



**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 2021/22 Aleutian Islands (AI) commercial golden king crab fishery opened on July 1 2021 for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2021 for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 5.93 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude (Figure 1). For the 2021/22 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.61 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.32 million pounds, a 10% decline overall from 2020/21. Ten percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. In the eastern area, 100% of both the CDQ and IFQ has been harvested by three vessels (Figure 1). In the western area ACA harvest is confidential but 70% of the IFQ in this area, approximately 1.5 million pounds has been harvested. Both areas close by regulation on April 30, 2022.

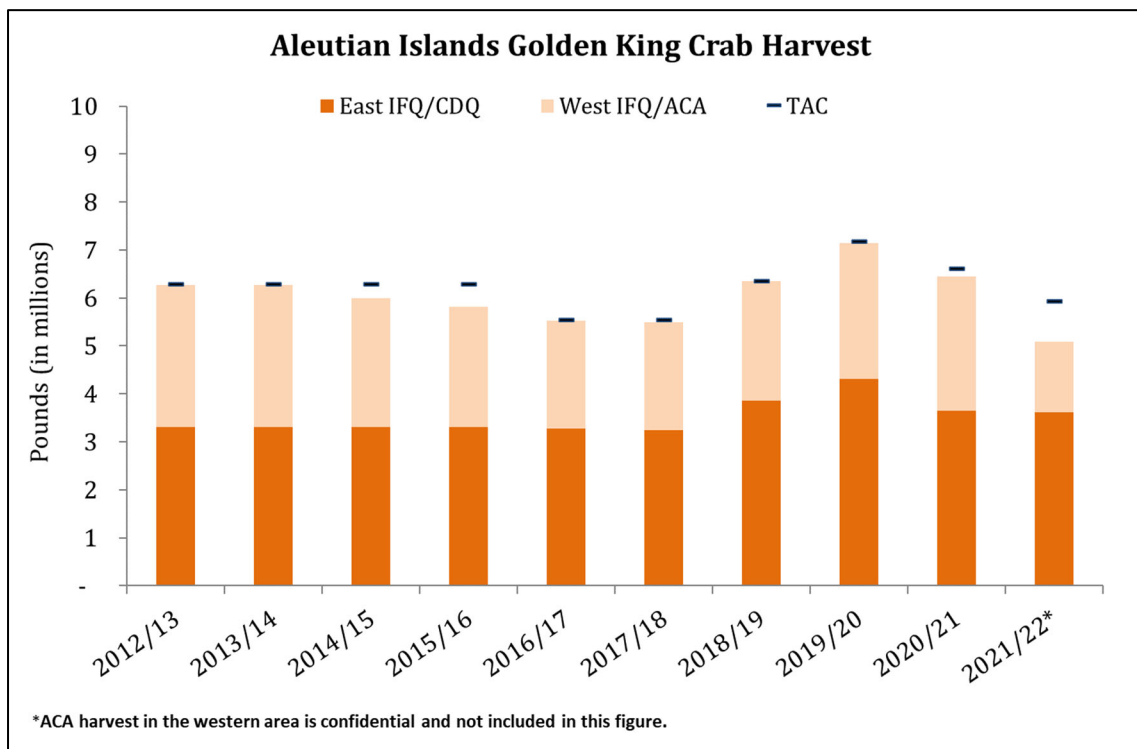


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2021/22 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in the western area (West of 166° W longitude) on October 15, 2021, with a TAC of 1.1 million pounds with ten percent, 110,000 pounds, allocated to the CDQ fishery. The 2021/22 TAC is 53% lower than in 2020/21. To date, 989,042 pounds (100% of IFQ TAC) have been harvested by 19 vessels in the IFQ fishery and 100,660 pounds (92% of CDQ TAC) have been harvested by five vessels in the CDQ fishery (Figure 2). The eastern area remains closed and the western area closed by regulation on March 31, 2022.

