



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

Fisheries

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

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2020/21 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2020. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 6.61 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. For the 2020/21 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.65 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.96 million pounds. Ten percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. All harvest is confidential except in the western area IFQ fishery where 930,235 or 35% of the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) has been harvested.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

The 2020/21 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened October 15, 2020 with a TAC of 2.648 million pounds, a 30% decrease from the 2019/20 fishery (see Figure 1). All vessels have checked out of the fishery for now. 99% of the IFQ TAC and 100% of the CDQ TAC has been harvested; total catch is 2.62 million pounds. Forty-six vessels participated this season and the average catch rate was 22 crabs per pot (higher than the 2019/20 CPUE of 16). Average weight decreased this fishing season from 7.14 pounds to 6.10. This fishery closes by regulation on January 15, 2021.

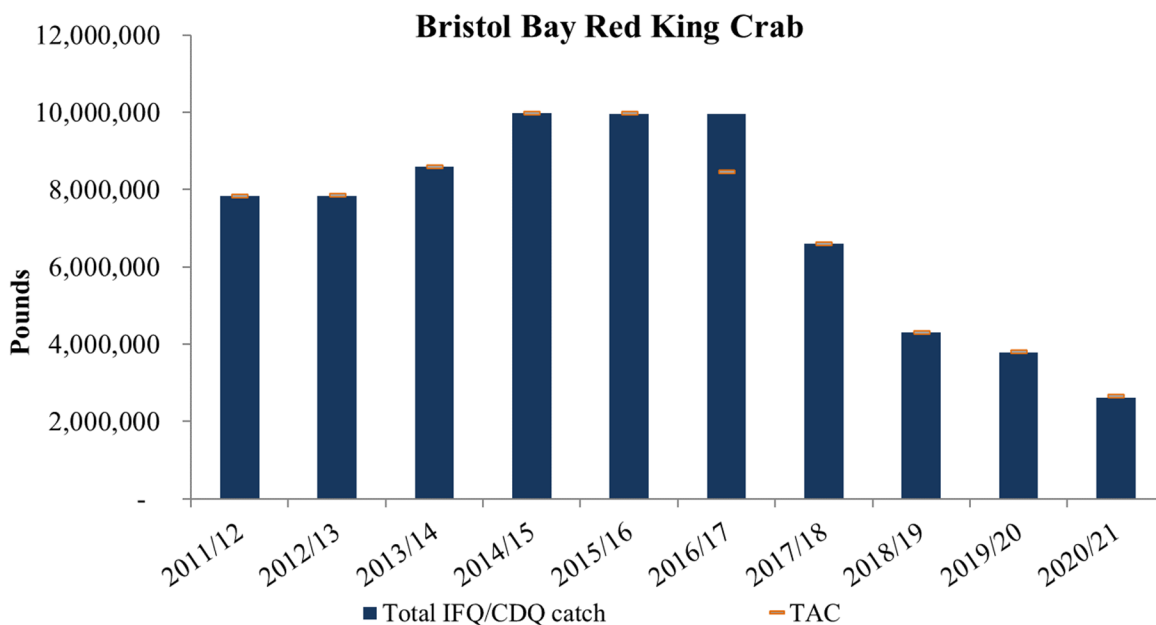


Figure 1. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest; 2011/12 – 2020/21 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2020. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2020/21 season is 277,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 10,000 pound increase from the 2019/20 cumulative GHL (see Table 1 and Figure 2). To date 226,130 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (82% of the 2020/21 GHL).

2020/21 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest and Crab Bycatch Levels				
Registration Area	District/Management Unit	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
			Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat		145,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2020/21 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2020/21 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2020/21 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Shelikof District	40,000	20,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	17,500	25
	Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Semidi Islands District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight ¹	7,500	3,750	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	<i>Closed for the 2020/21 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Bering Sea		7,500	65,000	500
			<i>C. opilio & hybrids</i>	
			300,000	

¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2020/21.

