



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

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

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2023/24 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2023, for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2023, for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. All fisheries closed by regulation on April 30, 2024. 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 2023/24 fishing year, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC was 5.53 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude. The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC was 3.72 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC was 1.81 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. In both the WAG and EAG fisheries, 100% of the TAC was harvested (Figure 1).

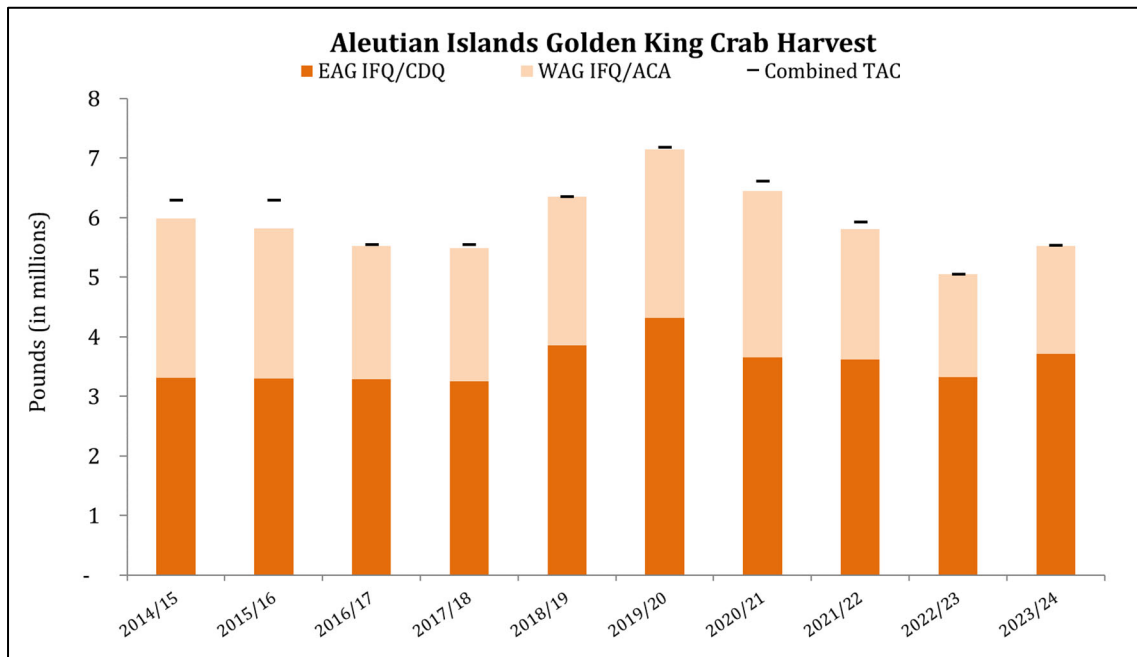


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2014/15 – 2023/24 seasons.

Pollock

The state-waters directed pollock fishery occurs in Prince William Sound and opened on January 20, 2024, with a GHL of 9.61 million pounds. The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Bainbridge with harvest from any section restricted to 60% of the GHL or 5.77 million pounds in 2024. Overall bycatch is limited to 5% of the directed walleye pollock weight, annually. ADF&G sets bycatch limits by Emergency Order for salmon (0.04%), rockfish (0.5%), shark species (0.96%), squid (3.0%), and other species (0.5%) with no more than 60% of any species group to be harvested from a single section. Vessels must adhere to trip limits of 300,000 pounds of pollock and logbooks are required for every trip. On January 29, the Hinchinbrook Section closed because the squid bycatch cap of 173,039 pounds had been reached. On February 22, the Bainbridge section closed because the salmon bycatch cap of 2,307 pounds had been reached. To date, 7.99 million pounds of pollock have been harvested (Figure 2).