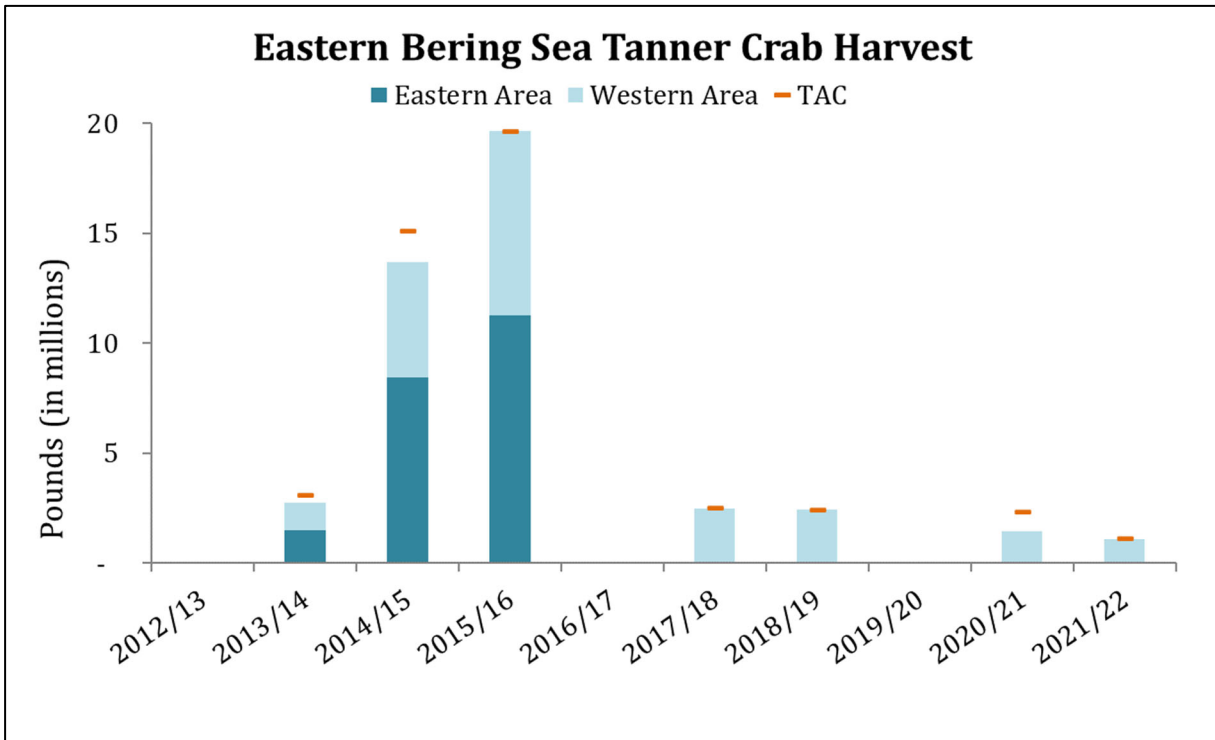


Figure 2. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2021, and will remain open through May 15, 2022, in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and through May 31, 2022, in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2021/22 snow crab TAC is 5,600,000 pounds, an 88% reduction from the 2020/21 TAC of 45 million pounds. Ten percent of the Bering Sea snow crab TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. To date, 39 vessels have harvested 3.8 million pounds in the IFQ fishery, 76% of the IFQ TAC, and four vessels have harvested 448,000 pounds in the CDQ fishery, 80% of the CDQ TAC (Figure 3). CPUEs have been variable this season although sea ice has covered a larger portion of the fishing grounds compared to recent years. Anecdotal reports from the grounds indicate that most fishing has occurred in “typical” areas and not in the deeper areas off the shelf as in 2020/2021.

