



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 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 2025/26 season 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. Harvest is confidential by individual area, but combined areas achieved the full TAC.

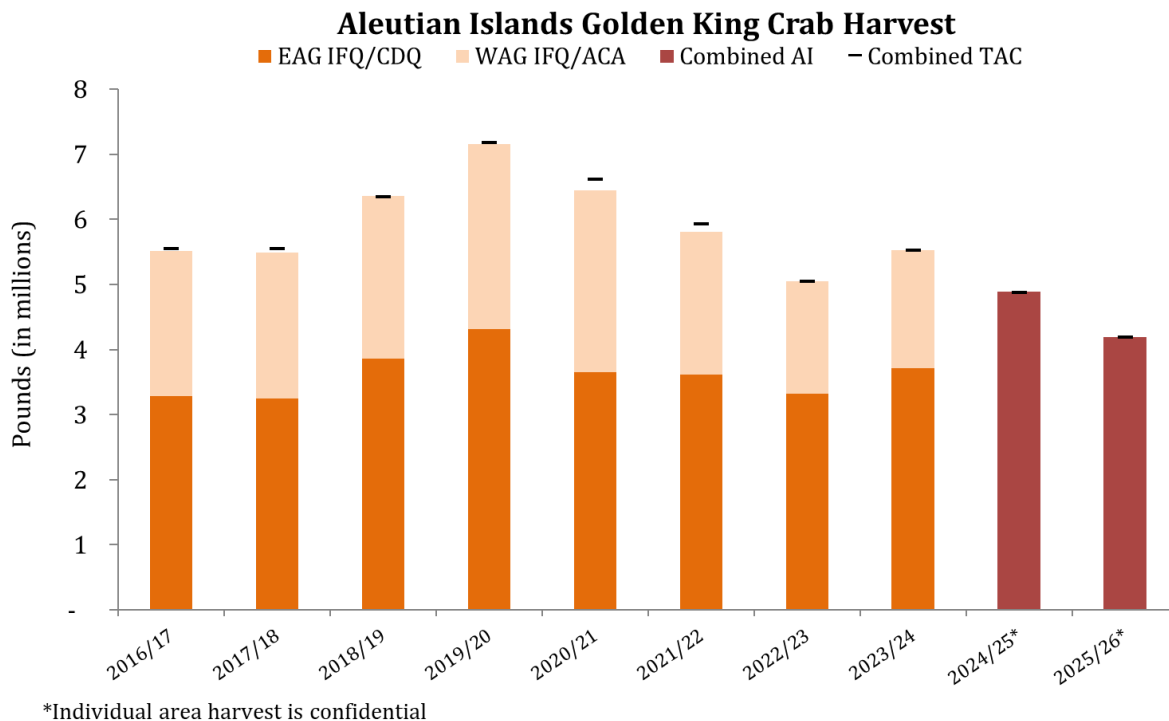


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2016/17 – 2025/26 seasons.

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° west longitude. The 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. One vessel participated in the fishery and limited harvest occurred.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2025/26 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in both the western area (west of 166° west longitude) and eastern area (between 166° west longitude and 163° west longitude) on October 15, 2025, and closed by regulation on March 31, 2026. The TAC in the western area is set at 10.12 million pounds and the TAC in the eastern area is 1.13 million pounds; 10% of the TAC in each area is allocated to the CDQ fishery. The fleet harvested the full IFQ and CDQ TAC in the western area, and harvested the full IFQ and 95% of the CDQ TAC in the eastern area (Figure 2).