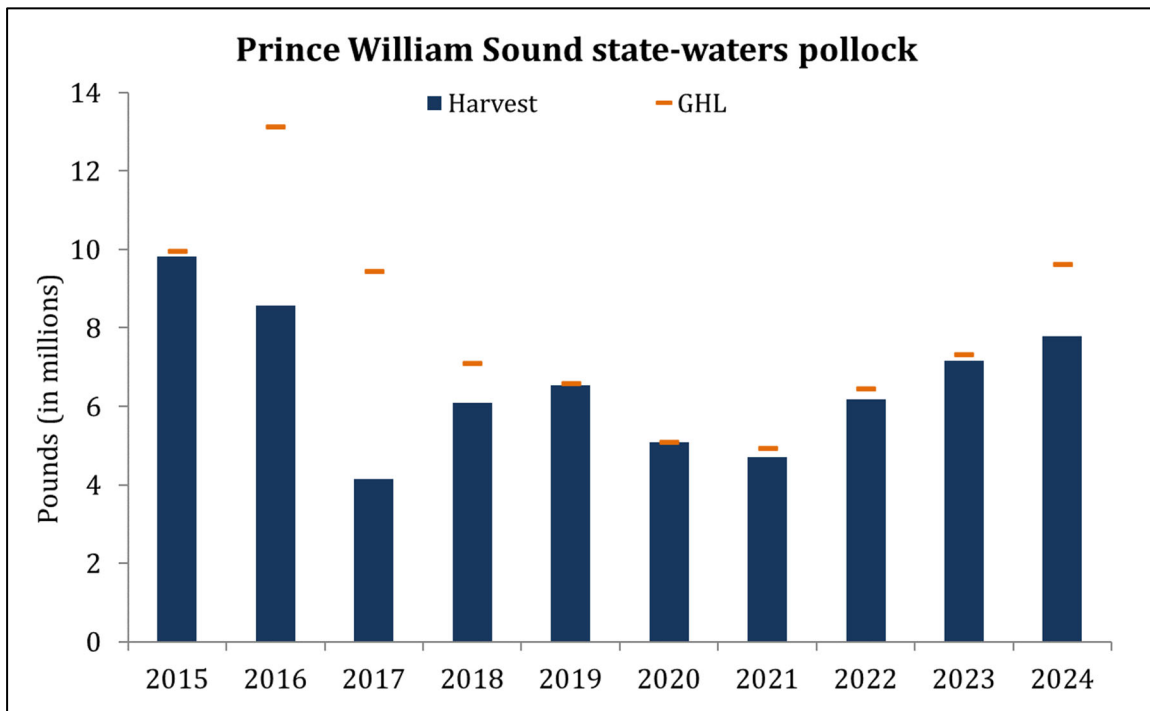


Figure 2. Prince William Sound pollock harvest and GHL, 2015-2024.

Pacific Cod

State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. The GHLs are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and 2024 GHLs are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2024 GHL (pounds)	2024 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	323,749	147
			Longline	1,294,995	587
Chignik	8.75%		Jig	397,186	180
			Pot	3,574,676	1,621
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	12.50%	Jig	2,837,045	1,287
			Pot	2,837,045	1,287
Cook Inlet	3.75%		Jig	255,337	116
			Pot	1,446,908	656
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	867,565	394
			Pot	4,916,203	2,230
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 12%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	44,431,000	20,153
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 35%		All	9,591,800	4,351

Prince William Sound

The 2024 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.619 million pounds and is allocated 85% to longline gear and 15% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on February 10 and remains open. State-waters opened for vessels fishing with longline gear on April 2. To date, 154,000 pounds have been harvested in Prince William Sound.

Chignik

The 2024 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 3.972 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on March 1 and to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15. To date, there has been no effort in the Chignik Area.

Kodiak

The 2024 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.674 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels using pot gear on February 16 and closed on March 5, with a total harvest of 2.888 million pounds (Figure 3). The jig fishery opened on January 1 and closed on April 30. Vessels using jig gear harvested 2.872 million pounds.

