

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include those for salmon, scallops, crab and groundfish.



**Salmon Troll Fishery**

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2012. The summer fishery targets the majority of the annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in two open periods during the July 1 – September 30 timeframe. During the summer season, most waters of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat area are open to commercial trolling, including outer coastal waters in the EEZ, excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150.

Total catch from the first retention period was 61,669 Chinook salmon and 60,186 (98%) of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon. Harvest from the second retention period was 74,249 Chinook salmon and 71,661 (96%) of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

Fish ticket reports indicate that 14% of the summer Chinook salmon harvest and 3% of the summer Coho salmon harvest occurred in the EEZ.

**Scallops (TABLE 1 & FIGURE 1)**

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2012. The Kamishak District of Cook Inlet opened on August 15, 2012. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2012/13 season is 417,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 15% decrease from the 2011/12 cumulative GHL.

Total harvest to date, based on observer reports of meat weight harvested, is just over 364,000 pounds. Fishing has closed in the Kodiak Area: Shelikof District (July 27), Northeast District (Aug. 6), Southwest District (Aug. 18); Alaska Peninsula Area (Aug. 23); and Dutch Harbor Area (Oct. 1). Fishing continues in Yakutat, Cook Inlet, and the Bering Sea.

**Norton Sound Red King Crab (FIGURE 2)**

The Norton Sound red king crab fishery has a super exclusive fishery designation. The summer fishery opened on June 29, 2012 with a total quota of 465,450 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent or 34,910 pounds and the remaining 430,540 pounds are allocated to the open access fishery. The Norton Sound season lasted 44 days, closing on August 12, 2012. Twenty-nine permit holders participated and harvested nearly 476,000 pounds of red king crab, which exceeded the GHL by ~2%.

The average price paid, including CDQ, was \$5.41 per pound, the highest ever paid. The ex-vessel value of the fishery, including CDQ, was estimated at \$2.556 million, the highest ever for this fishery.

### **Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 3)**

The 2012/13 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2012 with a total allowable catch (TAC) of 6.29 million pounds which is a 5% increase from last season. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude.

The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.979 million pounds and the CDQ TAC is 331,000 pounds. Through September 30, 2012, approximately 1.36 million pounds of IFQ/CDQ TAC have been harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.98 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.682 million pounds. Catch for this fishery is confidential given the number of participants. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2013.

### **Central Region Pacific Cod**

#### **Cook Inlet (FIGURE 4)**

The GHL for the Cook Inlet Area was set at 4.7 million pounds, a 6% increase from last year. The GHL is allocated 85% to pot gear (4.0 million pounds) and 15% to jig gear (0.7 million pounds).

The state-waters pot season opened at noon on February 11 and closed on March 29 as previously reported. The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opened on March 7 and closed on June 10, so that the parallel fishery could open. The parallel season closed for the jig sector on June 29 and state waters immediately reopened to the state-waters jig fishery. One hundred and thirty-six vessels have harvested 192,500 pounds and the jig fishery remains open with low effort. The state-waters season will reopen to pot gear after the federal pot sector B season closes.

### **Westward Region Pacific cod**

#### **Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)**

The 2012 GHL for the Chignik Area is 10.98 million pounds, with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount (9.88 million pounds). The area is designated super exclusive registration for Pacific cod and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

The state-waters pot season closed on March 28 as previously reported. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15 and closed on June 10, so that the parallel fishery could open. The parallel season for the jig sector closed on June 29 and state waters immediately reopened to the state-waters jig fishery. Five vessels have harvested a total of 243,608 pounds and the jig fishery remains open with no current effort.

### **South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)**

The 2012 GHL in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Area is 15.44 million pounds, with 85 percent targeted by pot gear (13.13 million pounds). A 58-foot vessel length limit is in effect and the area has an exclusive registration designation.

The state-waters pot season opened at noon on March 7 and closed on March 22, as previously reported. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 21 and closed on June 10 so that the parallel fishery could open. Total jig harvest for the state-waters fishery is just under two million pounds. The state-waters jig fishery will reopen once the B season closes for the WGOA Pacific cod jig sector

### **Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)**

The 2012 GHL for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 20.77 million pounds. The A season opened January 1, between 175° W long. and 178° W long. to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Beginning noon March 4, the state-waters A season was expanded to include all state waters west of 170° W long. and opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet OAL or less using trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear.