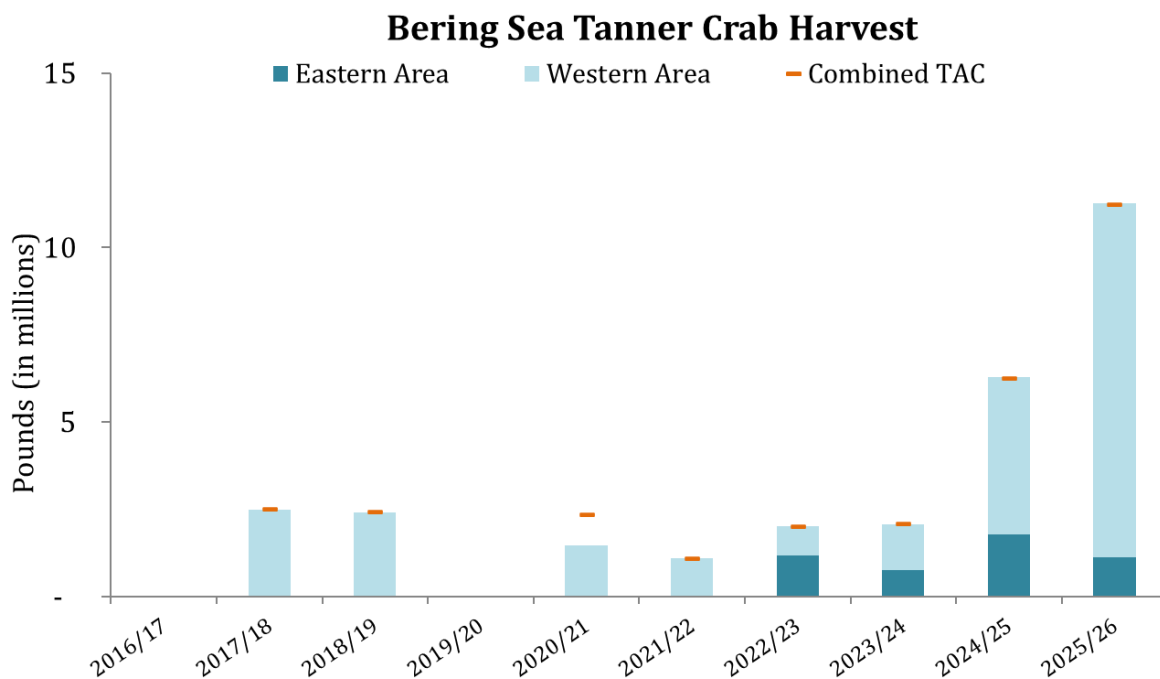


Figure 2. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2016/17 – 2025/26 seasons.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2025, and closed in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 165° W and 173° W longitude) on May 15, 2026, and will close in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude) on May 31, 2026. The 2025/26 snow crab TAC is 9.30 million pounds and 10% of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. As of May 26, 2026, harvest is 8.96 million pounds, 96% of the TAC (Figure 3).

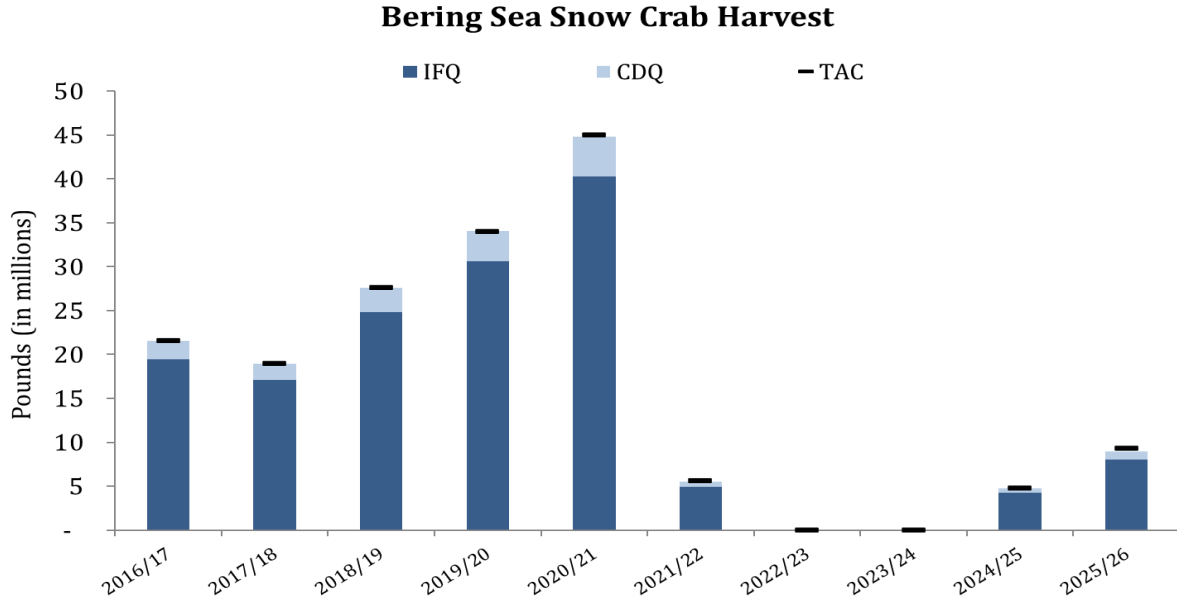


Figure 3. Eastern Bering Sea snow crab harvest, 2016/17 – 2025/26 seasons.

