



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

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

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab:** The 2025/26 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on August 1, 2025, for the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ), and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. All fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2026. The overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) are set by the Council and ADF&G sets the total allowable catch (TAC) so that total removals do not exceed the ABC.

For the 2025/26 season, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is 4.19 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude (Figure 1). The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.32 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 0.87 million pounds. Ten percent of the EAG TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the WAG TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. Individual area harvest is confidential but across both areas, a total of 1.2 million pounds has been harvested by four vessels.

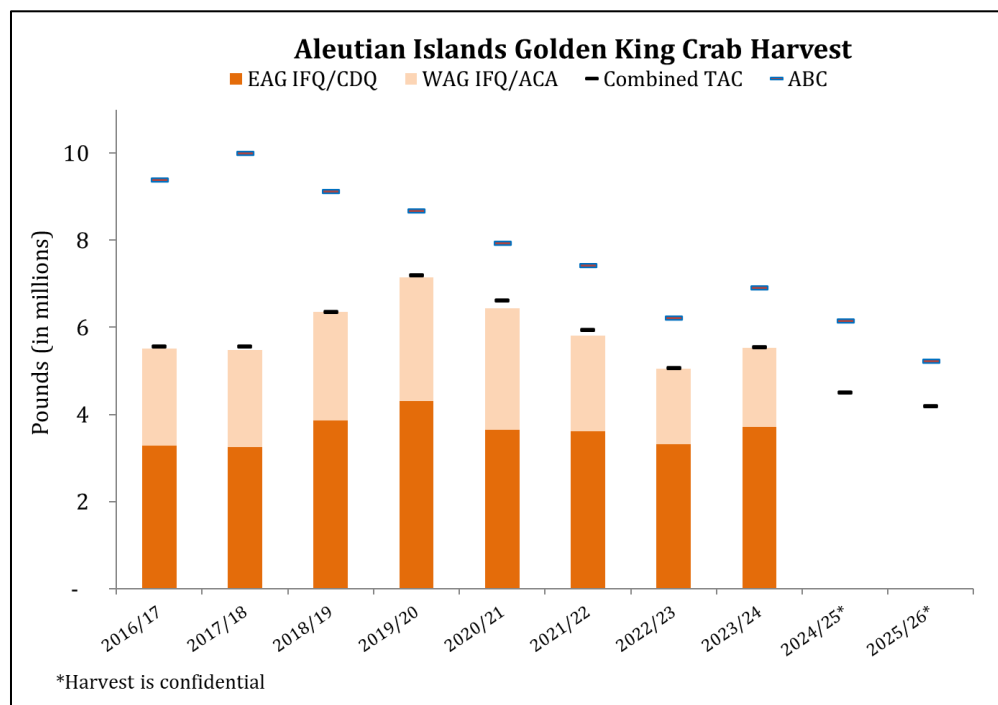


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2016/17 – 2025/26 seasons.

New regulations adopted at the March 2025 Board of Fisheries meeting established an open-access commercial fishery for golden king crab in state waters east of 169 W long. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the state-waters fishery is 50,000 pounds and the season opened on September 1, 2025. Pot vessels must be 58 feet or less in overall length to participate in the fishery. The fishery has a maximum

pot limit of 400 pots and based on the number of vessels registered for the fishery, each vessel may use no more than 90 pots. Four vessels are registered for the fishery and as of September 26, no effort has occurred.

**Norton Sound Red King Crab:** The Norton Sound red king crab GHL for 2025 was set at 410,000 pounds with 92% allocated to the summer season and 8% allocated to the winter season. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5% of the total GHL or 30,750 pounds, with 50% allocated to Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) and 50% allocated to Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). The CDQ allocations can be harvested during the winter or summer seasons.

The 2025 winter commercial fishery opened February 1 and closed by regulation on April 30 with a total harvest of 8,207 pounds, 25% of the winter GHL, by seven permit holders. The remaining winter GHL was rolled over to the summer season for a total summer GHL of 371,043 pounds. The summer fishery opened on June 15 and closed on June 26. The initial harvest from the summer fishery was below the GHL and the summer fishery re-opened for 24-hrs on July 11 to target the remaining 53,000 pounds. Total summer fishery harvest was 343,372 pounds or 93% of the GHL by 31 vessels (Figure 2). The CDQ fishery opened June 15, and four CDQ-registered crabbers harvested NSEDC's total allocation of 15,375 pounds. As of September 26, 2025, YDFDA had not harvested their allocation.

