



**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 includes those for crab, scallop, and groundfish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2024/25 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2024, for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2024, for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. All fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2025. 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 2024/25 fishing year, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is 4.88 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude. The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.76 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 1.12 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 but less than one third of the TAC has been harvested in both the EAG and WAG (Figure 1).

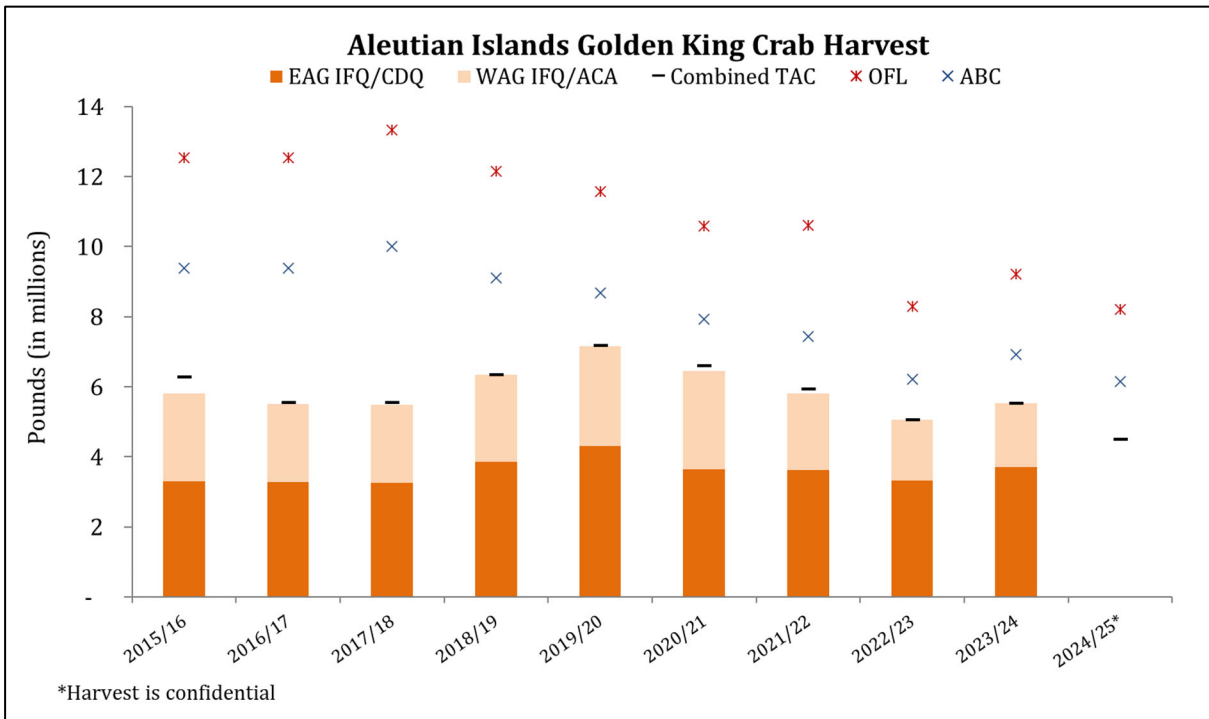


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2015/16 – 2024/25 seasons.

Norton Sound Red King Crab

The Norton Sound red king crab Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for 2024 is 483,000 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, 36,225 pounds, which can be harvested during the winter or summer seasons. The 2024 winter season opened February 1 and closed April 30 with a total harvest of 13,675 pounds by nine permit holders and the remaining winter GHL was rolled over to the summer fishery. The summer open access fishery GHL was 433,100 pounds. The summer season opened on June 15 and closed on July 13 with a total harvest of 421,301 pounds by 31 vessels. The CDQ quota was fully harvested during the summer season.

