



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL  
December 2008**

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

**Salmon Troll Fishery** (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska winter troll chinook salmon season opened October 11, 2008. It will remain open through April 30, 2009, or until 45,000 treaty chinook salmon are harvested. The fishery is confined to the waters east of the winter boundary line (surf line) and includes the waters of Yakutat Bay. Because of high fuel prices and very poor weather on the grounds, harvest numbers are down, with the latest catch estimates totaling approximately 3,000 fish.

**Scallops** (FIGURE 2)

The Alaska commercial scallop fishery opened on July 1, 2008. Catch to date is approximately 223,000 pounds, with catch out of the Yakutat District accounting for 78 percent of the harvest total to date.

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

The 2008/09 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2008. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.835 million pounds. Catch to date in this fishery is 2.6 million pounds (90 percent).

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 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, 2008.

### **Bristol Bay Red King Crab** (FIGURE 4)

The 2008/09 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2008 and will remain open through January 15, 2009. The IFQ TAC for this fishery is 18.3 million pounds. To date, approximately 17.2 million pounds (94 percent) have been taken.

### **Bering Sea Snow Crab** (FIGURE 5)

The 2008/09 snow crab IFQ TAC is approximately 52.7 million pounds. The 2008/09 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2008 and will remain open through May 15, 2009 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2009 in the Western Subdistrict.

### **Bering Sea Tanner Crab** (FIGURE 6)

The season for *C. bairdi* open on October 15, 2008 and will close on March 31, 2009. The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W longitude, with a separate TAC for each area. The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.49 million pounds, while the Western IFQ TAC is 1.38 million pounds. To date, there have been about 530,000 pounds (21 percent) taken in the Eastern District.

## **Central Region Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 7)

### **Prince William Sound**

The Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 21, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is 586,430 pounds, which was calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. Catch to date is about 7,600 pounds by four vessels using jig gear.

### **Cook Inlet**

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 21, 2008, which was 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL is 3,133,403 pounds. That GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. The state waters season closed to vessels greater than 58 feet in overall length and fishing pot gear on April 1, 2008 due to attainment of the harvest cap set by regulation for that gear segment. The season closed to other vessels fishing pot gear during the regulatory closure period May 1 through June 15 and then remained open to pot and jig gears until noon September 1 when the parallel season was reopened. Consistent with the Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan, the parallel season for Pacific cod closed at noon October 3, the state waters season for Pacific cod reopened at noon October 4, 2008 and the remaining GHL of 988,145 lb is unallocated among gear types.

## **Westward Region Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 8)

### **Kodiak Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 9)

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. It closed on November 22, 2008. The 2008 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) was 10.44 million pounds. The GHL was allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear.

The Kodiak fishery progressed through both state water and parallel water management regimes as the season evolved. Final harvest by the pot sector was approximately 7.7 million pounds, while the jig fleet harvested about 2.0 million pounds.

**Chignik Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 10)

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opened by regulation on March 1. The GHL is 7.31 million pounds, with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount. Management occurred under both state water and parallel fishery regulations. Catch to date is approximately 6.7 million pounds for the pot sector, while jig catch remains confidential given the number of participants.

**South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod** (FIGURE 11)

The Pacific cod fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula opened March 7, 2008, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL was approximately 14.29 million pounds, with 85 percent targeted by pot gear. The pot fishery closed on April 1, 2008 with a total harvest of about 11.9 million pounds. The jig sector closed on September 1, 2008 with a harvest of about 1.4 million pounds.

**Southeast Groundfish** (FIGURE 12)

The Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI or Chatham Strait) longline fishery and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI or Clarence Strait) pot fishery closed by regulation on November 15, 2008. Catch in the SSEI fishery (both longline and pot) was 618,033 round pounds (89 percent) of the 696,000 pounds available annual harvest objective. Preliminary catch for the NSEI fishery was 1,505,049 (99.8 percent) pounds on the 1,508,000 pounds quota.

The directed lingcod fishery and lingcod bycatch in the troll fisheries closed by regulation on November 30, 2008. Preliminary catch is estimated at about 300,000 pounds for the region.