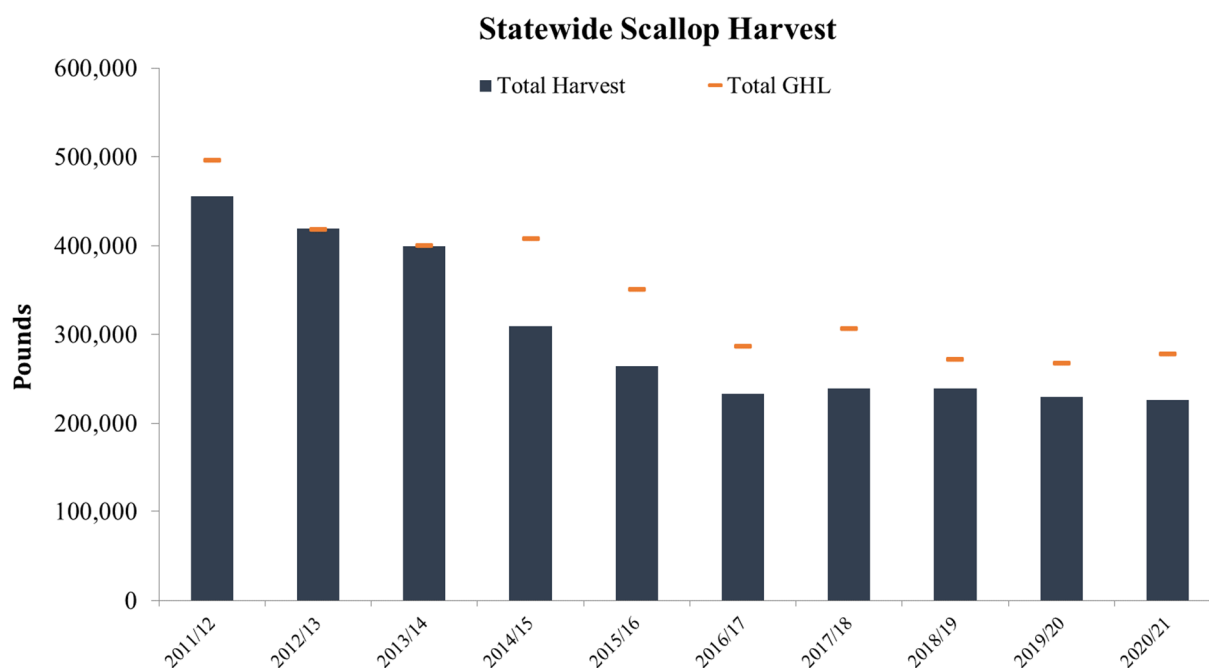


Figure 2. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2011/12 – 2020/21.

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 are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and through November 21, 2020, all areas have harvested over 90% of their GHs (see Table 2).

State Water Pacific Cod Guideline Harvest Level						
State Management Area	ABC and GHs percentage in regulation		2020 GHs as percent of ABC	2020 GHs (Pounds)	Harvest through 11/21	% GHs Harvested by Area
Prince William Sound*	EGOA - 25%		16%	437,425	426,119	>97%
Chignik	CGOA - 25%	8.75%	16%	1,060,531	980,177	92%
Kodiak		12.50%		1,515,044	1,417,741	94%
Cook Inlet		3.75%		454,513	415,928	92%
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		20%	2,124,573	2,051,238	97%
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 9%		9%	30,927,000	30,928,649	100%
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict**	Aleutian Islands - 34%		33%	15,000,000	14,907,703	99%

*Prince William Sound harvest is only longline gear due to confidentiality

**AI Subdistrict GHs is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)

Table 2. 2020 State water Pacific cod GHs and harvest through November 21, 2020.

Aleutian Islands

Because the 2019 GHs was achieved, the 2020 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHs was increased from 31% to 35% of the Aleutian Islands ABC; however, the AIS GHs is capped by regulation at 15 million pounds. The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict opened with a GHs of 15 million pounds on January 1, 2020 to longline, trawl, and pot gears. Harvest in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict was 14.9 million pounds, 99% of the GHs. Weekly harvest in the AIS is confidential.

Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot season opened on January 26, 2020 with a GHs of 30.9 million pounds and closed on March 12, 2020 with approximately 845,000 pounds of GHs remaining. Following the closure of the federal B season, the fishery reopened on September 17, 2020 to harvest the remaining GHs and closed on September 29, 2020. Harvest in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was 30.9 million pounds, 100% of the GHs (see Figure 3). The Dutch Harbor jig fishery opened May 1, 2020 and is currently open. Harvest is confidential. By regulation, the fishery closes December 31, 2020 (or when the GHs is achieved).