Norton Sound Red King Crab

The department set the 2026 Norton Sound red king crab harvest at 8.4% of the estimated legal male biomass yielding a total GHL of 268,000 pounds (Figure 4). The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5% of the GHL or 20,100 pounds. The GHL for the winter commercial fishery is 8% of the total GHL or 21,440 pounds.

The 2026 winter fishery opened February 1 and closed on April 30, with a total harvest of 17,697 pounds, 83% of the GHL. The summer fishery will open on June 15 with a GHL of 230,203 pounds, including the remaining winter fishery GHL of 3,743 pounds.

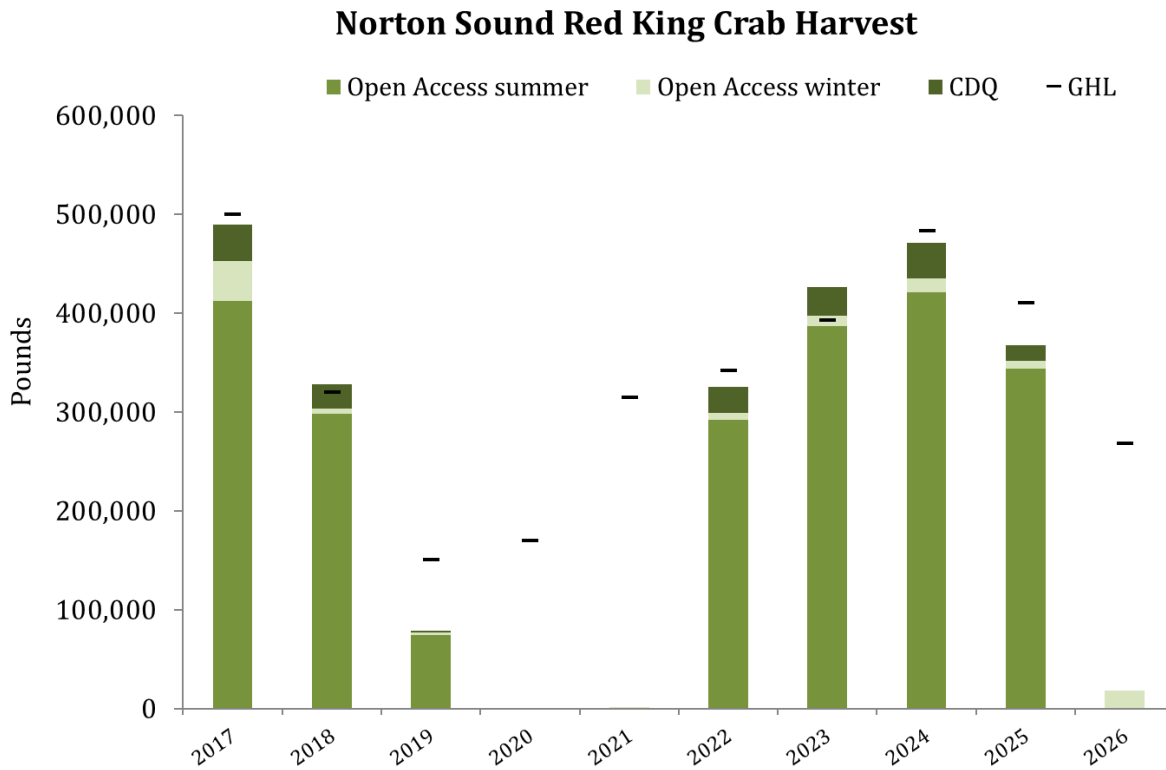


Figure 4. Norton Sound red king crab harvest by fishery, 2017-2026 seasons.