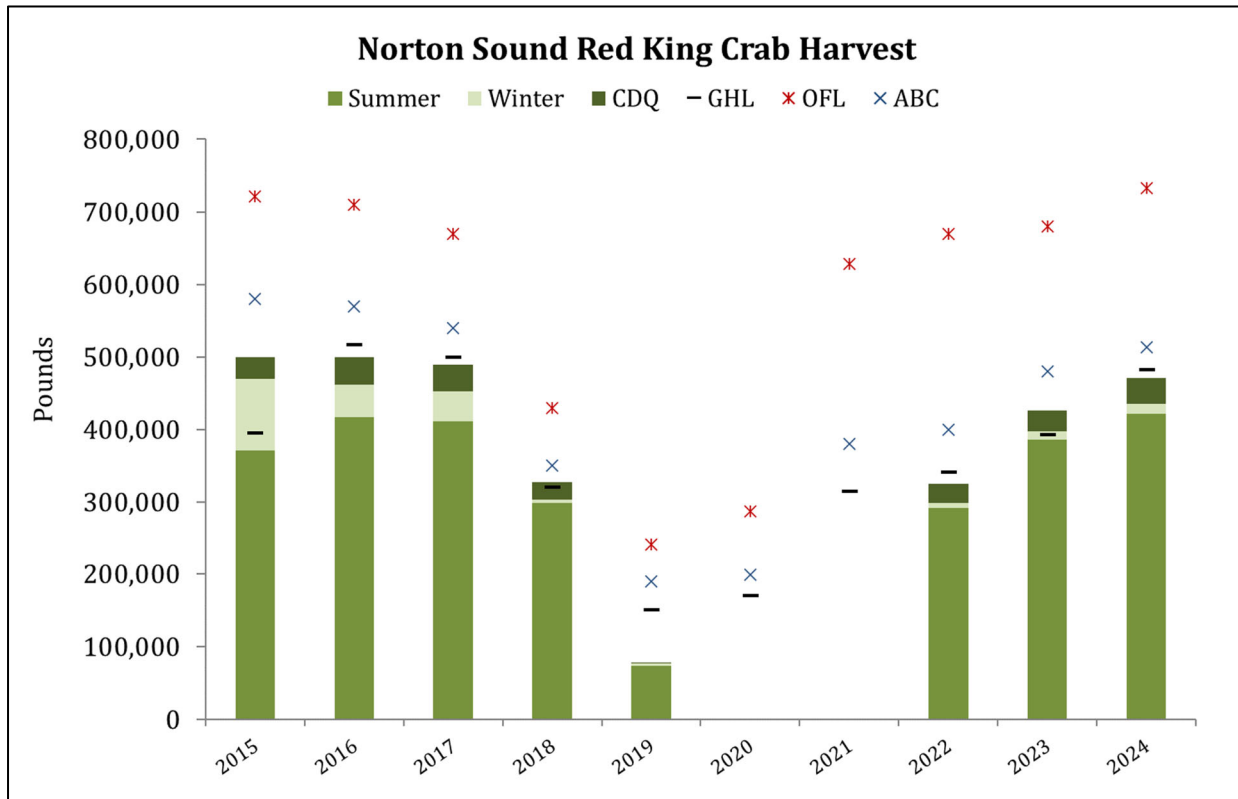


Figure 2. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, 2015-2024.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bering Sea Registration Areas opened on July 1, 2024. The cumulative GHL for the 2024/25 season is 374,700 pounds of shucked meats (Table 1). Due to achieving their GHLs, the Prince William Sound West Kayak Subsection closed on August 12 and the Kodiak Shelikof District closed on September 17, 2024. All other areas remain open, and 204,275 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (Figure 3).

Table 1. Alaska Weathervane scallop GHLs for 2024/25 season and crab bycatch limits.

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</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	7,200	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed</i>	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 ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	Central (160° to 161° W. long)	7,500	4,500	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.				