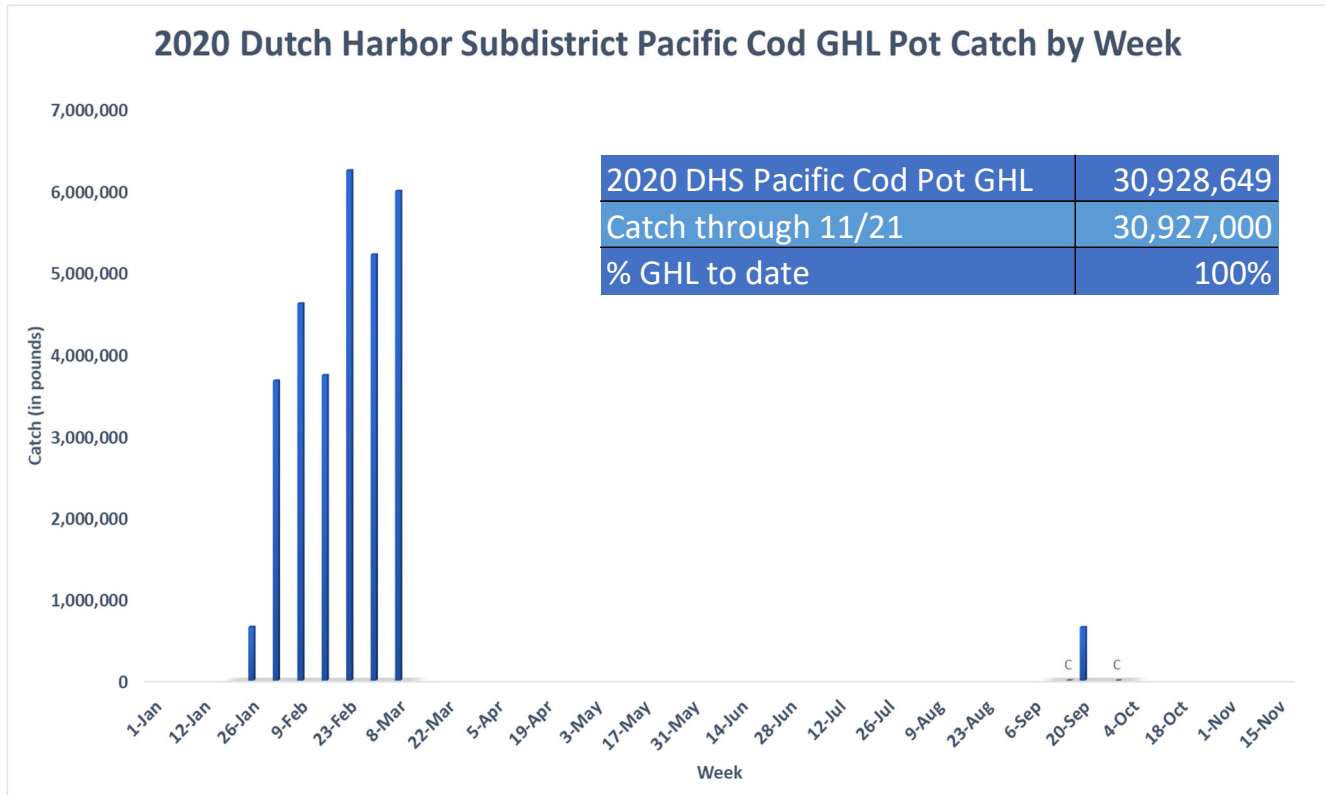


Figure 3. 2020 DHS Pacific cod pot harvest by week. C=confidential.

Prince William Sound

The 2020 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 437,425 pounds (see Figure 4). The state-waters pot and jig seasons opened on February 1, 2020; these fisheries remain open and harvest is confidential. The state-waters longline season opened February 1, 2020 and closed on March 4, 2020, harvesting 426,119 pounds (97% of the GHL).

Cook Inlet

The 2020 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 454,513 pounds and 415,980 pounds have been harvested (92% of the GHL; see Figure 4). The state-waters pot season opened on February 1 and closed on February 28. The pot fishery reopened on October 31, 2020 and remains open. A total of 5 pot vessels have harvested 397,609 pounds (87% of the GHL). The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opened on January 1 and remains open. Three jig vessels have harvested 18,319 pounds.