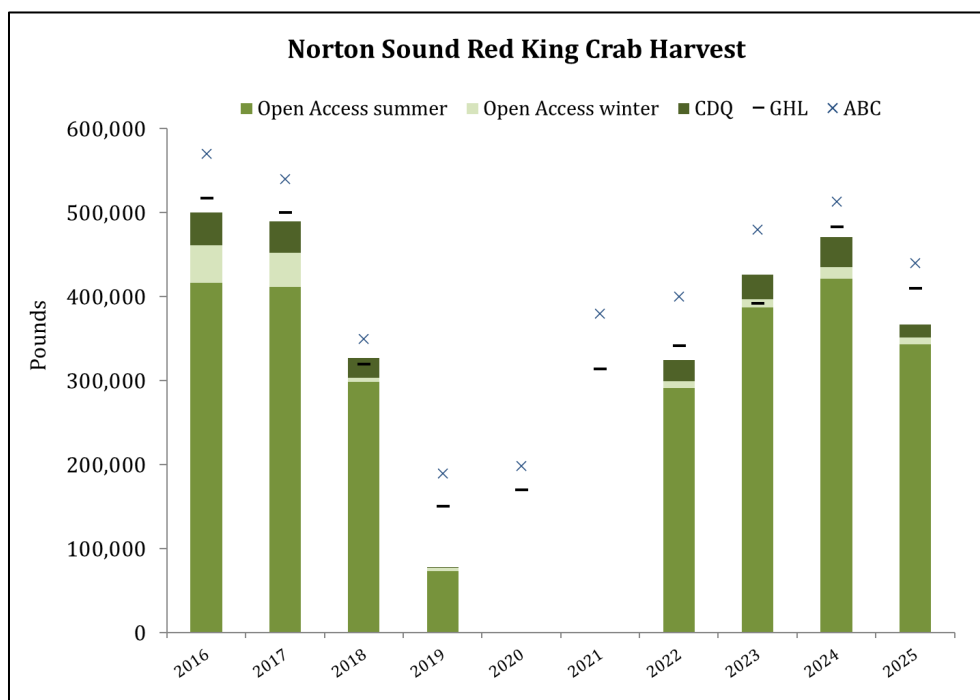


Figure 2. Norton Sound red king crab harvest by fishery, 2016 – 2025 seasons.

**Weathervane Scallops:** Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bering Sea Registration Areas opened on July 1, 2025. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2025/26 season is 374,700 pounds of shucked meats (Table 1). The Bering Sea waters of the Dutch Harbor Area closed on July 10, the Unimak Bight waters of the Alaska Peninsula Area closed on July 18, the Yakutat area closed on September 13, and the Northeast District of the Kodiak Area closed on September 22, 2025. All other areas remain open and to date, 232,408 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (Figure 3).

Table 1. Alaska Weathervane scallop GHGs for 2025/26 season and crab bycatch limits.

			Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
Registration Area	District/Management Unit	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat		145,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	Closed	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	7,200	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	Closed	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	40,000	24,000	25
	Shelikof District	100,000	60,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	21,000	25
	Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Semidi Islands District <sup>1</sup>	Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)		
Alaska Peninsula	Central (160° to 161° W. long)	7,500	4,500	25
	Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	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
			C.opilio & hybrids	
			11,250	
<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.				