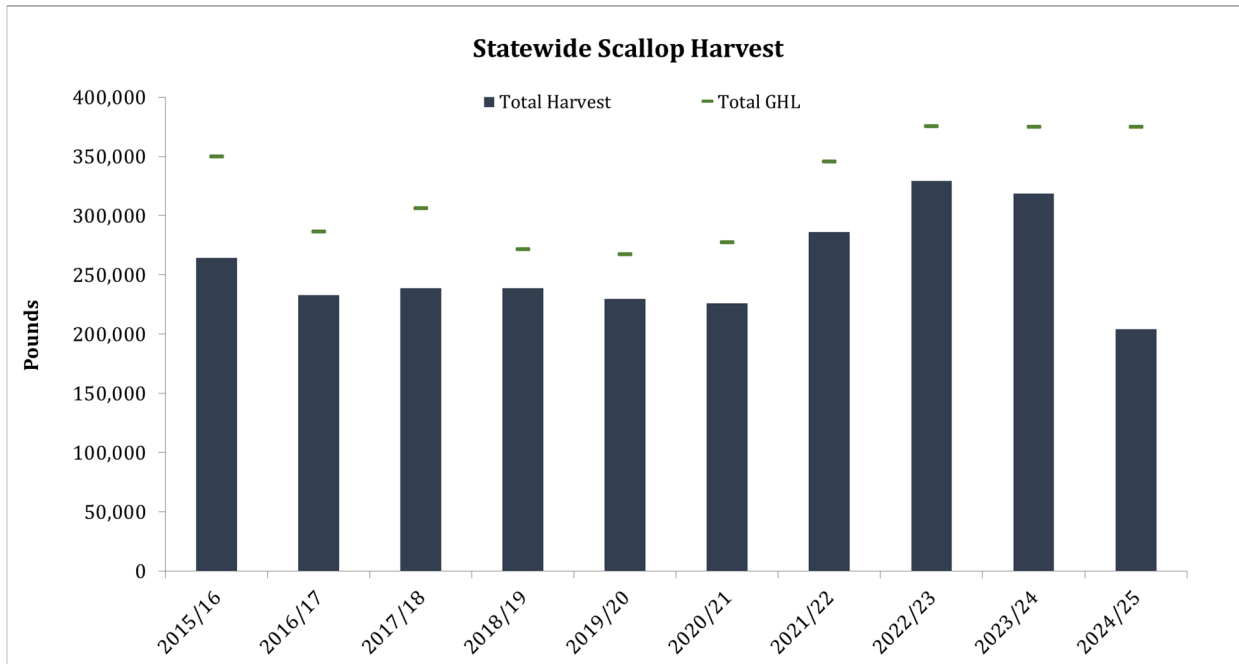


Figure 3. Statewide scallop harvest and GHL, 2015/16-2024/25 seasons.

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 no more than 60% of the GHL or 5.77 million pounds in 2024. Total bycatch is limited to 5% of the directed walleye pollock weight and is apportioned into five species groups: salmon (0.04%), rockfish (0.5%), sharks (0.96%), squid (3.0%), and other species (0.5%). No more than 60% of any bycatch species group can 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 section bycatch cap for squid of 173,039 pounds had been reached. On February 22, the Bainbridge Section closed because the section bycatch cap for salmon of 2,307 pounds had been reached. The fishery closed by regulation on March 31, 2024, and 7.99 million pounds of pollock were harvested (Figure 4).