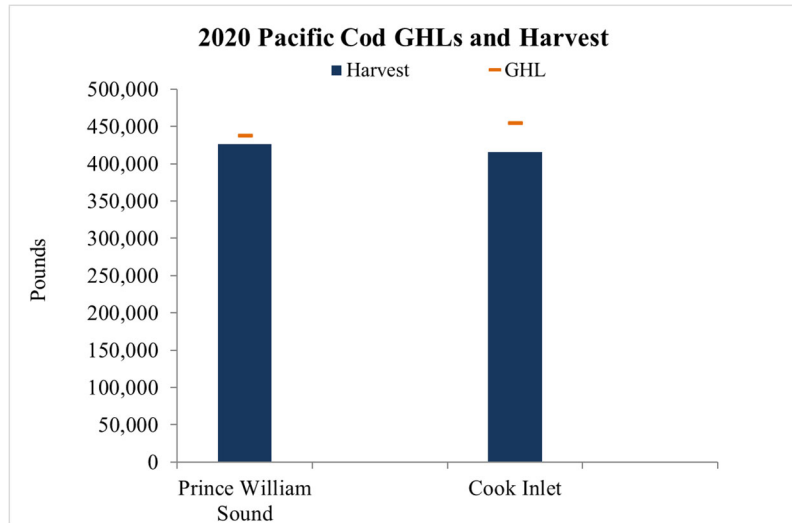


Figure 4. 2020 Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet harvest. *Prince William Sound excludes jig harvest as it is confidential.

Chignik

The 2020 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.06 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters pot season opened on March 1, 2020 and closed on March 13. The fishery opened up again to pot gear on August 15 because there was available jig allocation that had not been harvested. Four vessels have harvested 980,177 pounds (92%) of the GHL (see Figure 5). The pot fishery reopened on August 15, 2020. The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on January 1, 2020; however, there has been no participation to date in the jig fishery.

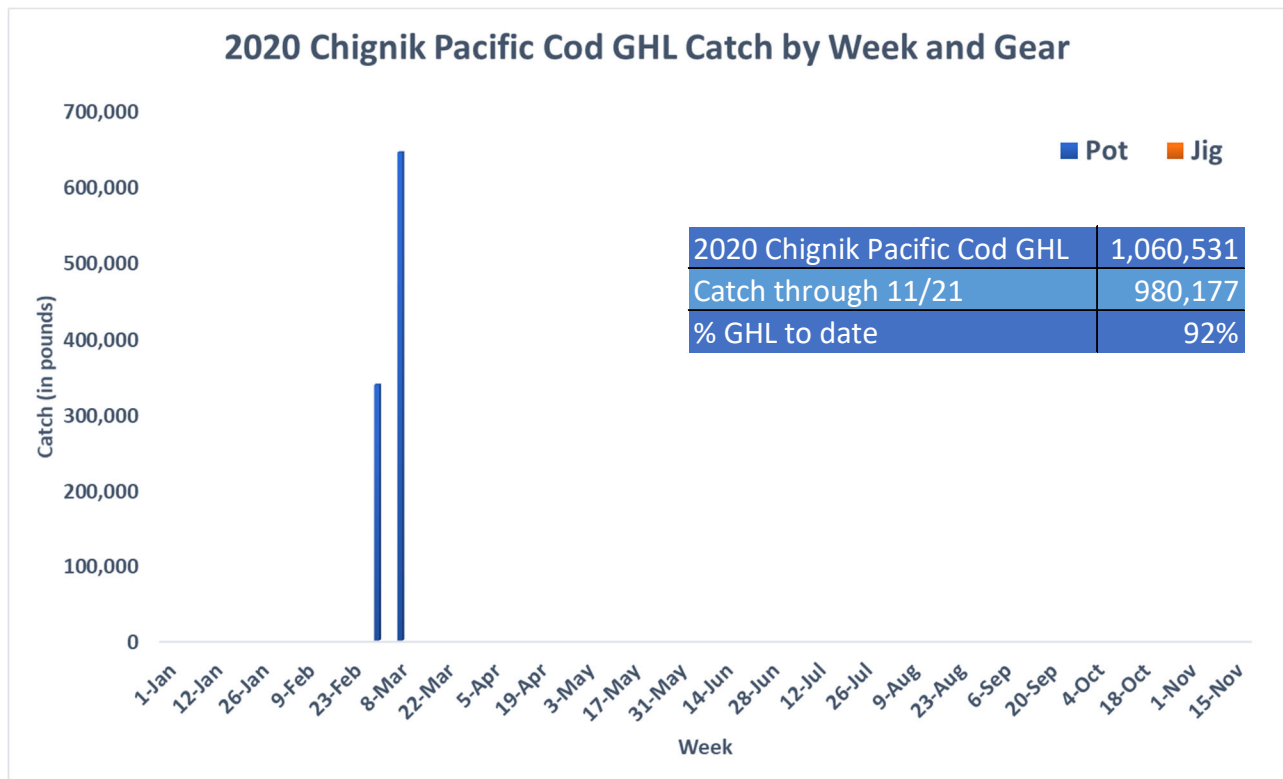


Figure 5. 2020 Chignik Pacific cod pot harvest by week.