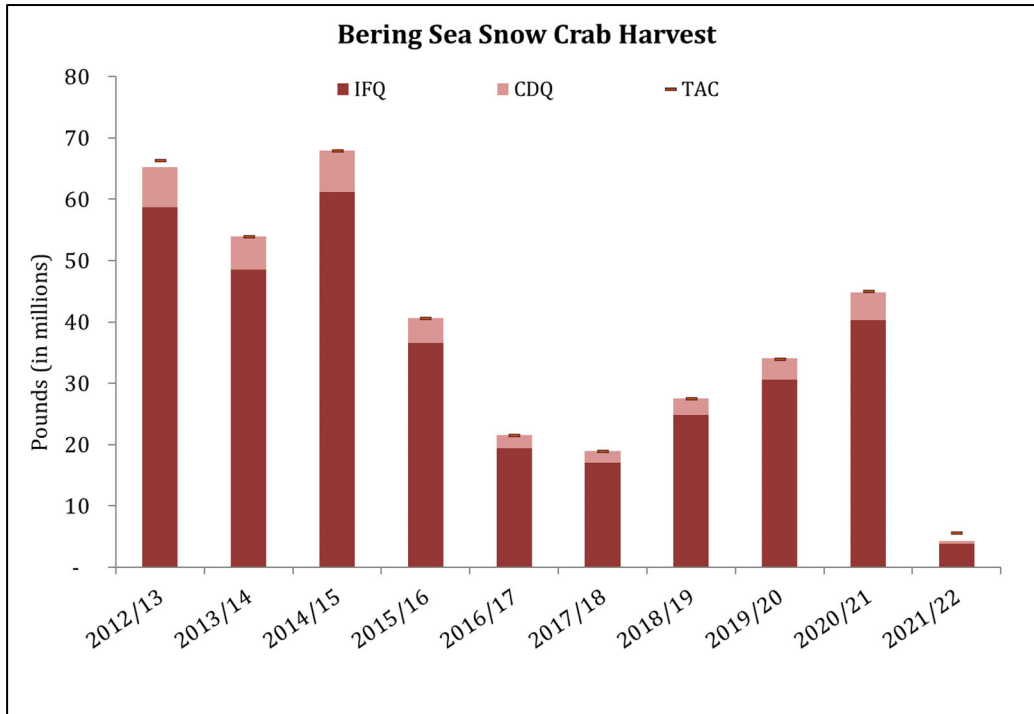


Figure 3. Bering Sea snow crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2021. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2021/22 season is 345,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 68,000 pound increase from the 2020/21 cumulative GHL (Table 1). To date 298,755 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested and there is currently no effort in this fishery (Figure 4).

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2021/22.

2021/22 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 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	8,000	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	30,000	18,000	25
	Shelikof District	80,000	40,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	21,000	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	4,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	3,750	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	5,000	3,750	10
Bering Sea		7,500	18,750	100
			<i>C. opilio & hybrids</i>	11,250