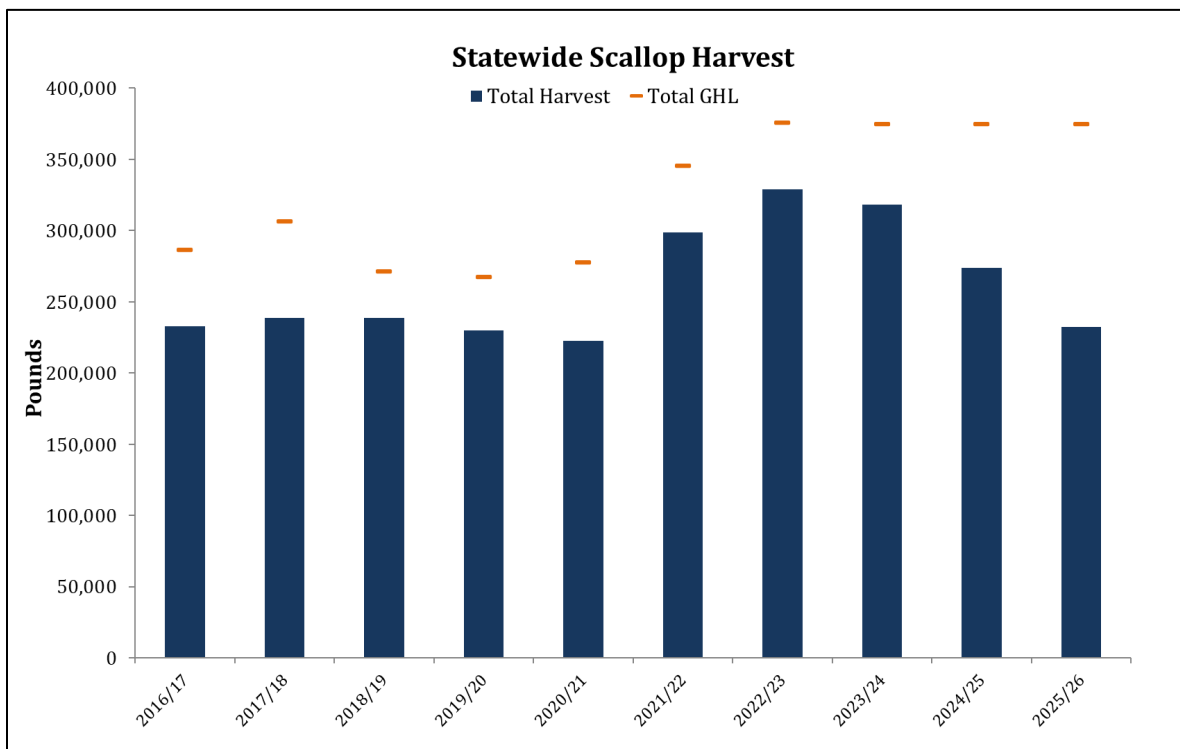


Figure 3. Statewide scallop harvest and GHL, 2016/17 – 2025/26 seasons.

**Pacific Cod:** State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in Prince William Sound (PWS), Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. The GHGs are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and 2025 GHGs are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Guideline harvest levels for the state-water Pacific cod fisheries by gear and area, 2025.

State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2025 GHL (pounds)	2025 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	806,065	366
			Longline	806,065	366
Chignik	CGOA - 25%	8.75%	Jig	395,566	179
			Pot	3,560,093	1,615
Kodiak		12.50%	Jig	2,825,470	1,281
			Pot	2,825,470	1,281
Cook Inlet		3.75%	Jig	254,295	115
			Pot	1,441,005	654
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	864,093	392
			Pot	4,896,527	2,221
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 13%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	44,026,724	19,970
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 35%		All	10,321,149	4,682

Prince William Sound: The 2025 GHL for PWS is 1.612 million pounds and is allocated 50% to longline gear and 50% to pot and jig gear (Figure 4). The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 8 and closed on March 11, 2025. The longline fishery opened on March 20 and approximately 340,000 pounds remain to be harvested.