Pollock

The state-waters directed pollock fishery occurs in Prince William Sound (PWS) and opened on January 20 with a GHL of 7.3 million pounds. Vessels must adhere to trip limits of 300,000 pounds of pollock, logbooks are required for every trip, and there is mandatory retention of all rockfish, salmon, and pollock. Total bycatch is limited to 5% or less of the total pollock harvested. The bycatch allowance is apportioned into three species groups: rockfish (0.5% or 36,600 pounds), salmon (0.04% or 739 fish), and other species (4.46% or 327,000 pounds). The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Bainbridge with rockfish and salmon harvest from any section restricted to 60% of the fishery bycatch cap.

The Hinchinbrook Section closed on January 26 due to reaching the 60% rockfish section cap of 22,000 pounds, and the Bainbridge Section closed on February 13 due to reaching the 60% salmon section cap of 443 salmon. Pollock fishing closed by regulation March 31 in the Knight Island Section. Vessels harvested a total of 6.79 million pounds, 93% of the GHL (Figure 5).

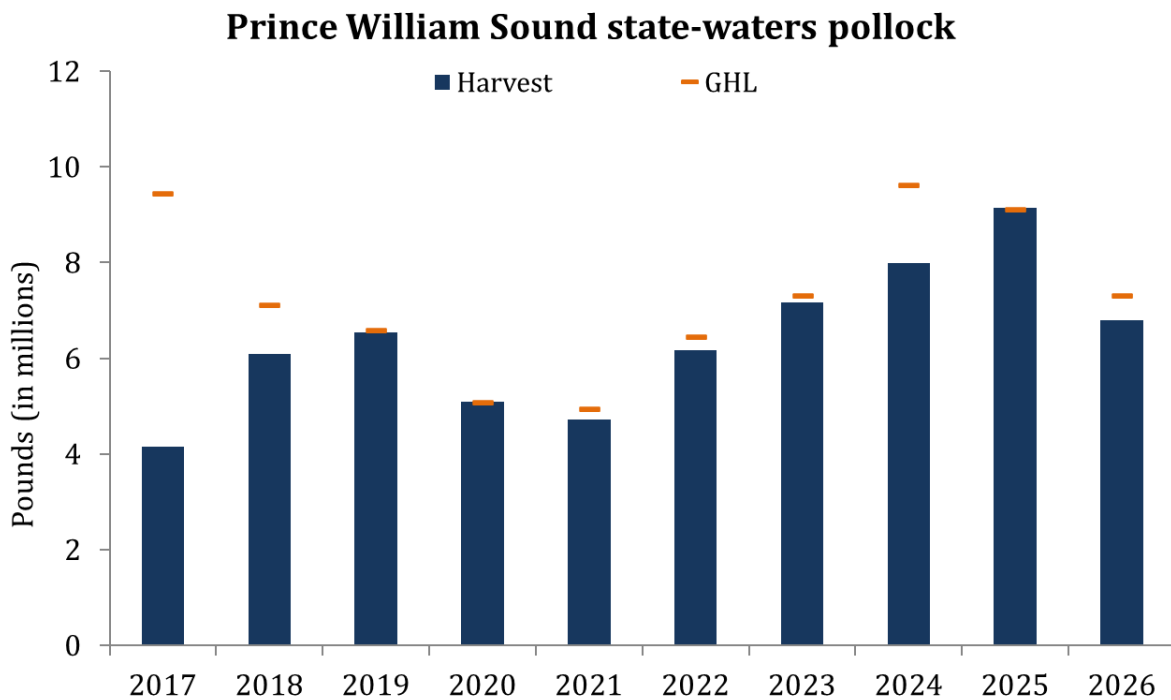


Figure 5. Prince William Sound pollock harvest and GHL, 2017-2026 seasons.

Pacific Cod

State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in 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 2026 GHGs are as follows:

Table 1. Guideline harvest levels for the state-water Pacific cod fisheries by gear and area, 2026.