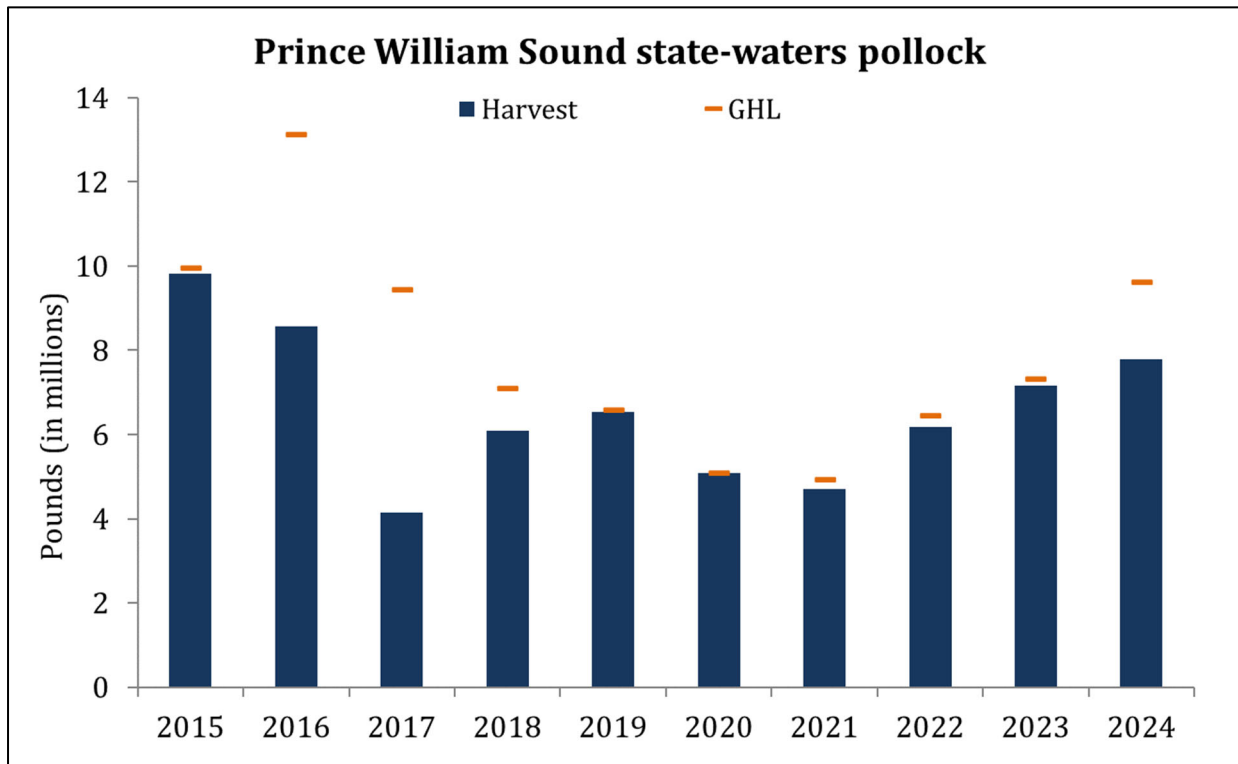


Figure 4. Prince William Sound pollock harvest and GHL, 2015-2024.

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 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%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	397,186	180
			Pot	3,574,676	1,621
Kodiak	12.50%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	2,837,045	1,287
			Pot	2,837,045	1,287
Cook Inlet	3.75%	CGOA - 25%	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 PWS (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.619 million pounds and is allocated 80% to longline gear and 20% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on February 10, to vessels fishing with longline gear on April 2, and to vessels fishing with jig gear on May 7. To date, a total of 176,390 pounds have been harvested and the fishery remains open.

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. The jig fishery opened on January 1 and closed on April 30. Vessels using jig gear harvested 2.872 million pounds.

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 5). The jig fishery opened on May 7, following the closure of the federal sector, and remains open. To date, 31,000 pounds have been harvested in the jig fishery. If there is remaining GHL from the jig allocation following the closure of the B season parallel fishery for pot gear, the state fishery may re-open to pot gear.