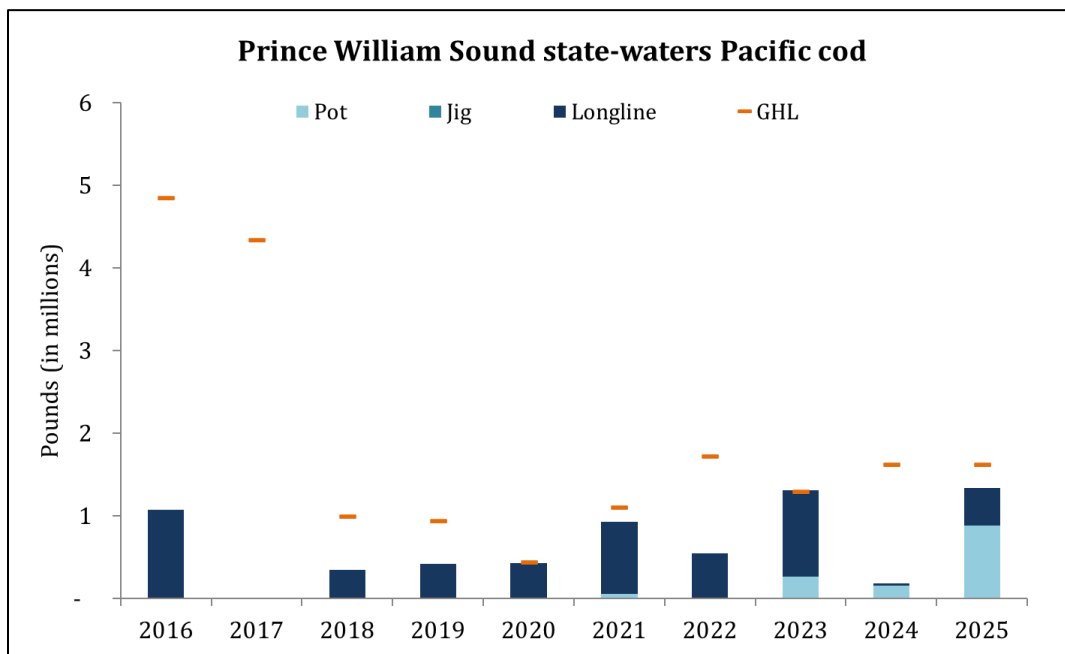


Figure 4. Prince William Sound Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

Cook Inlet: The 2025 GHL for Cook Inlet is 1.695 million pounds with 85% allocated to pot gear and 15% allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 8 and closed on March 19, with a total harvest of 1.440 million pounds (Figure 5). The jig fishery opened on April 11 and approximately 190,000 pounds remain to be harvested.

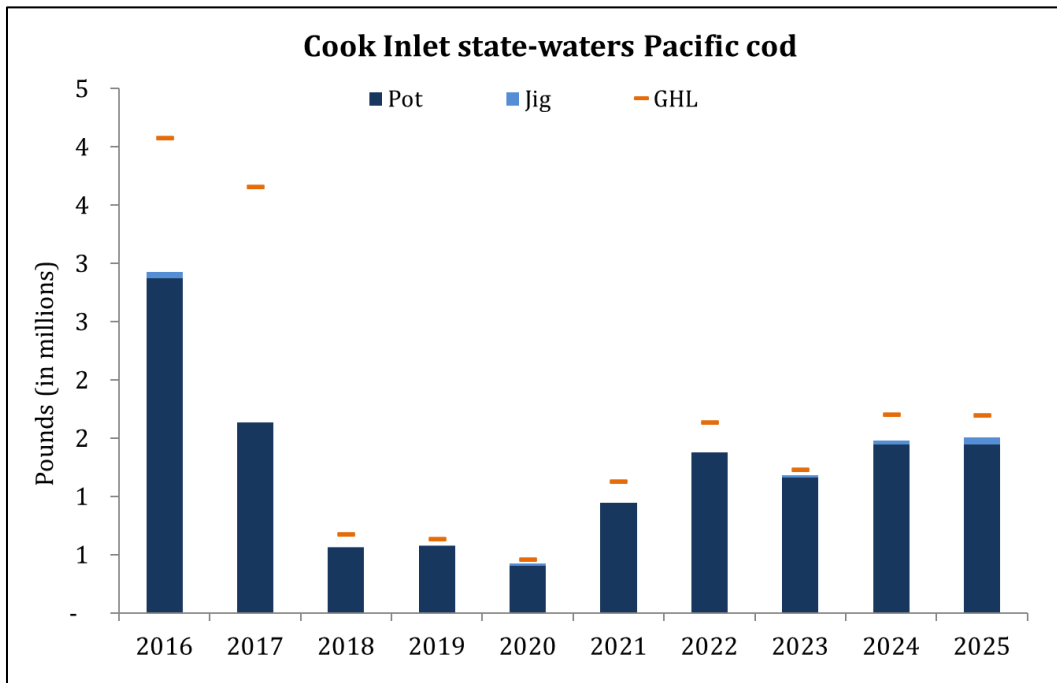


Figure 5. Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

**Kodiak:** The 2025 GHL for the Kodiak Area is 5.651 million pounds and is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50% to pot gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 14 and closed to vessels greater than 58 feet in length on February 26 and closed to all vessels using pot gear on April 1 when the GHL was achieved (Figure 6). The jig fishery opened on January 1 and closed on April 5 when the GHL was achieved.