State Water Pacific Cod GHG and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHG percentage in regulation		Gear	2026 GHG (pounds)	2026 GHG (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	833,000	378
			Longline	682,000	309
Chignik	8.75%		Jig	554,247	251
			Pot	4,988,227	2,263
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	12.50%	Jig	3,958,910	1,796
			Pot	3,958,910	1,796
Cook Inlet	3.75%		Jig	356,000	161
			Pot	2,019,000	916
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 35%		Jig	1,191,790	541
			Pot	6,753,478	3,063
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 13%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	40,559,000	18,397
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 31%		All	8,866,000	4,022

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

Prince William Sound

The 2026 GHL for PWS (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.515 million pounds and is allocated 45% to longline gear and 55% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on January 21 and closed on March 6 after harvesting the GHL. The fishery opened to vessels fishing with longline gear on March 26 and closed May 17 after harvesting the GHL.

Chignik

The 2026 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.54 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 closed on April 22. Vessels using pot gear harvested 5.05 million pounds (Figure 6). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15 and no harvest has occurred yet.

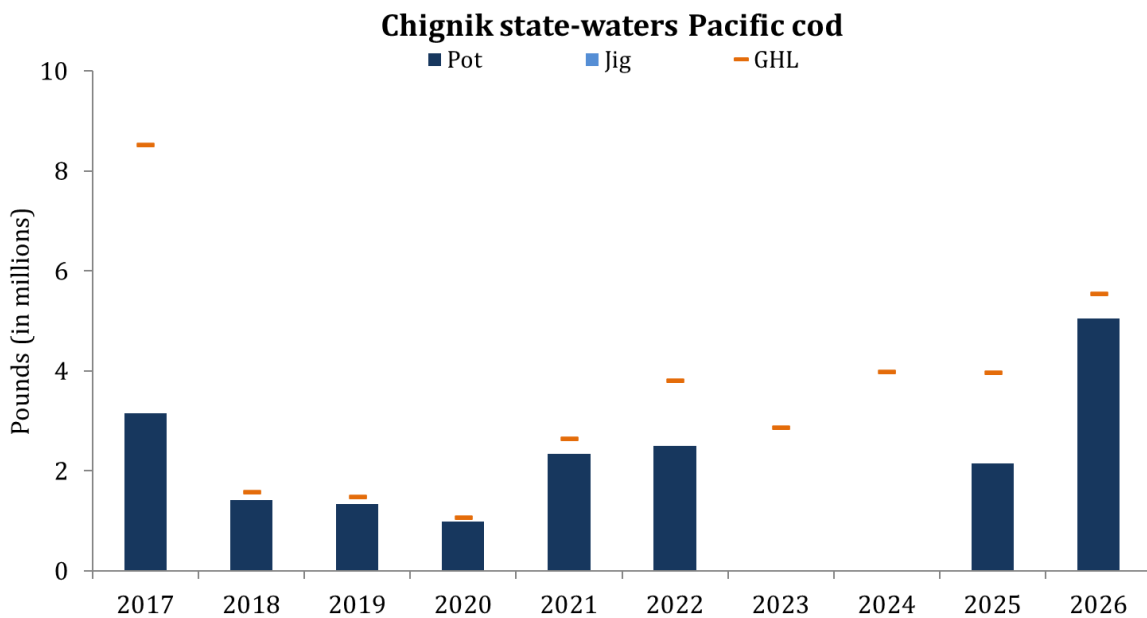


Figure 6. Chignik Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2017-2026.

Kodiak

The 2026 GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 7.92 million pounds and is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50% to pot gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened to vessels on January 27 and closed February 28 when the GHL was achieved. The jig fishery opened on January 1 and closed May 12 when the GHL was achieved (Figure 7).