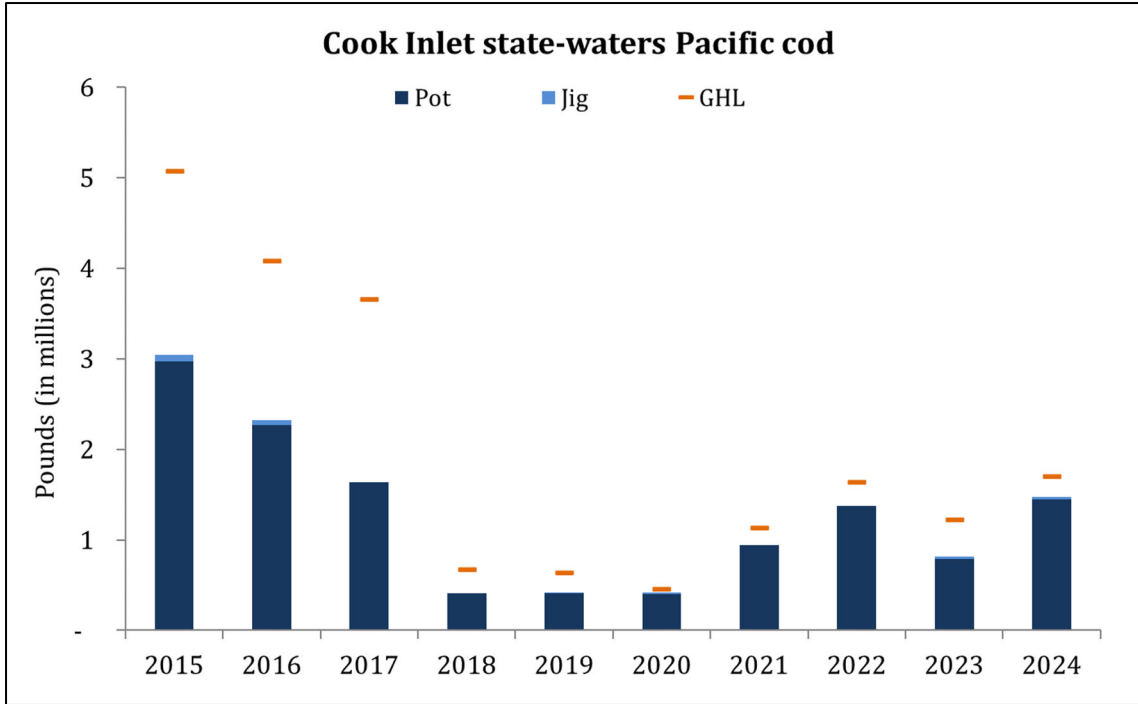


Figure 5. Annual Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2015-2024.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2024 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula (Western Gulf of Alaska) 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 harvested 4.967 million pounds (Figure 6). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15 and total harvest through September 27 is 363,038 pounds.

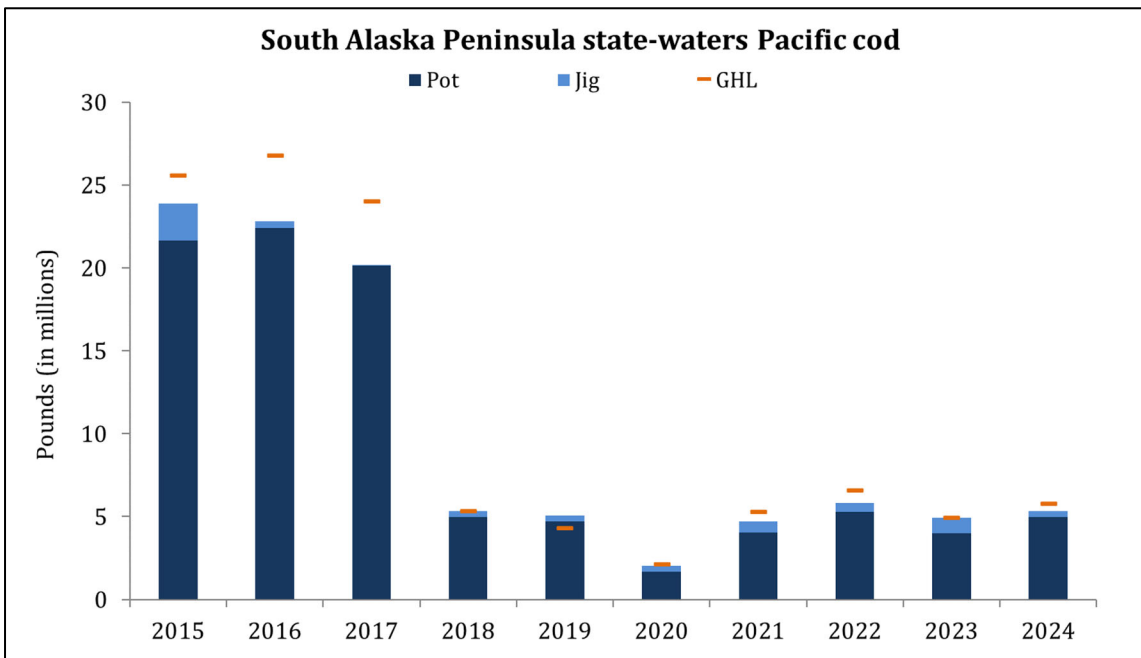


Figure 6. Annual South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2015-2024.