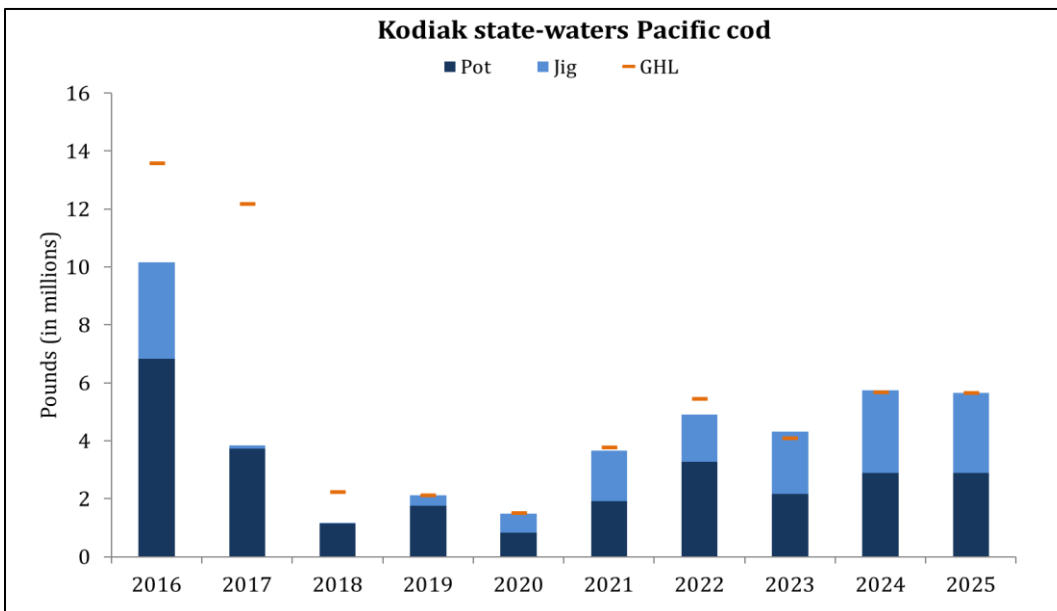


Figure 6. Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

**Chignik:** The 2025 GHL for the Chignik Area is 3.956 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on March 1 and the jig fishery opened on March 15. Through September 26, 2.145 million pounds have been harvested with pot gear and there has been no effort with jig gear (Figure 7).