The state-waters A season closed on June 9 and the state-waters B season opened on June 10 with a rollover of 3.3 million pounds from the A season. The state-waters B season total GHL is 9.44 million pounds. All vessels are limited to 60 feet OAL for the B season, until August 1, when pot vessels may be up to 125 feet OAL. The B season closed on September 1 and will reopen if the federal <60' CV pot sector closes. Total B season harvest was less than one million pounds.

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

#### **Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish**

February 26 – March 3, 2012, Anchorage

**155** – Increase Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod GHL (west of 170° W long) from 3% to 4.5% of the BSAI Pacific cod ABC.

**160** – Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O.

**161** – Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O (includes more specifics on GHL level and registration requirements).

**162** – Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.

**163** – Modify state-waters sablefish season to coincide with federal sablefish season.

**165, 166, and 167** – Increase state-waters Pacific cod GHL from 25% to 50% of the Western Gulf Pacific cod ABC.

**168** – Increase state-waters Pacific cod GH L from 25% to 55% of the Western Gulf Pacific cod ABC.

**169** – Close state-waters surrounding Caton and Sanak Islands to nonpelagic trawl gear.

**Agenda Change Requests: to be considered and scheduled at the BOF work session**

October 9 - 11, 2012, Anchorage

**ACR 7** - Change the vessel size limit for the Registration Area O (Aleutian Islands Area) red king crab fishery, in state waters from 172° W. long. to 179° W. long., from 90 feet or less in overall length to less than 60 feet in overall length.

**ACR 8** - Establish a pot limit of 10 pots per vessel fishing for red king crab near Adak Island in Registration Area O (Aleutian Islands Area).

Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
		Tanner Crab	King Crab
<b>YAKUTAT</b>			
Area D	120,000	N/A	N/A
District 16	25,000	N/A	N/A
<b>PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (East Kayak)</b>			
<i>Closed for the 2012/13 season</i>			
<b>COOK INLET</b>	12,500	3,200	30
<b>KODIAK</b>			
Northeast District	60,000	50,874	7
Shelikof District	105,000	79,540	175
Southwest District <sup>1</sup>	25,000	12,000	50
Semidi District <sup>1</sup>	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
<b>ALASKA PENINSULA</b>			
Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	15,000	12,000	50
<b>DUTCH HARBOR</b>	5,000	5,000	10
<b>BERING SEA</b>	50,000	65,000	<i>C. bairdi</i> 500
		300,000	<i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>

<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

Table 1. Statewide scallop guideline harvest and crab bycatch limits for 2012/13 season

### Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

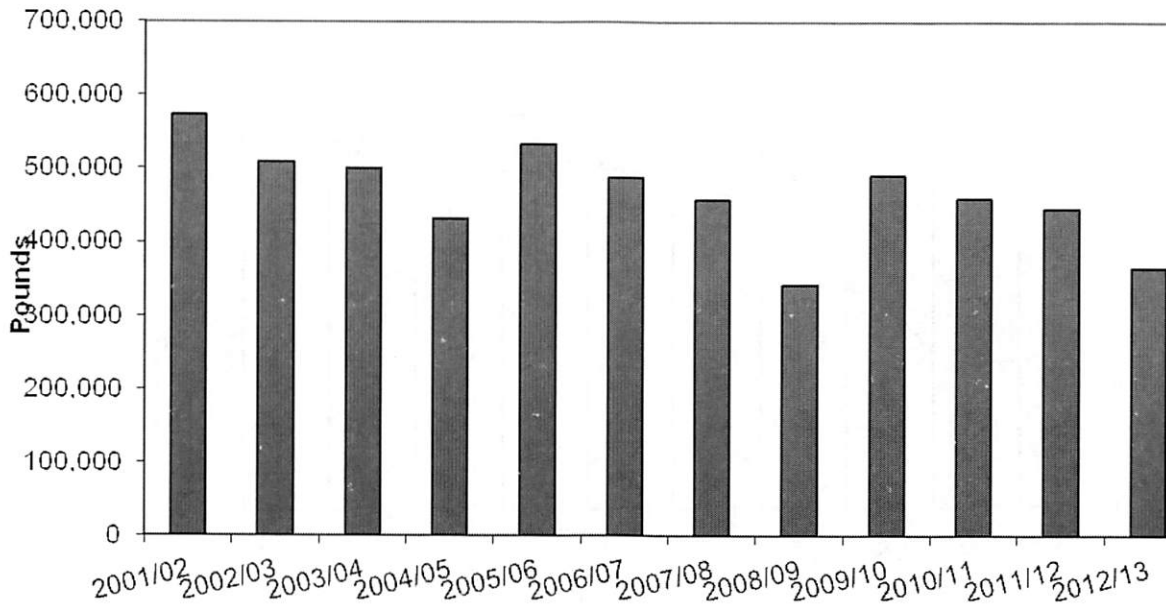


Figure 1. Alaska Weathervane scallop catch (pounds), 2001/02 to 2012/13 seasons.

### Norton Sound open access summer fishery

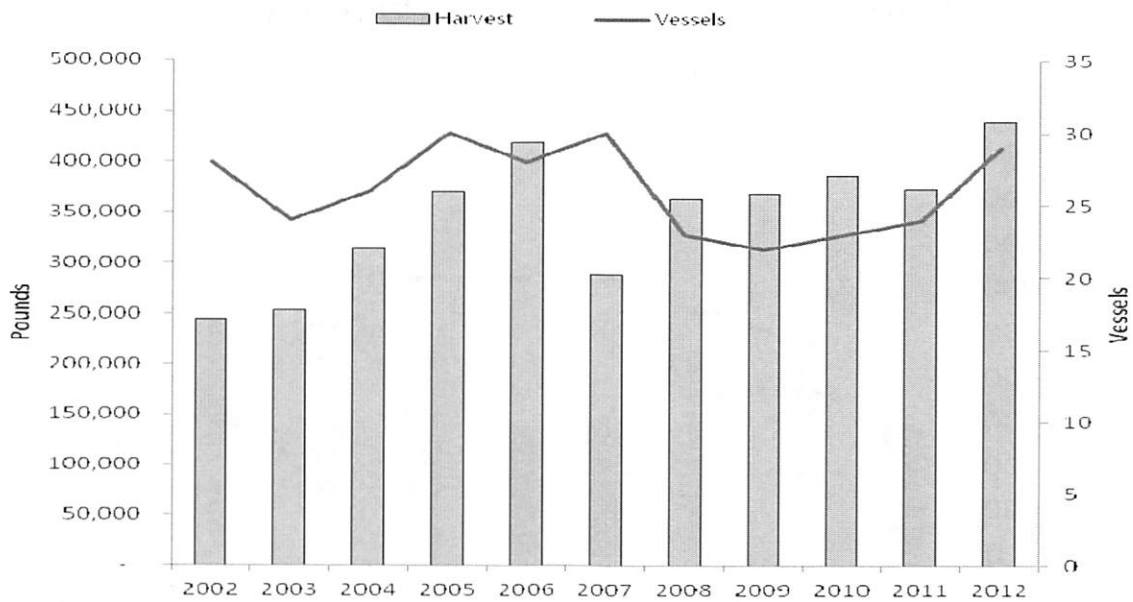


Figure 2. Norton Sound open access summer fishery harvest (pounds) and effort (vessels), 2002 - 2012.