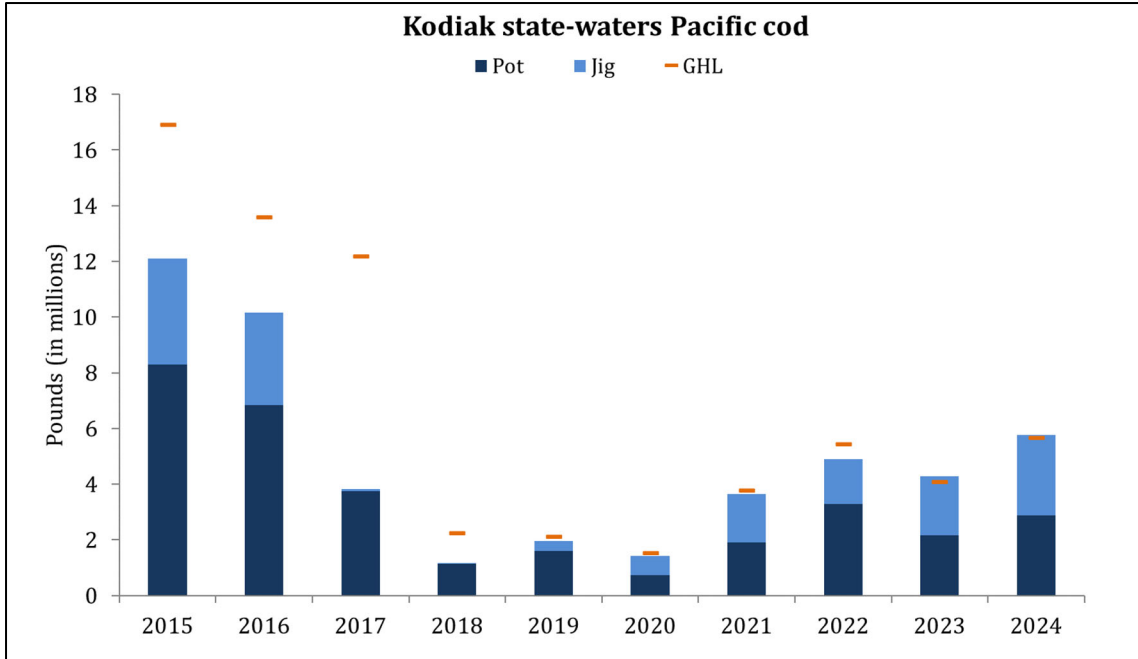


Figure 3. Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2015-2024.

Cook Inlet

The 2024 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.702 million pounds with 85% allocated to pot gear and 15% allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 10 and closed on March 27, with a total harvest of 1.447 million pounds (Figure 4). If there is remaining GHL on September 1, the fishery may re-open to pot gear. The jig fishery opened on May 7, following the closure of the federal sector, and remains open.