Dutch Harbor

The 2024 GHL 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 7). The Dutch Harbor jig fishery opened May 1 and harvest is confidential. By regulation, the fisheries close December 31, 2024, or when the GHL is achieved. In 2025, the GHL in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict will increase from 12% to 13% of the Bering Sea ABC because over 90% of the GHL was achieved in both 2023 and 2024.

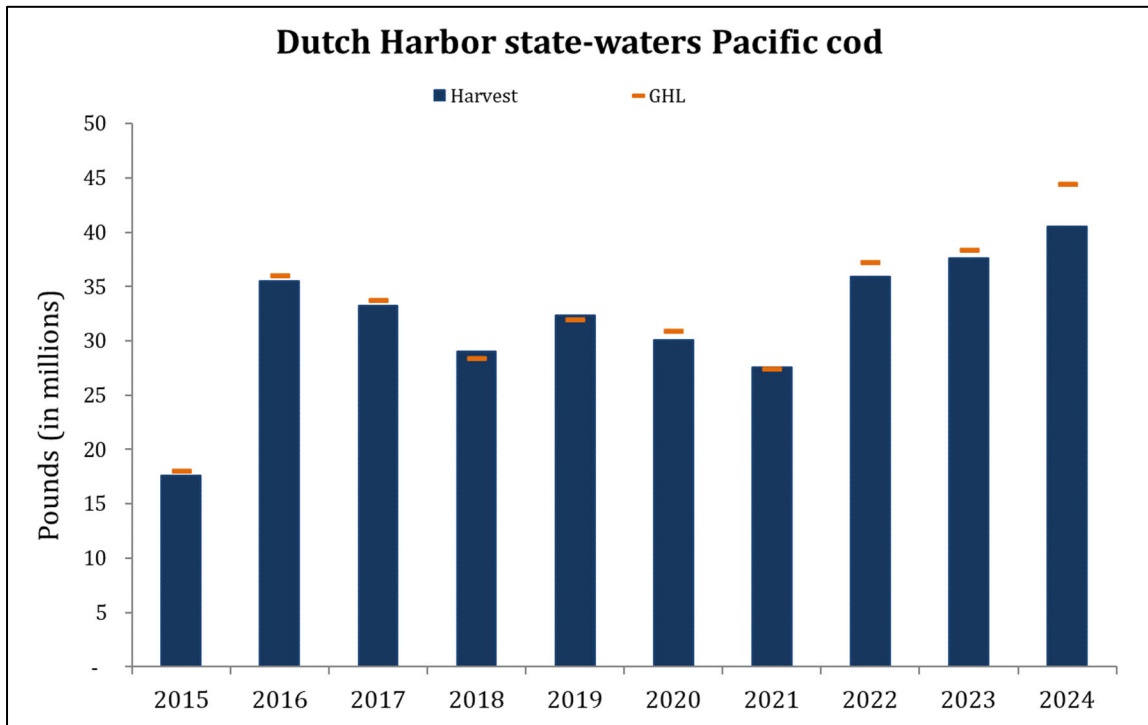


Figure 7. Annual Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2015-2024.

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. By regulation, the fishery closes December 31 or when the GHL is achieved. The AIS GHL will remain at 35% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC in 2025. The state harvest strategy specifies a 4% increase if 90% of the GHL is attained in one year and a 4% decrease if not attained in two subsequent years. The GHL was reduced from 39% to 35% in 2024.