Kodiak

The 2020 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area is 1.52 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (0.76 million pounds each). To date 1.42 million pounds, 94% of the Kodiak GHL has been harvested (see Figure 6). The state-waters pot fishery typically opens following the closure of the federal fishery but without a federal fishery, the GHL pot fishery opened on February 24, 2020 and closed on March 11, 2020. Seven pot vessels harvested 735,450 pounds (97%) of the pot allocation. The pot fishery reopened on November 23, 2020 following a rollover from the jig GHL. The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on January 1, 2020 and remains open. Thirty vessels have harvested 682,291 pounds (90%) of the jig allocation.

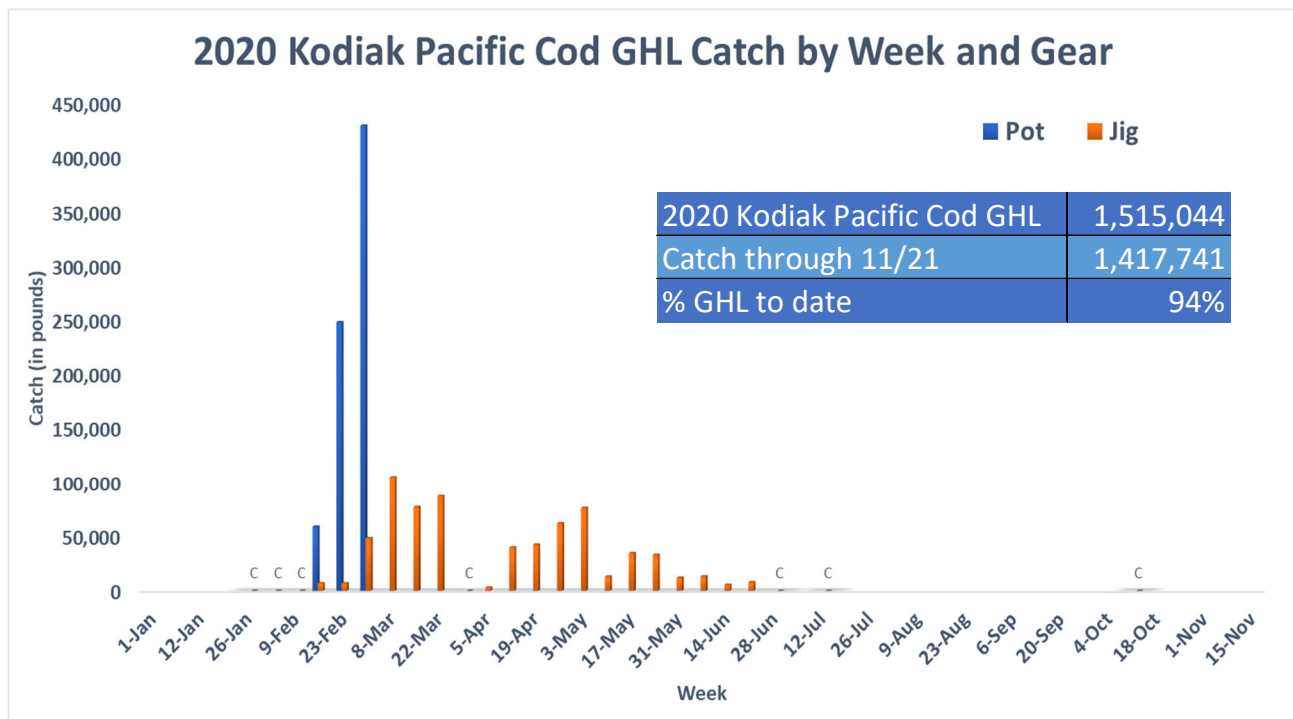


Figure 6. 2020 Kodiak Pacific cod pot harvest by week. C=confidential.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2020 GHl for the South Alaska Peninsula is 2.12 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. 2.05 million pound, 97% of the SAP GHl has been harvested (see Figure 7). The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 7, 2020 and closed on March 27. Nineteen pot vessels harvested 1.68 million pounds, 93% of the pot allocation. There is not enough GHl remaining to reopen the pot fishery. The state-waters jig fishery opened on January 1, 2020 and remains open. To date, fifteen jig vessels have harvested 375,110 pounds.