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

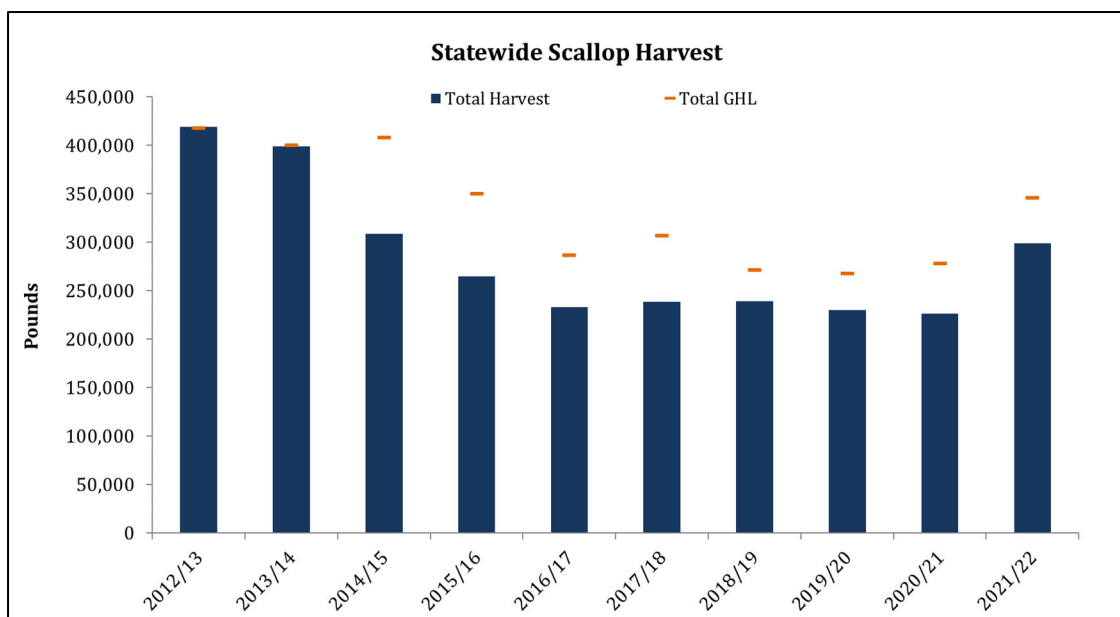


Figure 4. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22.

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. 2022 GHLs are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2022 GHL (pounds)	2022 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	257,693	117
			Longline	1,460,259	662
Chignik	8.75%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	381,021	173
			Pot	3,429,189	1,555
Kodiak	12.50%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	2,721,579	1,234
			Pot	2,721,579	1,234
Cook Inlet	3.75%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	244,945	111
			Pot	1,388,019	630
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	986,316	447
			Pot	5,589,124	2,535
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 11%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	37,196,000	16,872
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict*	Aleutian Islands - 39%		All	15,000,000	6,804

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

Prince William Sound: The 2022 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.718 million pounds and is allocated 85% to longline gear and 15% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters season opened to pot gear on February 14, 2022, and remains open. The state-waters season for longline gear opened on March 22, 2022, and remains open. Current harvest is confidential.

Chignik

The 2022 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 3.810 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on March 1, 2022, and the state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15, 2022; both fisheries remain open. Through March 30, 1.1 million pounds have been harvested in the pot gear fishery and there has been no effort in the jig fishery (Figure 5).