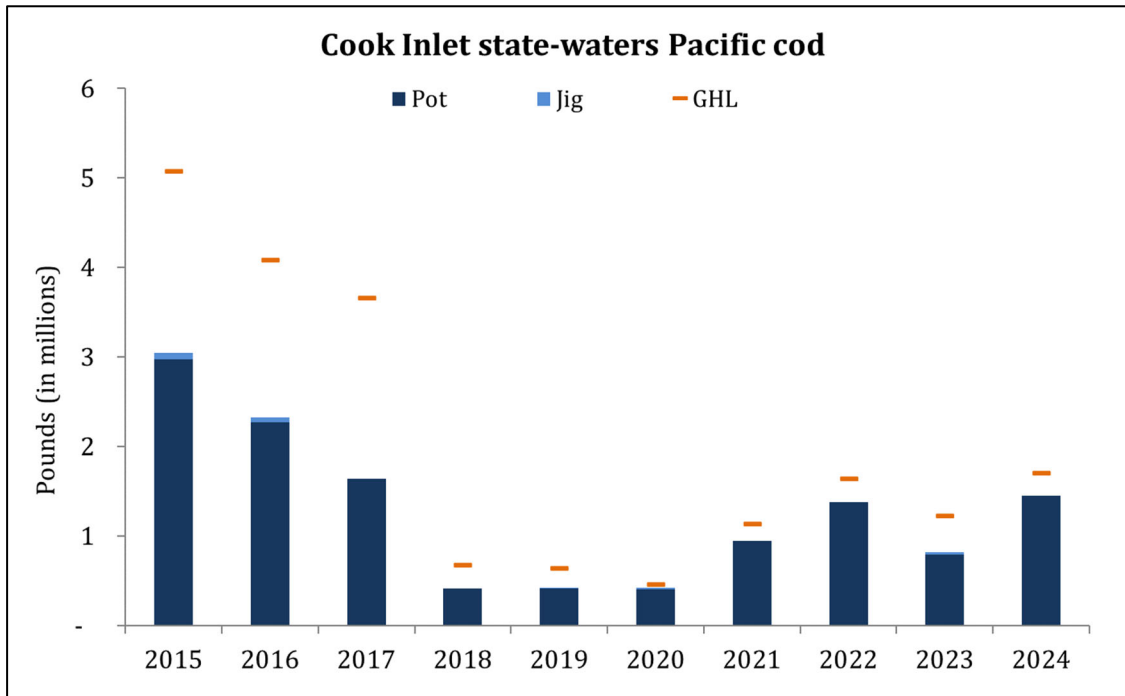


Figure 4. Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2015-2024.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2024 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 5.784 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The State-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on March 7 and closed on March 28. Vessels using pot gear have harvested 4.967 million pounds (Figure 5). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15 and total harvest to date is 9,000 pounds.

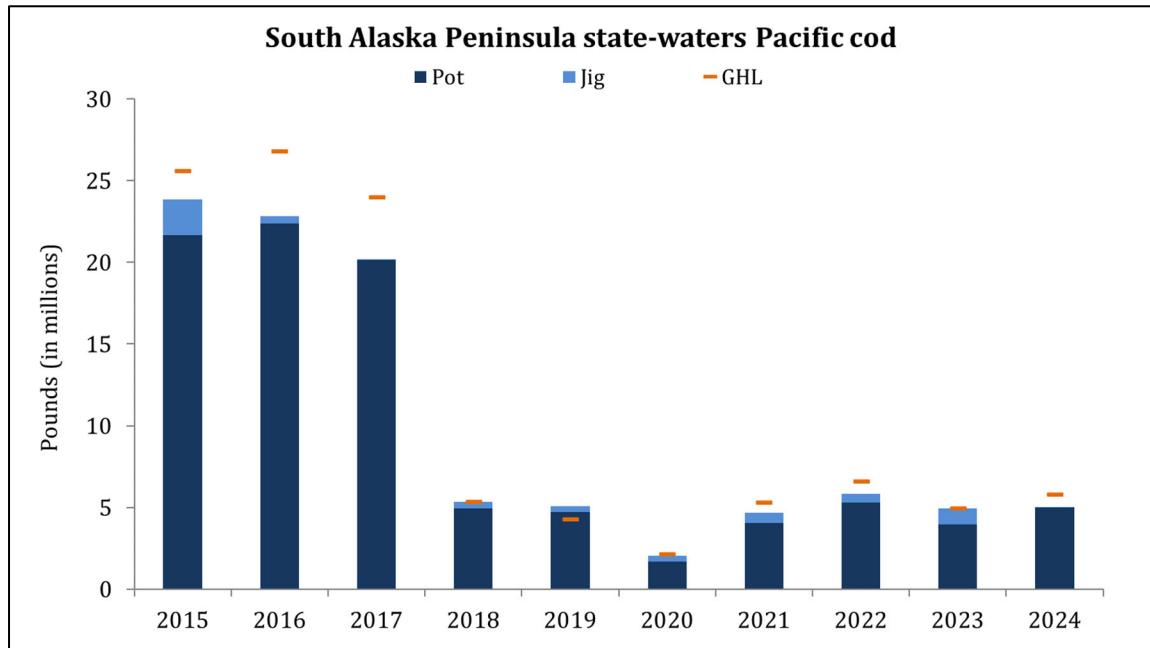


Figure 5. South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GH, 2015-2024.