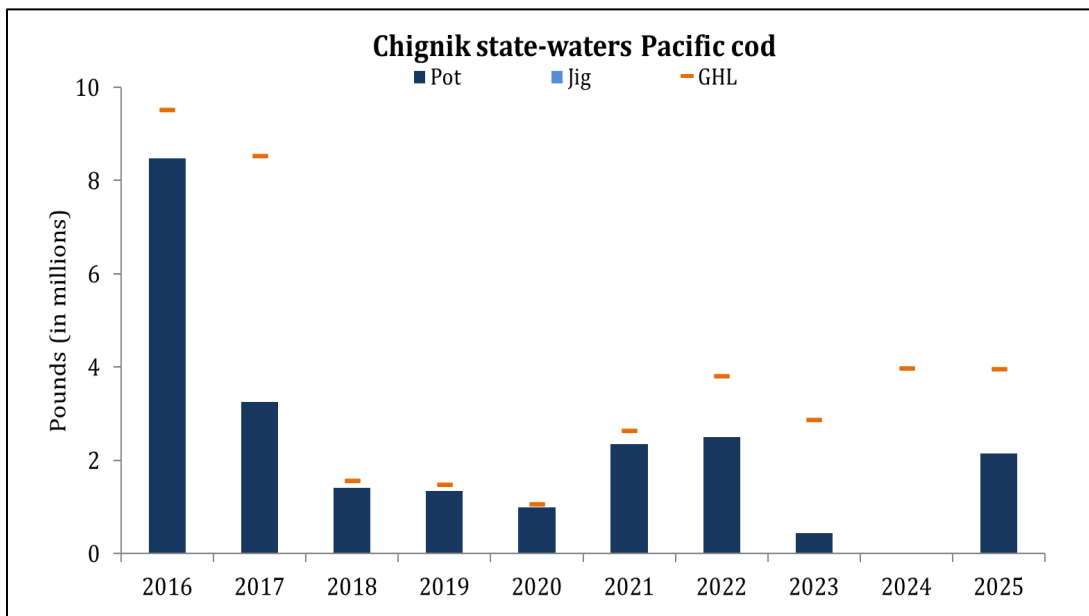


Figure 7. Chignik Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

South Alaska Peninsula: The 2025 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 5.760 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on March 7 and closed on March 18. Vessels using pot gear harvested 5.028 million pounds (Figure 8). The jig fishery opened on March 15 and approximately 650,000 pounds remain to be harvested.

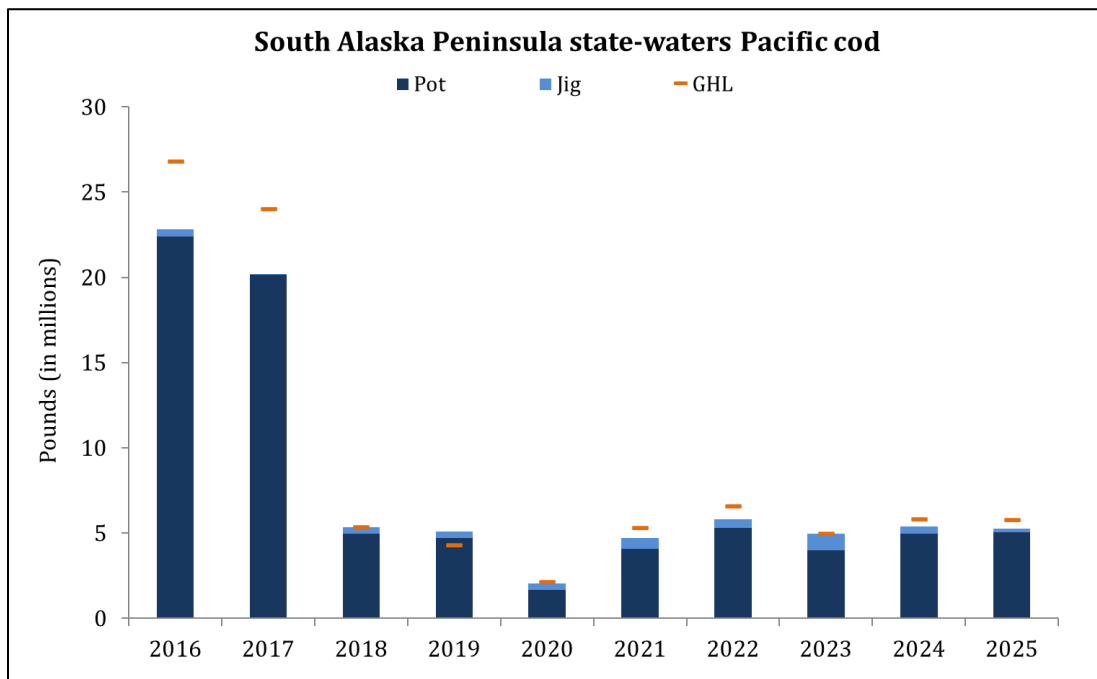


Figure 8. South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

Dutch Harbor: In 2025, the GHL in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict increased from 12% to 13% of the Bering Sea ABC because over 90% of the GHL was achieved in both 2023 and 2024. The 2025 GHL for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 44.126 million pounds, with 44.026 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 100,000 pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on January 28 and total

harvest though September 26 is 41.849 million pounds, 95% of the GHL (Figure 9). The jig fishery opened on May 1 and there has been no effort to date.