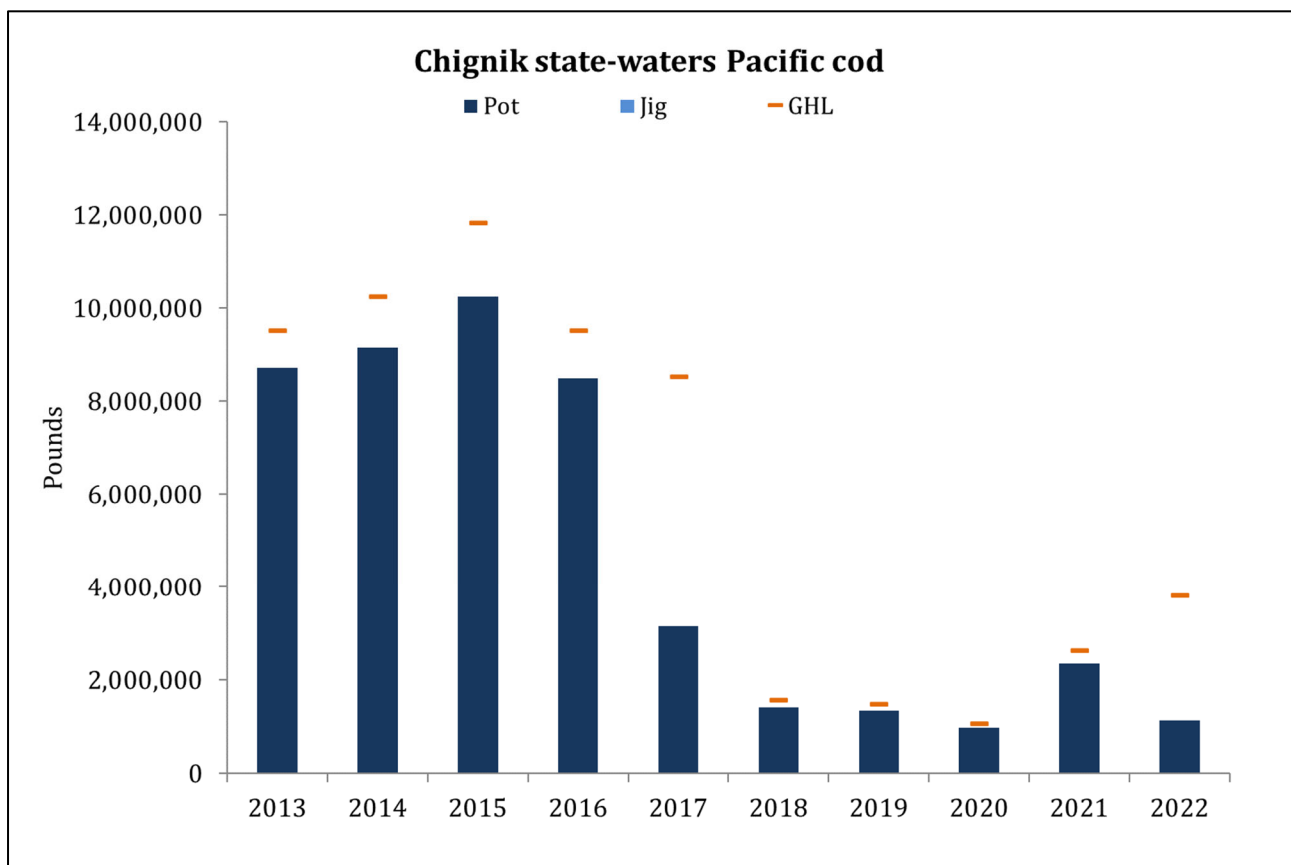


Figure 5. Annual Chignik Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Kodiak

The 2022 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.443 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (2.7 million pounds each). The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 22, 2022, and closed on March 10,

2022, harvesting 2.8 million pounds. The jig fishery opened on January 1, 2022, and remains open. 187,000 pounds have been harvested in the jig fishery.