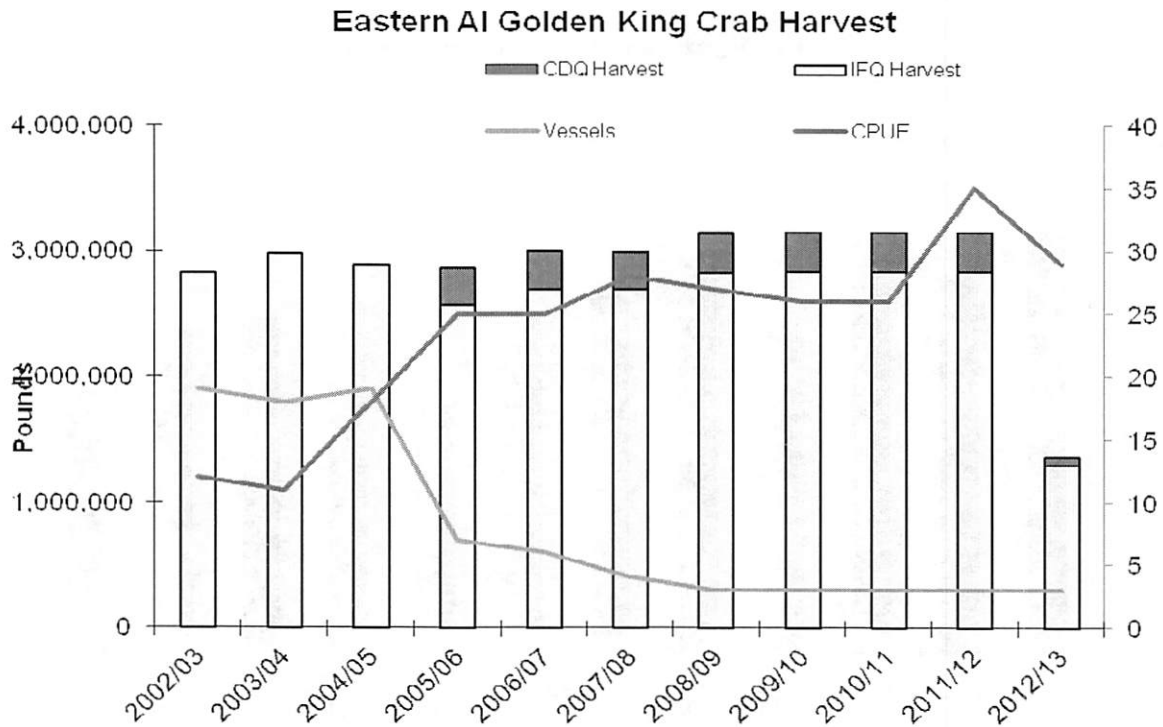


Figure 3. Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest (pounds), effort (vessels), and catch per unit effort (crabs per pot), 2002/03 to 2012/13 season.

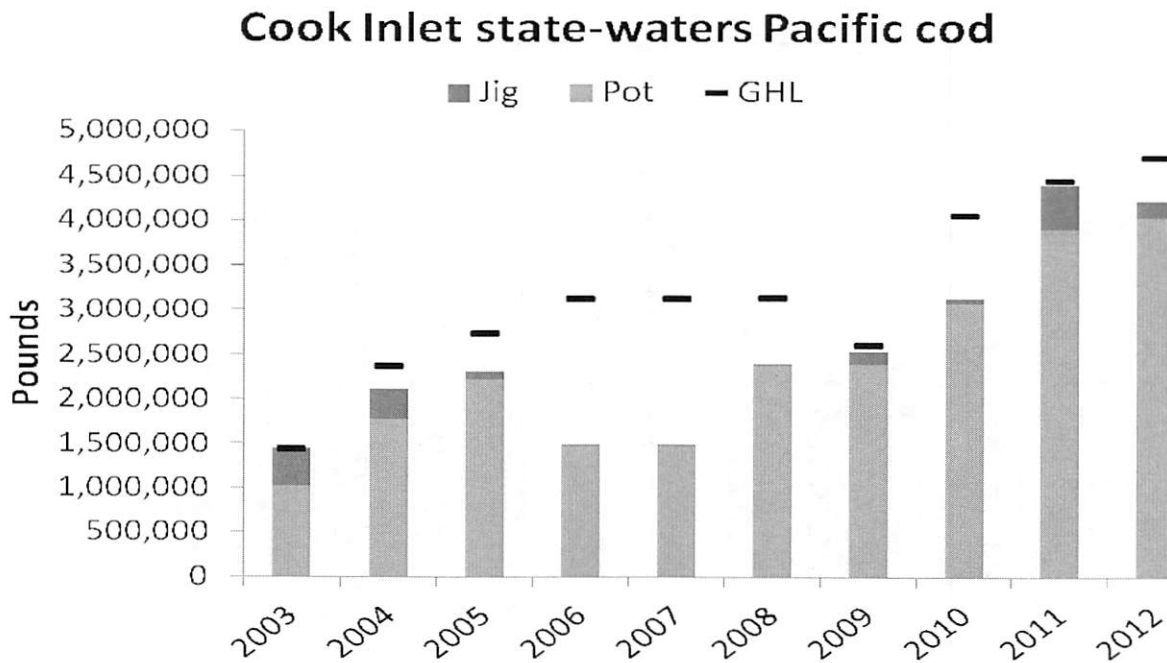


Figure 4. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest (pounds) by gear, 2003 – 2012 season.

