FISHERY



Troll Year	Statistics for April 6 - April 12			Week 15			
	Total Catch to Date	Week 15 Catch (numbers)	Permits Fished	Landings	Average Catch per Landing	Average Weight (lbs)	Average Price/Lb (from fish tickets)
2003	50,810	8,802	179	316	28.0	13.5	\$2.95
2002	28,230	2,551	136	195	13	15.1	\$2.47
5-year average (1998-2002)	29,289	3,924	157	242	16	15.6	\$2.90

Troll Year 2003	Weekly Chinook Salmon Catch and Effort Data					
Week	Catch	Permits	Landings	Pounds	Ave. Price	Ave. Wt.
41	2,750	31	32	38,130	\$2.20	13.9
42	8,204	130	212	110,252	\$2.07	13.5
43	4,756	98	132	57,197	\$1.69	12.1
44	1,334	69	88	17,420	\$1.73	13.1
45	378	29	33	4,723	\$2.66	12.5
46	156	21	25	2,141	\$2.91	13.8
47	365	28	34	4,784	\$3.09	13.1
48	94	15	21	1,288	\$3.62	13.7
49	127	20	24	1,621	\$3.80	12.8
50	107	20	27	1,677	\$3.94	15.7
51	167	30	51	2,430	\$4.24	14.5
52	68	11	18	961	\$3.98	14.1
53	122	16	28	1,584	\$3.82	13.0
1	73	13	16	891	\$4.10	12.2
2	220	26	35	3,182	\$4.82	14.5
3	501	50	77	7,083	\$4.68	14.1
4	722	50	83	10,889	\$5.72	15.1
5	1,506	86	148	22,312	\$5.63	14.8
6	1,338	104	152	19,701	\$5.14	14.7
7	1,665	120	193	23,603	\$4.99	14.1
8	2,081	93	172	34,129	\$4.93	16.4
9	1,199	114	156	18,975	\$4.78	15.8
10	1,643	102	155	25,340	\$4.86	15.4
11	1,080	74	115	15,901	\$4.70	14.7
12	2,307	127	205	33,323	\$4.53	14.4
13	3,495	142	245	49,500	\$3.96	14.2
14	5,550	180	297	76,280	\$3.12	13.8
15	8,802	179	316	118,507	\$2.95	13.5
Totals	50,810	360	3,090	703,824	\$3.35	13.9

NOTES:
 Data for troll year 2003 is preliminary.
 The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter troll fishery for chinook salmon began October 11, 2002 and closed April 12, 2003 when the harvest limit was reached.
 The fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. Please refer to the 2003 Winter Troll Management Plan and Regulatory Guide for more details. The "winter boundary line" is defined in 5 AAC 29.020(b), which can be found on page 58 in the 2002-2003 S.E. Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations.
 This table was updated May 1, 2003. Numbers above are listed by Troll Year, which begins with the winter fishery in October and ends with the summer fishery in September.