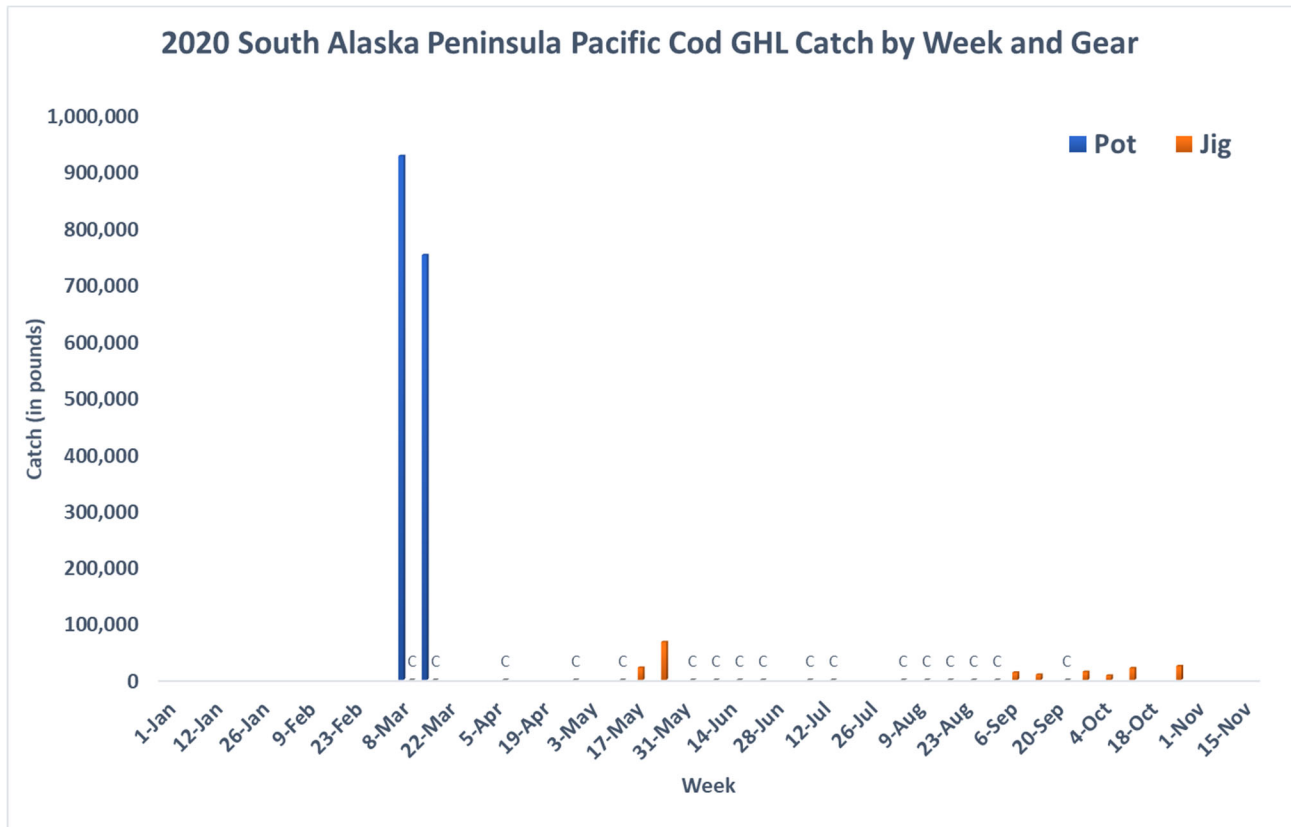


Figure 7. 2020 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod pot harvest by week. C=confidential.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The next Board of Fisheries meeting is for Statewide Shellfish (Except Prince William Sound, Southeast, and Yakutat, but including Prince William Sound shrimp). This meeting is currently scheduled for March 5-10, 2021 in Anchorage and comments are due February 18, 2021. Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish is scheduled for March 30-April 5, 2021 in Cordova.