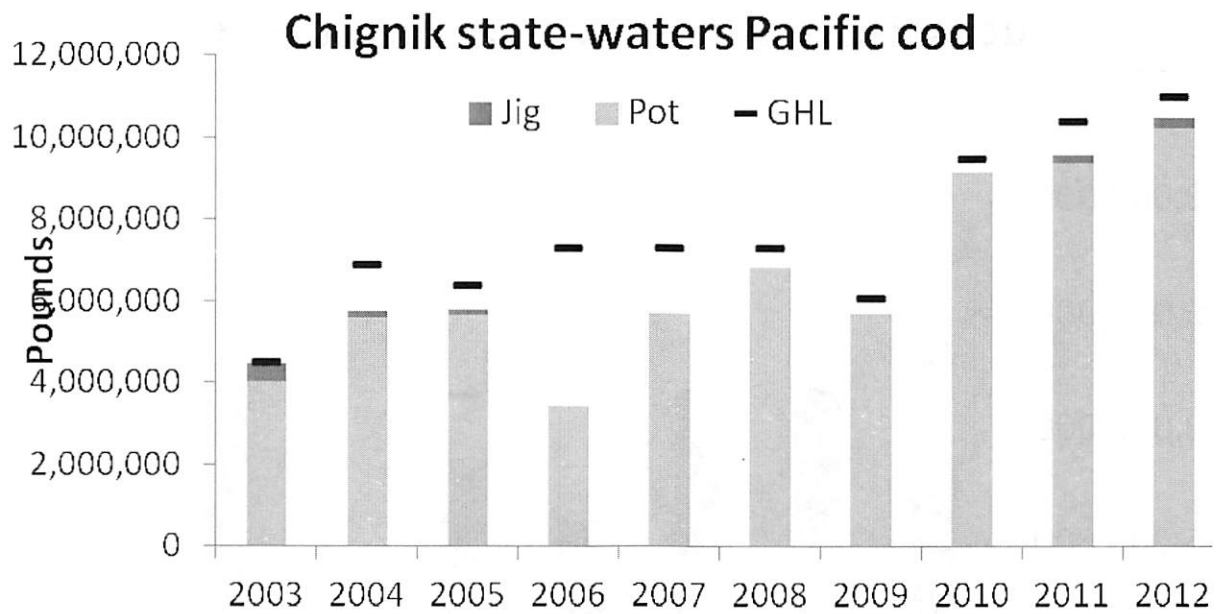


Figure 5. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest (pounds) by gear, 2003 – 2012 season.