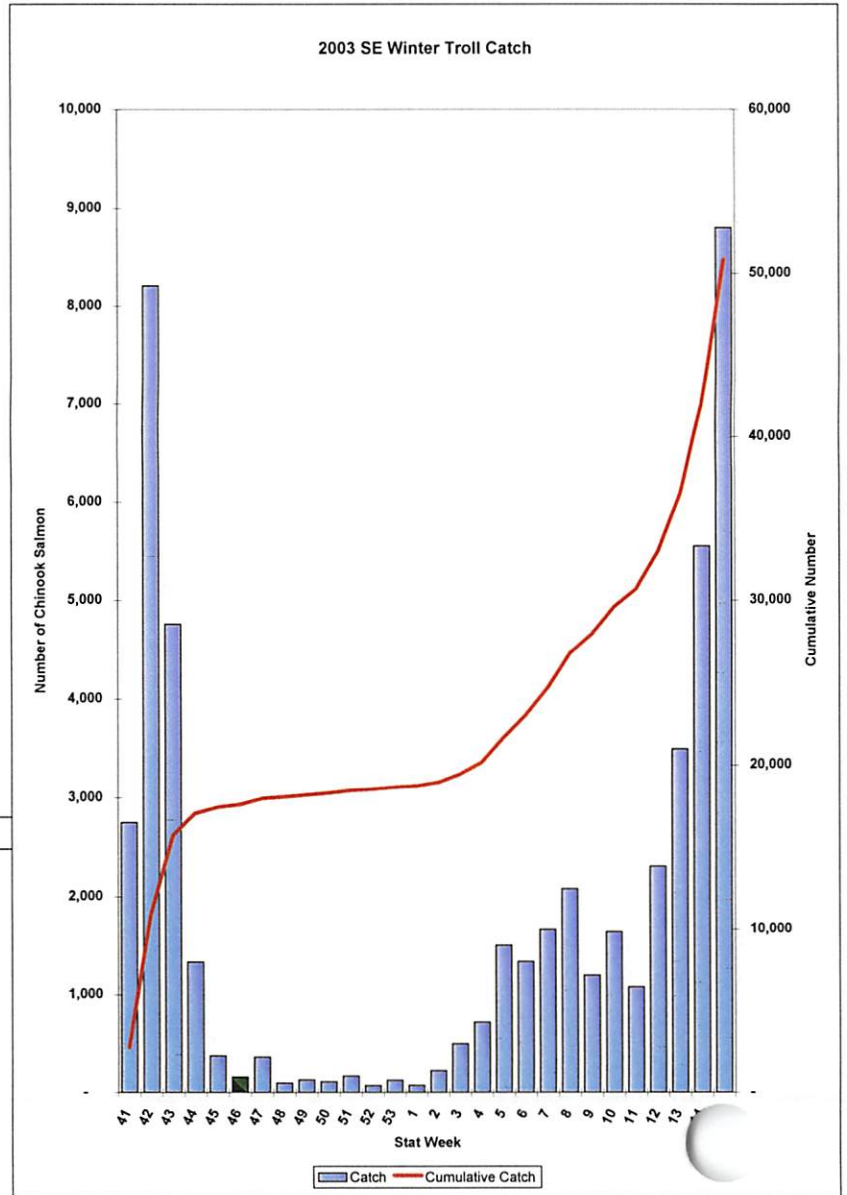
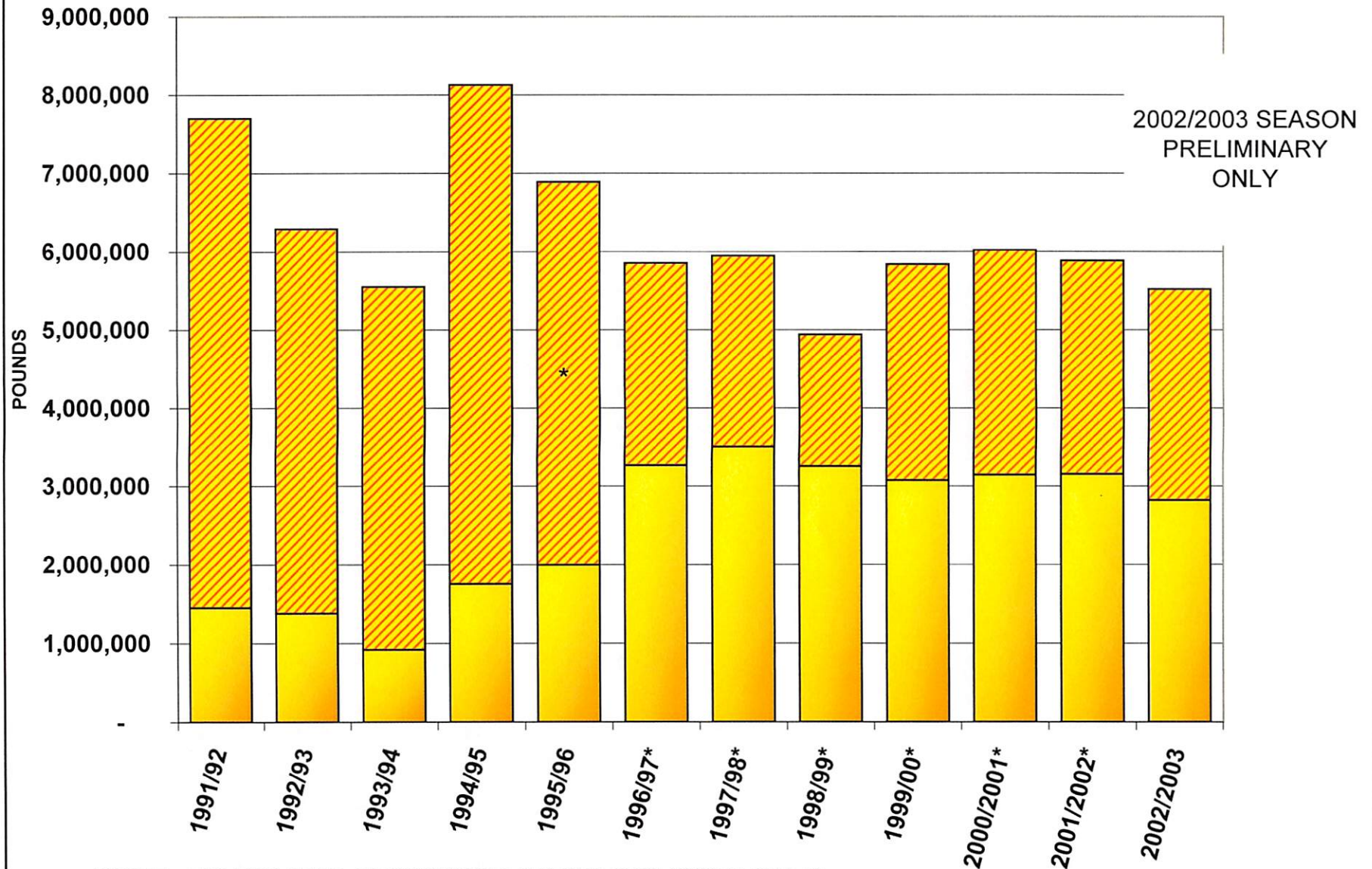