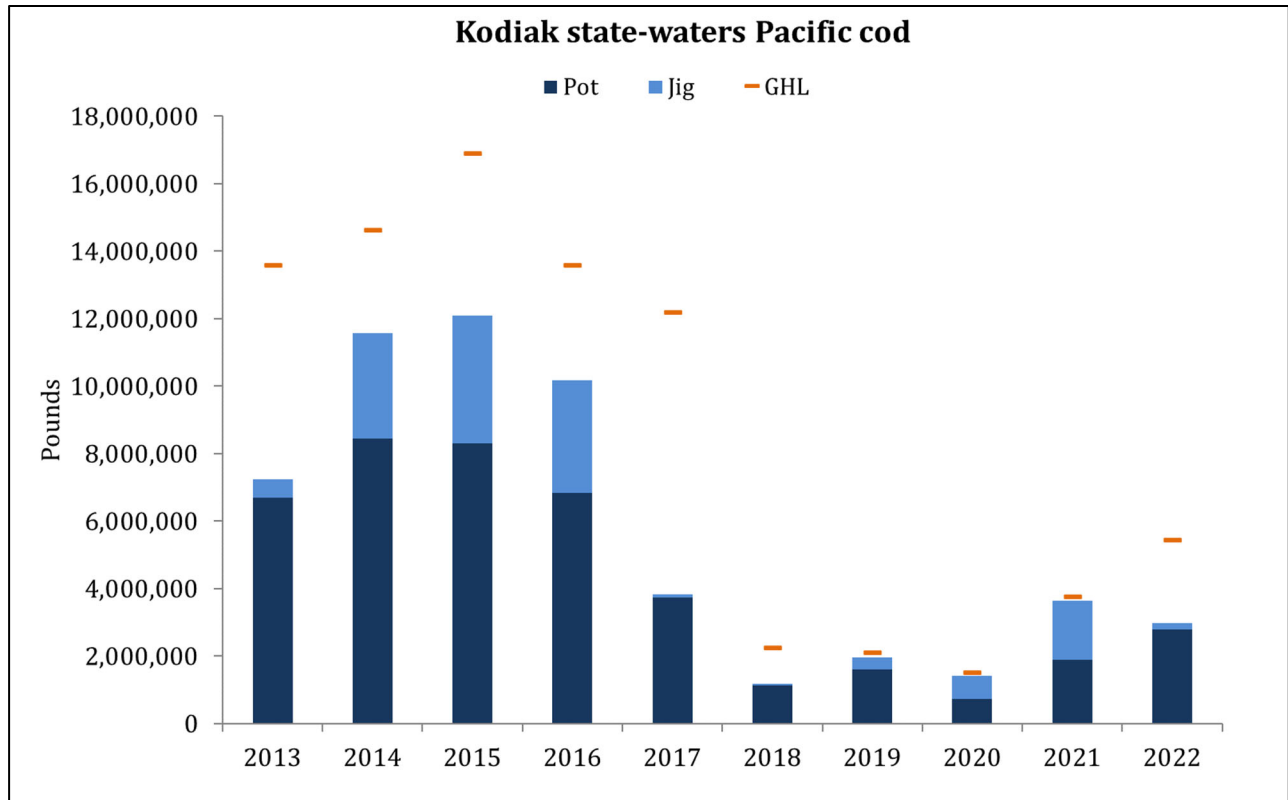


Figure 6. Annual Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Cook Inlet

The 2022 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.633 million pounds with 1.39 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 0.24 million pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 17, 2022, and remains open for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length; the fishery closed to vessels greater than 58 feet in length on March 3. Vessels using pot gear have harvested 1.4 million pounds (Figure 7). The jig fishery is closed and will open following the closure of that federal sector.

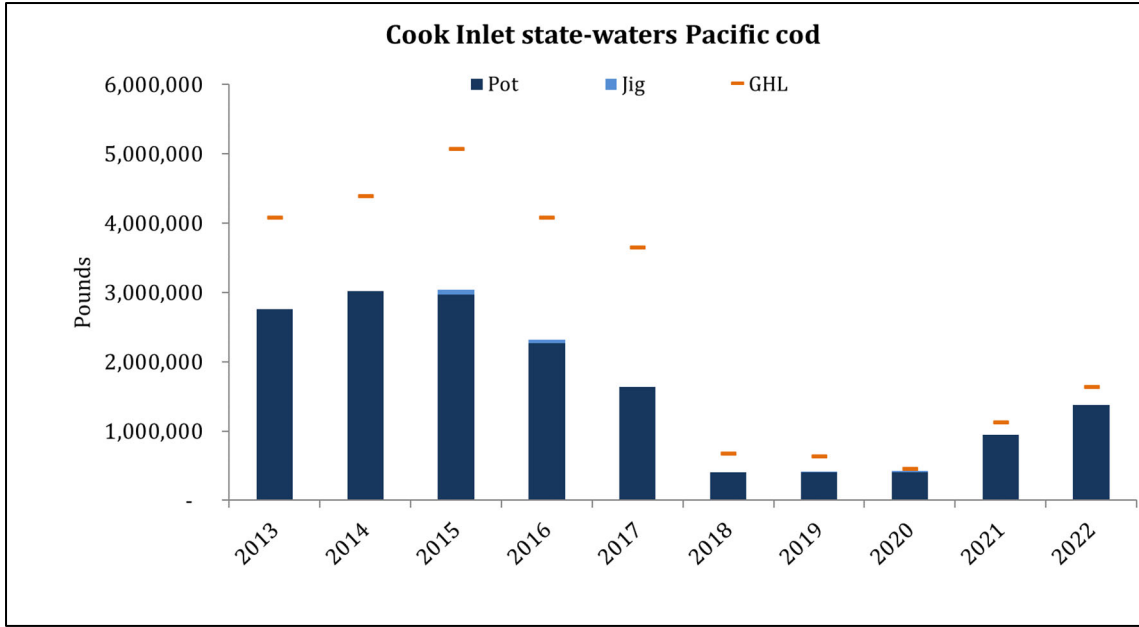


Figure 7. Annual Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2022 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 6.575 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear; 5.3 million pounds has been harvested (Figure 8). The state-waters pot season opened on March 7, 2022, and closed on March 16, 2022. The jig fishery opened on March 15, 2022, and harvest remains confidential.