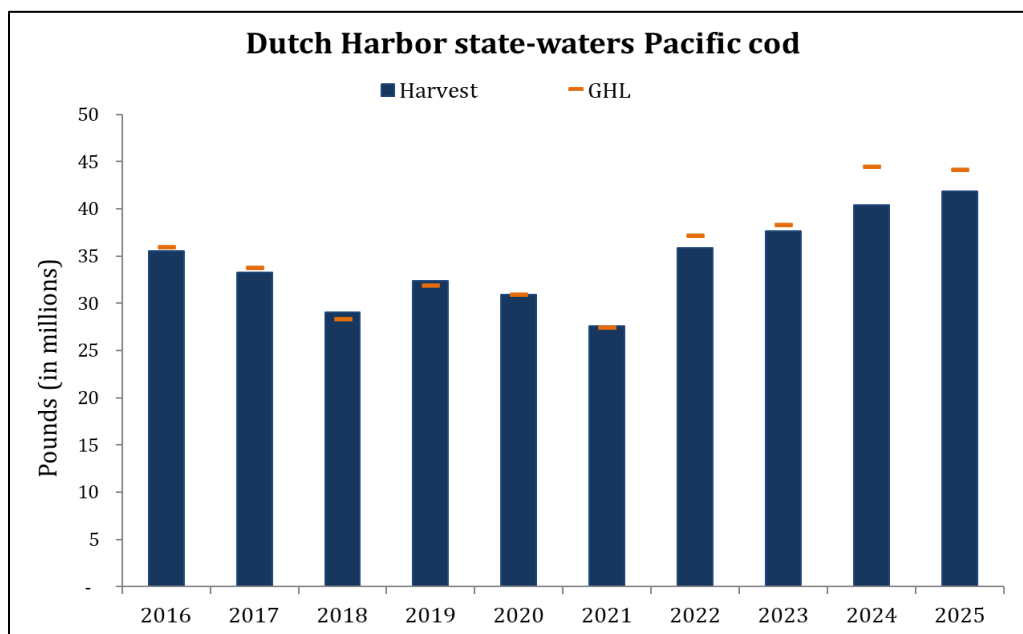


Figure 9. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

**Aleutian Islands:** The 2025 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 10.321 million pounds which is 35% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The state-waters season opened January 1 in the Adak Section, between 175° W long and 178° W long, to vessels using nonpelagic trawl and mechanical jig gear 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), vessels using longline gear 58 feet or less OAL, and vessels using pot gear 100 feet or less OAL. Following the closure of the federal fishery on February 1, all state waters of the AIS opened to vessels 100 feet or less using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less using nonpelagic trawl or mechanical jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less using longline gear. On March 16, ADF&G determined that the GHL would not be caught before December 31 because no state-waters harvest had occurred, so the fishery opened to vessels 125 feet or less using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less using nonpelagic trawl gear, vessels 60 feet or less using jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less using longline gear. Additionally, daily harvest limits, exclusive area designation, and harvest limits for pot vessels greater than 60 feet were removed. The current harvest is confidential.

The AIS GHL will be reduced to 31% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC in 2026 because less than 90% of the GHL was achieved in 2024 and 2025.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries:** Upcoming meetings and proposals that may be of interest to the Council:

**Work Session, October 28-29, 2025, Anchorage.** No regulatory action will be taken at this meeting, but the Board may adopt Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) for out-of-cycle items to be taken up at future meetings. Written comments are due October 13, 2025.

**Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific cod Meeting, October 30-31, 2025, Anchorage.** Written comments are due October 15, 2025.

PROPOSALS 1 through 8: Increase South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level from 30% to 50-60% of the WGOA Pacific cod ABC.

PROPOSAL 9: Establish closed waters adjacent to Unimak Pass during the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict and South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fisheries.

PROPOSAL 10: Change Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery season open date to seven days following closure of the federal BSAI pot/longline vessel under 60 feet season or March 7, whichever is later.

PROPOSAL 11: Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W. longitude. *Public testimony will be taken at both the Pacific cod and Statewide Finfish meetings and the proposal will be deliberated at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*

**Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues, March 17-20, 2026, Anchorage.** Written comments are due by March 2, 2026.

PROPOSAL 11: Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W longitude.

PROPOSAL 163: Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis.

PROPOSAL 164: Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 165: Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 166: Amend statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine.

PROPOSAL 167: Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear.

PROPOSAL 168: Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery.

PROPOSAL 169: Create a definition of groundfish coil spring or ‘slinky pot’.