FIGURE 2

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB HARVEST, 2002/2003 SEASON



*NOTE: FISHING AREA DESIGNATION MODIFIED IN 1996 @ 174° W

■ EAST OF 174° W

■ WEST OF 174° W

**FIGURE 3. 2003 Harvest Guideline, Effort, and Catch reported for Central Region
Pcod state water fisheries through May 31.**

This summary censored for confidential data.

Pacific Cod

PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	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)	21	27	105,484	11	15	7,864
Pots (91)	7	89	292,809	0	0	0
Totals	28	116	398,293	14	15	7,864
Status	Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Feb 9			Directed Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Feb 9		

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*

Gear	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
GHL (lb)		1.44mil.			*705,500 lbs.	
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	17	127	331,231	0	0	0
Pots (91)	10	89	880,023	1	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
Totals	27	216	1,211,254	1	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status	Opened - Closed noon Feb 10 - Open			Opened - Closed noon Feb 16 - Open		
State seasons: Pots (91)	Opened - Closed noon Feb 10 - 5 PM Feb 27			Opened - Closed noon Feb 16 -		
Status	Closed			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.

*Note; new GHL calculation effective 5/14/03.



FIGURE 4. 2003 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH

UPDATED: June 2, 2003

PRELIMINARY WESTWARD REGION PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK



VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	KODIAK			CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA					
	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig			
2003 GH	8.0 million pounds			4.5 million pounds			11.4 million pounds					
ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GH before Sept. 1. Jigs = 4.0 million, Pots = 4.0 million, >58' pots 2.0 before Sept. 1.			85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 3.8 million Jigs = 675,000			85% Pots Pots limited to 9.6 million pounds					
DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
2/16 to 2/22	41	1,712,444	19	68,104	Opened 3/1/03	Opened 3/1/03	Opened 3/1/03	Opened 3/1/03	Opened 2/24/03	Opened 2/24/03	Opened 2/24/03	Opened 2/24/03
2/23 to 3/1	71	2,258,375	25	60,553	0	0	0	0	49	1,494,457	Confidential	Confidential
3/2 to 3/8	37	986,412	29	65,660	16	600,982	0	0	73	3,562,864	13	101,304
3/9 to 3/15	Closed 3/2	Closed 3/2	8	12,583	14	386,227	0	0	68	2,816,409	10	94,612
3/16 to 3/22	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	40	96,462	23	756,070	0	0	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	14	138,052
3/23 to 3/29	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	38	84,203	23	619,079	0	0	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	31	256,677
3/30 to 4/5	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	60	206,273	35	740,326	Confidential	Confidential	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	89	923,959
4/6 to 4/12	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	36	151,590	35	741,442	Confidential	Confidential	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	98	995,735
4/13 to 4/19	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	81	389,813	7	193,978	Confidential	Confidential	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	85	636,859
4/20 to 4/26	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	90	552,357	Closed 4/11	Closed 4/11	8	32,025	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	79	496,250
4/27 to 5/3	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	119	745,325	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	12	47,560	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed
5/4 to 5/10	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	141	754,389	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	20	89,489	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed
5/11 to 5/17	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Closed 5/9	Closed 5/9	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	22	99,306	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed
5/18 to 5/24	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	13	65,093	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed
5/25 to 6/1	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	21	83,387	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed	Fishery Closed
ACCUMULATIVE	149	4,957,231	686	3,187,312	153	4,038,104	96	416,860	190	7,873,730	419	3,643,448
CATCH	(Total combined)		8,144,543		(Total combined)		4,454,964		(Total combined)		11,517,178	