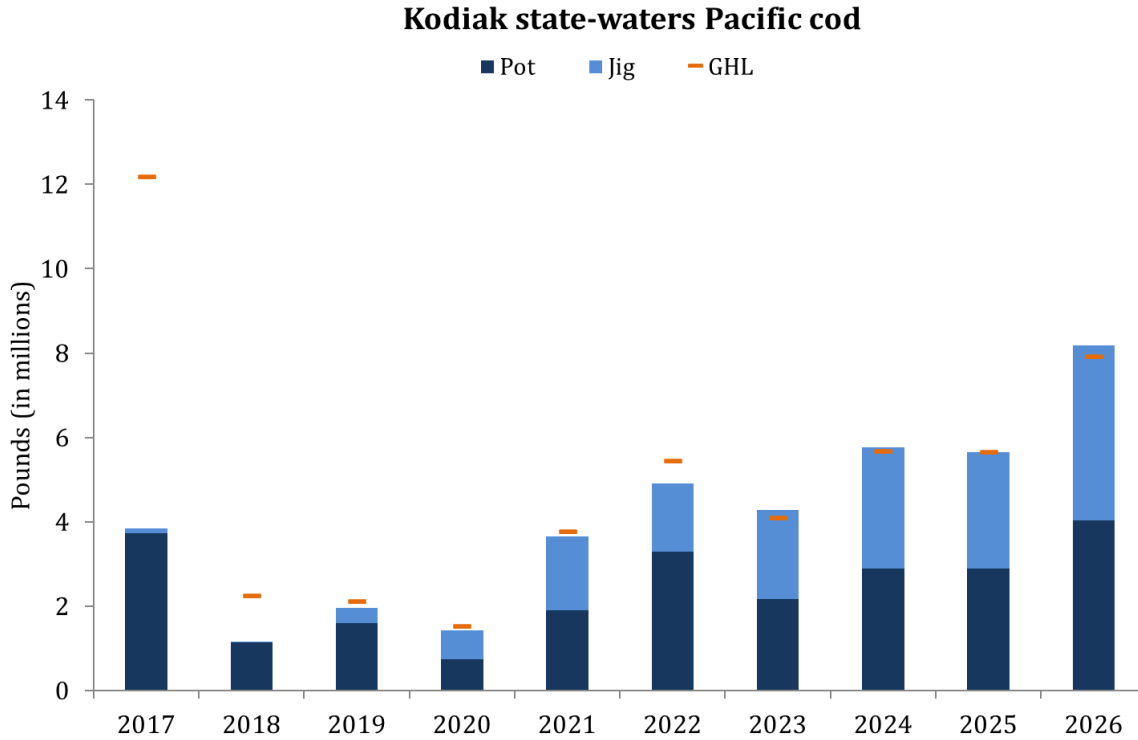


Figure 7. Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2017-2026.

Cook Inlet

The 2026 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 2.38 million pounds with 85% allocated to pot gear and 15% allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on January 21 and closed on March 14, with a total harvest of 2.07 million pounds (Figure 8). The state-waters jig fishery opens on May 28, 24 hours after the closure of the federal CGOA jig season.