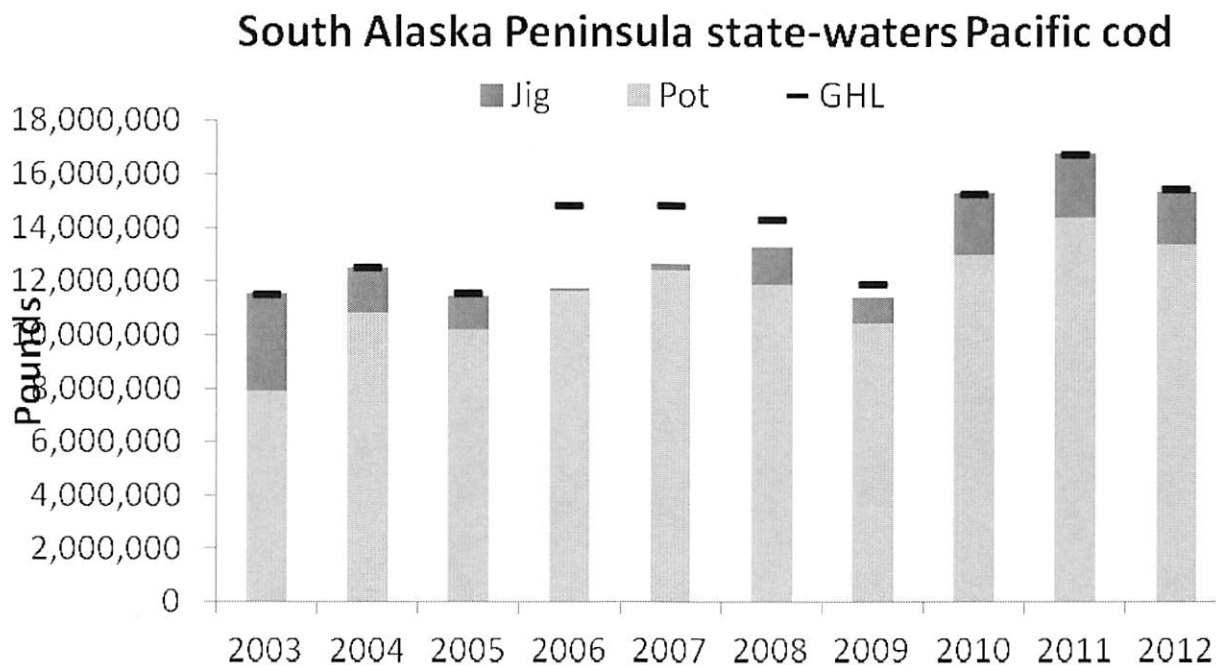


Figure 6. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest (pounds) by gear, 2003 – 2012 season.

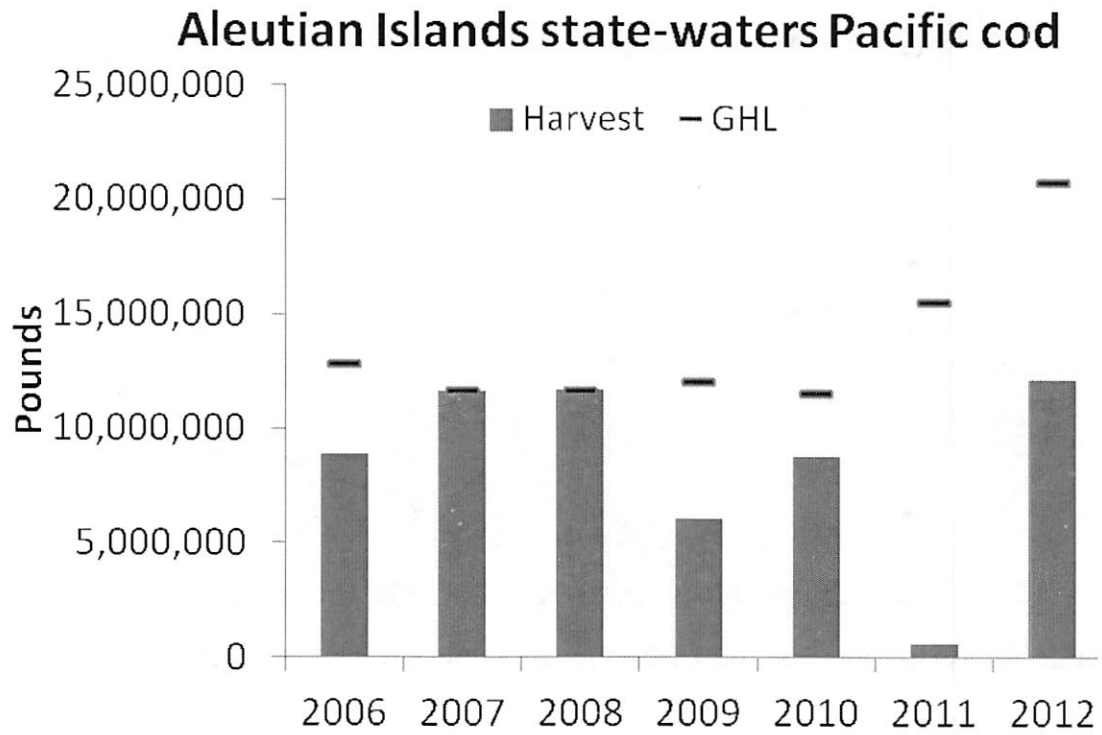


Figure 7. Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod harvest (pounds), 2006 – 2012 season.