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

FIGURE 5.

Kodiak State Managed Pacific Cod Catches
2003

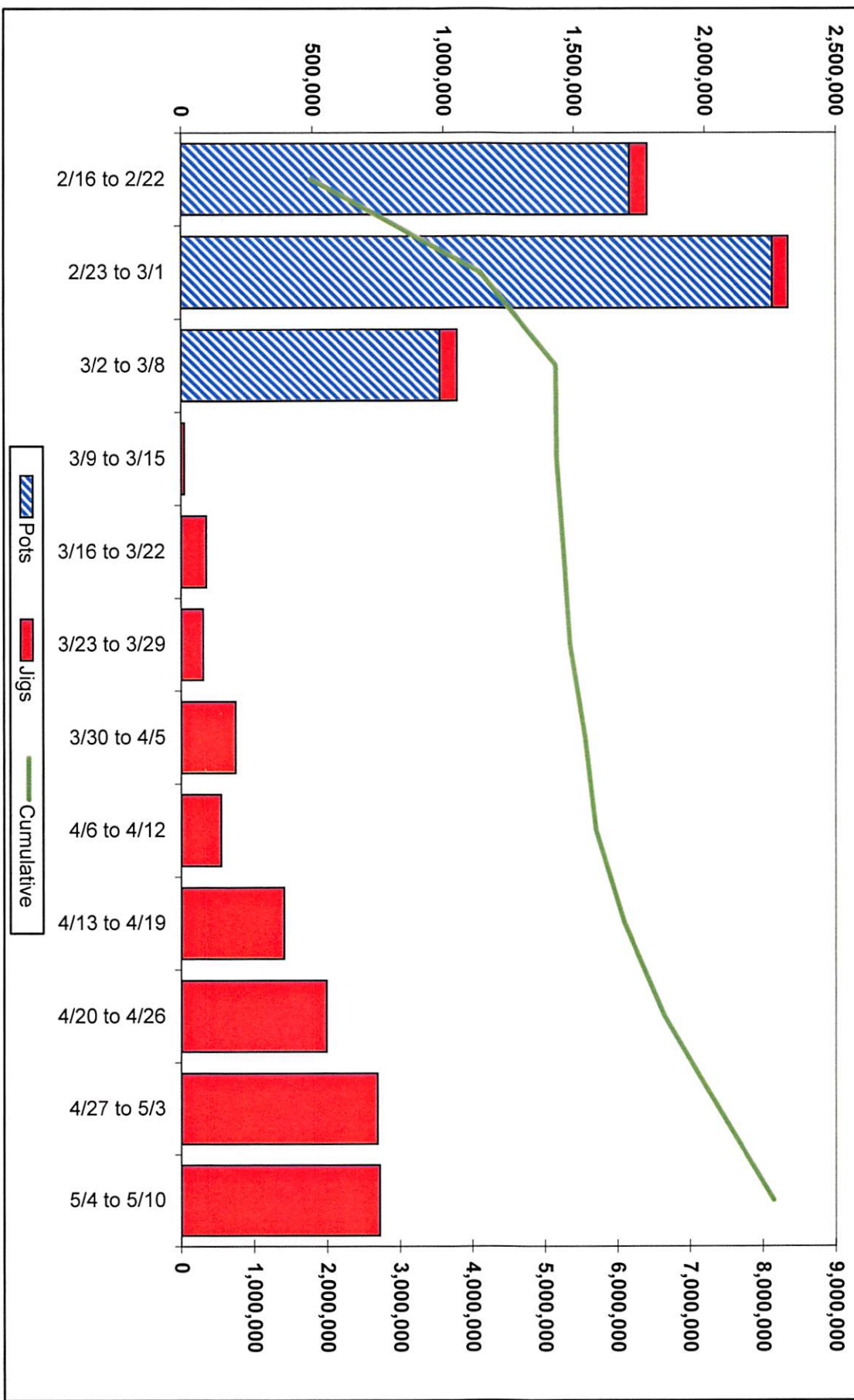


FIGURE 6.