Dutch Harbor

The 2024 GH for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 44.531 million pounds, with 44.431 million pounds allocated to pot vessels and 100,000 pounds allocated to jig vessels. The state-waters pot fishery for vessels 58 feet or less opened on February 1, and total harvest to date is 40.367 million pounds (Figure 6). The Dutch Harbor jig fishery opened May 1 and harvest is confidential. By regulation, the fisheries close December 31, 2024, or when the GH is achieved. In 2025, the GH for the pot fishery will increase from 12% to 13% of the Bering Sea Pacific cod ABC because the fleet harvested 90% or more of the GH in both 2023 and 2024.

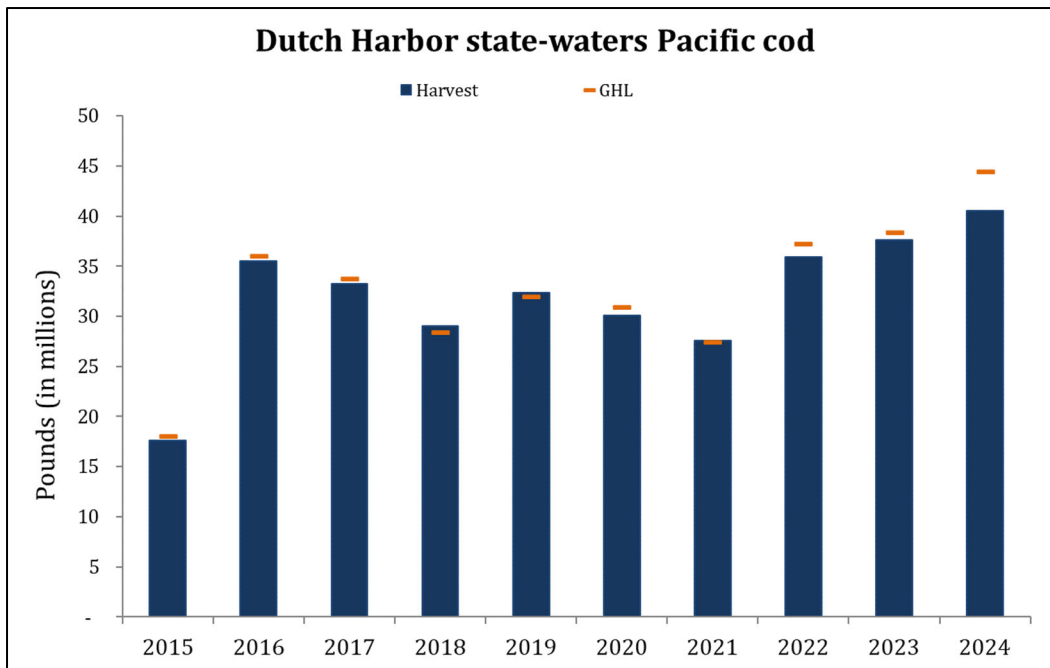


Figure 6. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2015-2024.

Aleutian Islands

The 2024 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 9.592 million pounds which is 35% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The state-waters fishery in the Adak Section, between 175° west longitude and 178° west longitude, opened January 1 to vessels 60 feet or less, except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to a length of 58 feet. 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. There has been no effort in the AIS.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The proposal book for the 2024/2025 Board cycle will be available in August. The Agenda Change Request deadline for this cycle is August 30, 2024, and comments for the October meeting are due by October 15, 2024. The tentative 2024/2025 meeting schedule is as follows:

- Work Session: October 29 – 30, 2024 (Anchorage)
- Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp):
December 10 – December 16, 2024 (Cordova)
- Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish: January 28 – February 9, 2025 (Ketchikan)
- Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp and Supplemental Issues: March 11 – March 16, 2025 (Anchorage)