Rockfish

The PWS Rockfish Management Plan (5 AAC 28.265) establishes a GHL of 150,000 pounds and requires full retention of all rockfish caught when participating in a directed groundfish or halibut fishery in the PWS Management Area. The plan also sets limits, by fishery, as a percentage of the round weight of the directed species on board the vessel. Any amount of rockfish that exceeds this bycatch limit is accounted for as overage and proceeds are surrendered to the state. To stay within the annual PWS rockfish GHL, the department reduced rockfish bycatch limits by 50% beginning on August 27, 2024. The department is continuing to monitor the total rockfish harvest may consider other management measures if needed.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Upcoming meetings and proposals that may be of interest to the Council:

- [Work Session](#), October 29-30, 2024, 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 15, 2024.
- [Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish \(except shrimp\)](#), December 10-16, 2024, Cordova. Written comments are due November 26, 2024.

PROPOSAL 5: ADF&G. Provide Emergency Order authority to the Commissioner to close waters to specific groundfish gear types for rockfish conservation.

PROPOSAL 8: Increase the Pacific cod allocation from 25% of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska ABC¹ to a minimum of 35% and maximum of 50%.

PROPOSAL 13: Allow 100% bycatch retention of longnose and big skates during the PWS state water longline directed Pacific cod and halibut fisheries until 25% of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Federal TACs¹ have been reached.

PROPOSAL 14: Prohibit the directed PWS pollock fishery unless no part or attachment to the trawl gear makes contact with the seafloor and do not allow any Chinook salmon bycatch.

PROPOSAL 15: Develop static bycatch caps for the PWS pollock fishery rather than caps based on 5% of the annual pollock GHL.

PROPOSAL 16: Close the PWS pollock fishery.

PROPOSAL 17: Require 100% electronic monitoring and 50% onboard observers in the PWS pollock fishery.

PROPOSAL 20: Change the opening date of the PWS sablefish fishery from April 15 to align with the opening date of the federal IFQ season.

- [Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish](#), January 28-February 9, 2025, Ketchikan. Written comments are due January 14, 2025.

¹ Proposal specified TAC; in practice the allocation would be determined based on the ABC.

PROPOSAL 191: ADF&G. Add additional required information to groundfish logbooks for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

PROPOSAL 193: In state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area allow CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear to use a deepwater release mechanism to return rockfish to the ocean.

PROPOSAL 195: Change the opening and closing dates of the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish fishery to align with the federal IFQ season.

PROPOSAL 211: ADF&G. Clarify regulations regarding fish ticket documentation of rockfish overages in the groundfish and halibut fisheries. Also, add a demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) overage reporting requirement for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska salmon troll fishery.

• [Statewide Shellfish, PWS Shrimp and Supplemental Issues](#), March 11-16, 2025, Anchorage. Written comments are due February 25, 2025.

PROPOSAL 272: Modify the start of the summer Norton Sound red king crab fishing season to open July 1 instead of June 15.

PROPOSAL 273: Modify the start of the winter Norton Sound red king crab fishing season to open on or after February 1.

PROPOSAL 274: Increase the legal size of male Norton Sound red king crab from four and three-quarter inches to five inches and increase the minimum size of pot escape mechanisms.

PROPOSAL 275: ADF&G. Update Bristol Bay red king crab harvest strategy used to set annual harvest limits to address conservation of the stock and fishery stability for stakeholders during a period of high uncertainty. Proposed changes will focus on updating the minimum stock size thresholds that must be met before a fishery can occur. Additional recommendations will include options for transitioning from a stair step to a sloping harvest control rule.

PROPOSAL 277: Establish an Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery in state waters not to exceed 100,000 pounds for vessels less than or equal to 58'.

PROPOSAL 278: Establish a pot limit of 2,500 pots in the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.

PROPOSAL 279: Amend vessel gear sharing and transfer provisions for the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.

PROPOSAL 283: Allow the use of longline pot gear in the Bering Sea snow and Tanner crab fisheries.

PROPOSAL 287: Amend the definition of preferred-sized males in the Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest strategy.

PROPOSAL 288: Amend the definition of preferred-sized males in the Bering Sea snow crab harvest strategy.

PROPOSAL 291: ADF&G. Formalize the closure of Bristol Bay waters east of 163°W. long. to directed Tanner crab fishing, except an incidental harvest in the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.

PROPOSAL 292: ADF&G. Streamline landing requirement regulations for Tanner crab.