Chignik State Managed Pacific Cod Catches
2003

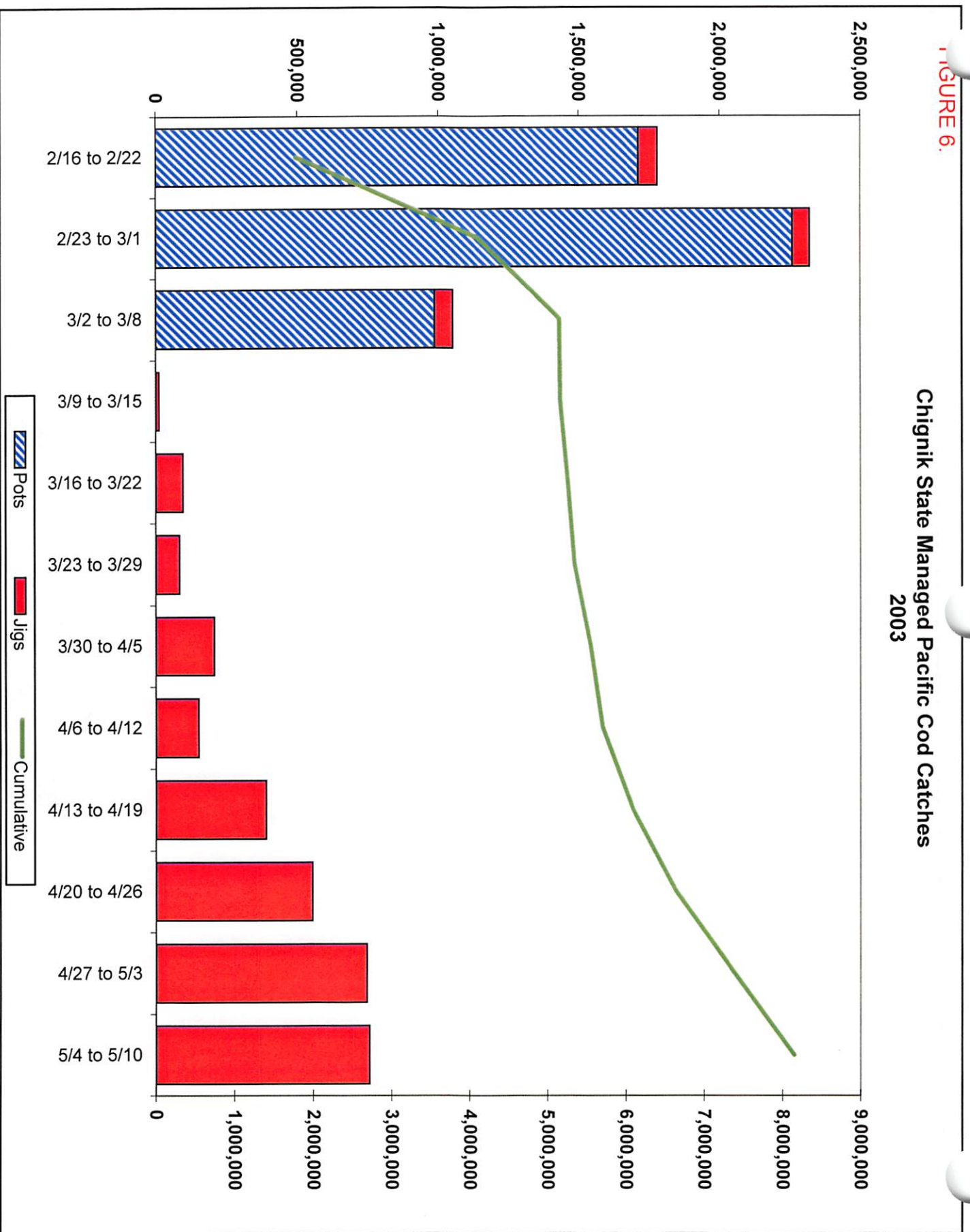
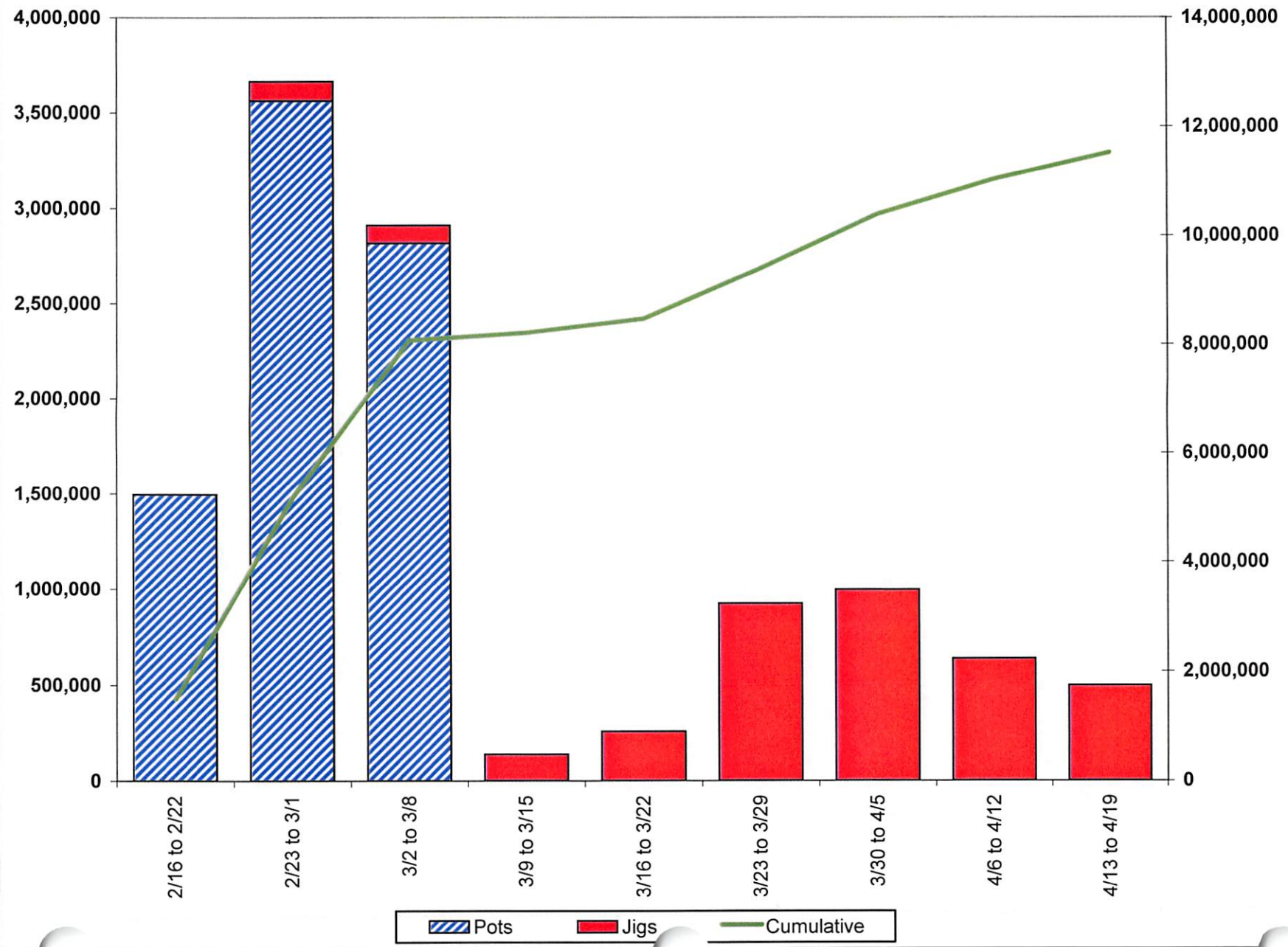


FIGURE 7.

S. AK Peninsula State Managed Pacific Cod Catches 2003



Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 8.