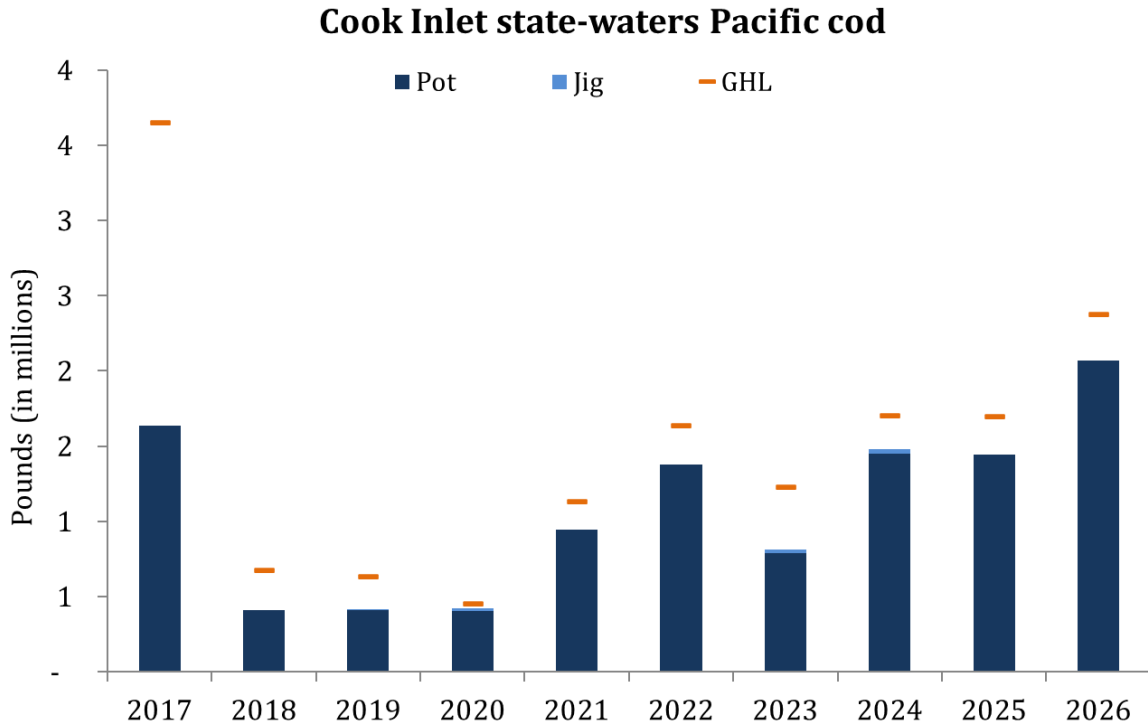


Figure 8. Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2017-2026.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2026 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula (Western Gulf of Alaska) is 7.95 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 12 and closed on March 30. Vessels using pot gear harvested 6.83 million pounds (Figure 9). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15 and nonconfidential harvest is 86.75 thousand pounds.

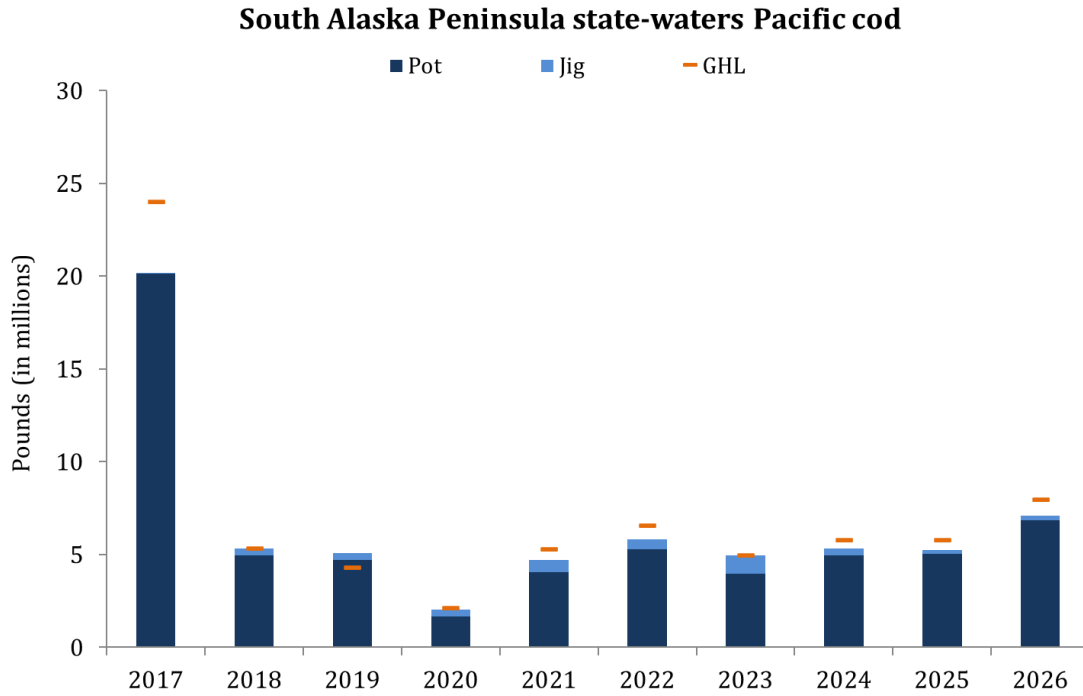


Figure 9. South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2017-2026.

Dutch Harbor

In 2026, the GHL in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was 13% of the Bering Sea ABC. The 2026 GHL for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 40.659 million pounds, with 44.559 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 100,000 pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 10 and total harvest as of May 26 is 29.540 million pounds, 73% of the GHL (Figure 10). Increased sea ice and lower availability of fish in state waters have likely contributed to lower harvest throughout the 2026 season. The jig fishery opened on May 1 and there has been no effort to date.

Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod

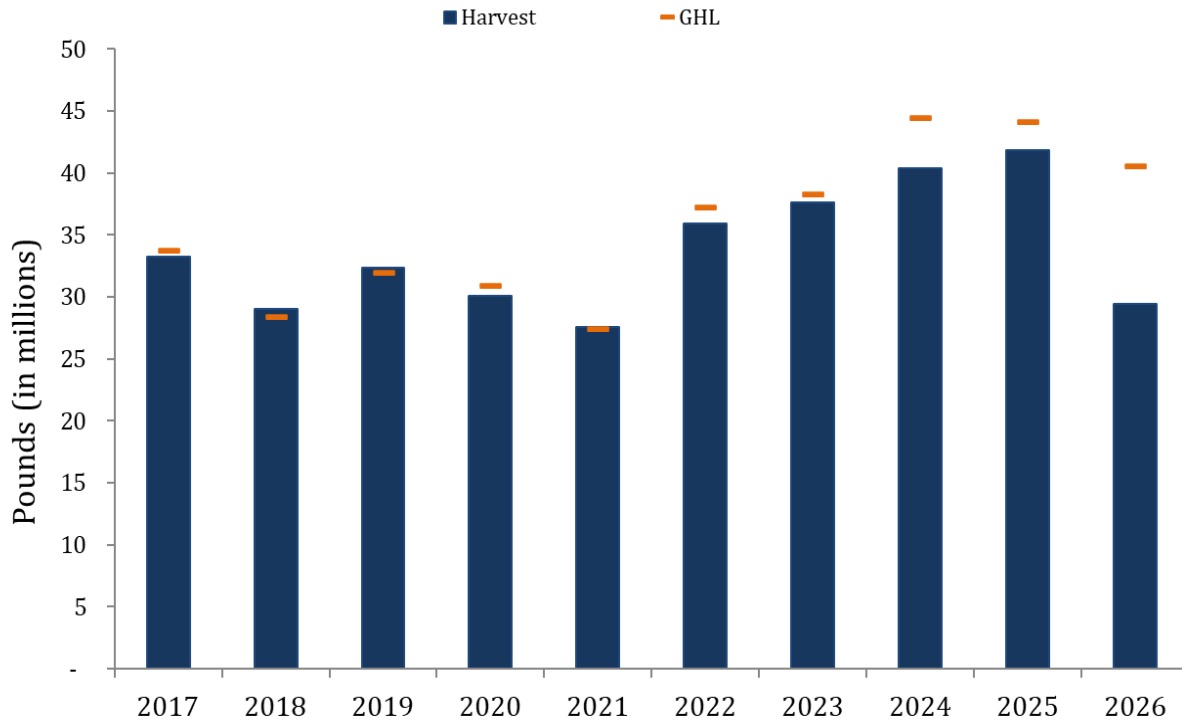


Figure 10. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2017-2026.

Aleutian Islands

The 2026 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL is 8.866 million pounds which is 31% 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. 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 was 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. Three vessels have participated this season and current harvest is confidential due to a limited number of processors.

Aleutian Islands Sablefish

The Aleutian Islands state-water sablefish fishery opened on March 26, 2026, with a GHL of 2.70 million pounds. Current harvest is confidential and the fishery closes by regulation on December 7 or when the GHL is achieved.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The 2026 Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Board meeting occurred March 17–21, 2026. Proposals and outcomes were as follows:

PROPOSAL 11: Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W longitude. – **No Action**

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. – **No Action**

PROPOSAL 164: Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters. – **No Action**

PROPOSAL 165: Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters. – **No Action**

PROPOSAL 166: Amend the statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine. – **Carried**

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. – **No Action**

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

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

PROPOSAL 186: Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area. – **Carried as amended with substitute language found in [RC161](#), with further amendment to make regular fishing periods from 7am to 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays.**

The proposal book for the 2026/27 Board cycle will be available in August. The Agenda Change Request deadline for this cycle is August 28, 2026. Comments for the October Work Session are due by October 13.

The 2026/2027 tentative meeting schedule is as follows:

Work Session: October 28–29, 2026 (Anchorage)

Lower Cook Inlet Finfish: December 1-4, 2026 (Seward)

Kodiak Finfish: January 5–8, 2027 (Kodiak)

Upper Cook Inlet Finfish: March 4–15, 2027 (Anchorage)