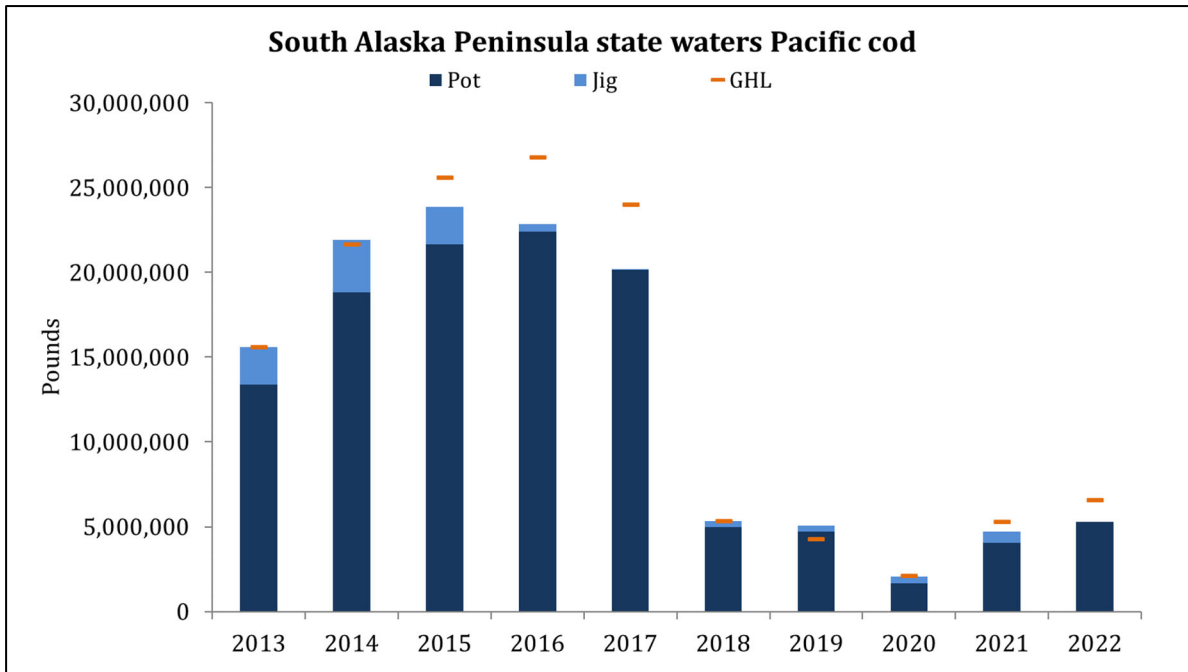


Figure 8. Annual South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot season opened on February 2, 2022 with a GHL of 37.196 million pounds and approximately 24.6 million pounds (66% of the GHL) have been harvested by 29 vessels. The Dutch Harbor jig fishery is scheduled to open May 1, 2022, with a GHL of 100,000 pounds. By regulation, the fishery closes December 31, 2022, or when the GHL is achieved.

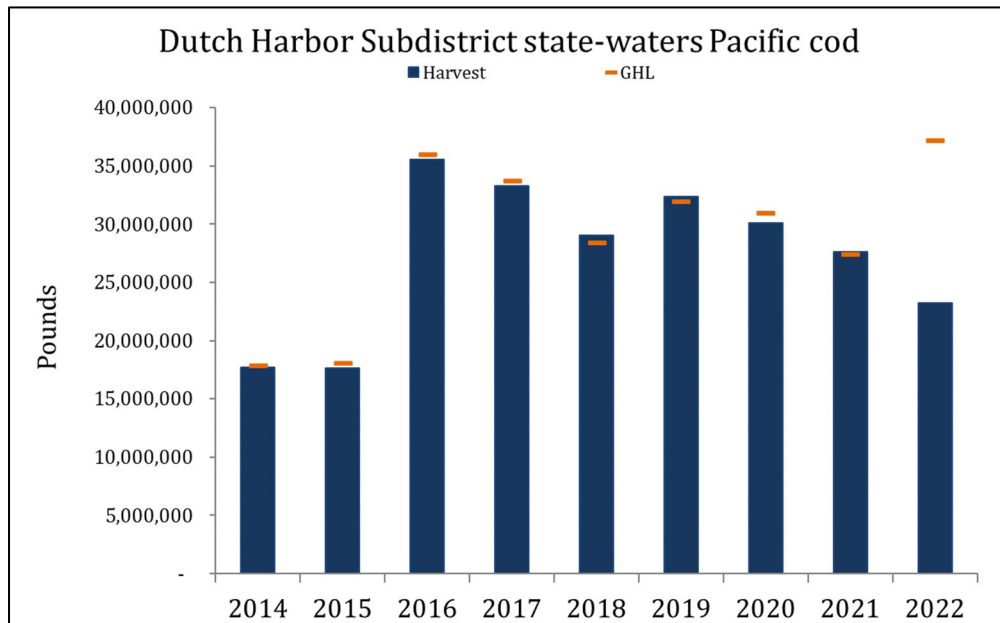


Figure 9. Annual Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2022.

Aleutian Islands

The 2022 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 39% of the Aleutian Islands ABC; however, the AIS GHL is capped by regulation at 15 million pounds which represents 33% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The Adak Section, between 175° W. long and 178° W. long, opened January 1, 2022, to vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to an OAL of 58 feet. The entire AIS opened on January 27, 2022, to vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl or jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. The AIS opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear and vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear on March 15, 2022. Current harvest is confidential.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

- The Board of Fisheries is currently accepting proposed changes to fishing regulations for 2022/23 cycle which includes Bristol Bay; Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim; Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, Chignik; and Statewide finfish management areas. Proposals are due April 11, 2022.
- At the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting, the following proposals of interest to the Council passed:

PROPOSAL 218. Require vessels to register with ADF&G prior to participating in the non-exclusive Pacific cod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. This proposal would assist with

scheduling staff for port sampling landings to collect biological information such as length, weight, sex, and age that are used to inform stock health and resulting management decisions.

PROPOSAL 219. Clarify lawful gear for rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska to allow rockfish retention in pot gear. Allowing retention of all rockfish in pot gear will provide the department with better catch information and reduce wastage, which occurs when rockfish are discarded at sea. This proposal is supplemental to proposal 222 which would require full retention of rockfish by CFEC permit holders in groundfish and halibut fisheries.

PROPOSAL 222. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, require CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut using hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear retain and land all rockfish. Black, dark, and blue rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) are managed by the State of Alaska in both state and federal waters, and current regulations require full retention of these rockfish only. This proposal mirrors federal rockfish retention requirements to provide better estimates of rockfish catch, reduce waste and incentives to discard, and maintain consistency between state and federal fisheries management.

- At the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound Shrimp meeting, the following proposals of interest to the Council passed:

PROPOSAL 274. Increase minimum training requirements needed to qualify as a scallop onboard observer trainee by requiring applicants to have a valid crab observer certification or if an applicant with a valid crab observer certification is unavailable, a NMFS North Pacific Observer Program certification. This proposal is intended to assist with recruiting and retaining observers in the scallop fishery which is small and has unique timing relative to other observed fisheries.

PROPOSAL 275. Extend the observer certification expiration period from 12 months to 18 months. This proposal could assist in retaining observers during unpredictable and short fishing seasons by providing additional flexibility to deploy observers.

Staff Changes

ADF&G Fishery Scientist Dr. Jie Zheng is retiring at the end of April after thirty-two years with the department. Dr. Zheng has been the lead stock assessment author for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock assessment for nearly 30 years and has contributed to many other crab and shellfish stock assessments and harvest strategies during his tenure. He currently serves on both the BSAI Crab Plan Team and Statewide Scallop Plan Team.

ADF&G Fishery Scientist Jim Hasbrouck is retiring in early May after thirty-two years with the department. Mr. Hasbrouck has been involved in the Council process for over a decade. He and his staff have contributed to Council analysis for issues involving the recreational salmon and halibut fisheries in Alaska and he currently represents Alaska on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Regional Implementation Council.