Pacific cod landings in the directed fishery have increased. Approximately 533,000 pounds have been harvested this year from directed and bycatch fisheries combined. Northern southeast inside fisheries account for about 98 percent of the catch.

The directed fishery for demersal shelf rockfish opened on November 16, 2008, in NSEI (20 mt) and a portion of SSEI (25 mt).

The department closed the state waters section of the Southeast Outside (SEO) district to longline fishing on October 21, 2008, in unison with the federal longline groundfish closure to prevent exceeding the 2008 halibut prohibited species catch limit for vessel targeting groundfish with longline gear.

#### **Subsistence Halibut** (FIGURE 13)

The department's Division of Subsistence has been conducting a federally funded project to develop annual estimates of the number of individuals and their catch under the federally created subsistence halibut program. Results were collected through a voluntary mail-out survey of all holders of subsistence halibut registration certificates (SHARC). The project covered a five-year period from 2003 through 2007, utilizing consistent methods throughout the project. The division's Technical Paper, Number 342, reports on their 2007 findings. Briefly, the response rate for 2007 was 58 percent, similar to prior years. There were approximately 6,000 fishermen with an estimated harvest of just over one million pounds, which was similar to prior years' results. As in prior years, the largest portion occurred in Regulatory Area 2C (Southeast), followed by Area 3A (Southcentral), with very similar amounts. Reduced funding for the 2008 fishery results in a focus on just these two areas. Finally, continuation of harvest monitoring beyond 2008 is uncertain.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries** (FIGURE 14)

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Cordova, Alaska from December 1 through 7. Their agenda included several Pacific cod proposal, as well as others of possible interest to the Council.

**Proposal 34** - Manage by emergency order in the Pacific cod fishery. Season currently opens with federal Central GOA season. This proposal, if adopted, would require it to open with federal Eastern GOA season. Individual proposing this change says the season now closes before the biomass moves into the area.

**Proposal 35** - Modify opening of the Pacific cod fishery. Open and close the parallel season in PWS east of a one at 147° W longitude to coincide with the initial federal season in the Eastern GOA. Individual proposing this change says the season now closes before the biomass moves into the area.

**Proposal 36** - Vessels engaged in longlining halibut in PWS Area may retain P cod if they are in possession of a miscellaneous finfish permit and the state waters season is open or a parallel season is open.

*app.*

**Proposal 37** - Provide for a new regulation under 5 AAC 20.xxx that allows the incidental harvest of Pacific cod in the directed halibut fishery and state waters sablefish fishery in Prince William Sound.

*app.*

**Proposal 38** - Expand the outside district of PWS to the harvest of Pacific cod. Federal and state management areas do not align. This proposal would open waters from 147° W longitude to 144° W longitude for the parallel Pacific cod season.

*39? - 10:47am ? prop passed = Benen Q  
to open an area near . . .*

**Proposal 41** - Establish Area E (PWS) commercial skate fishery.

**Proposal 42** - Allow the retention of spiny dogfish in the longline fishery in PWS.

*app*

**Proposal 93** - 5 AAC 01.645 (e) (1) (2). Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits. Allow retention of rockfish up to the daily bag limit in the subsistence halibut

fishery. This regulation would align PWS regulations with those passed for Cook Inlet in 2007, reducing sport and subsistence bag limits from five rockfish to four rockfish per day, making the population in the area more sustainable

An error with the supplemental legal notice mail-out will cause a procedural delay on final board action on the seven supplemental proposals (#369 - #375) that were scheduled for the December 1 through 7 Board of Fisheries meeting in Cordova. The problem arose from an aspect of the 30-day notice requirement. The board will need to hold off on final action on these proposals until a board teleconference, to be scheduled for late December. The public testimony, staff reports, and board deliberation proceeded as scheduled in Cordova on December 5, 2008. One aspect of this change is that final action would come after the December Council meeting, thus allowing time for any additional Council comment.

**Proposal 369** – Clarify regulations on non-pelagic trawl closure in the Bristol Bay area (5 AAC 39.165(3), and 39.164 (b) (7)).

**Proposal 370** – Modify regulations on non-pelagic trawl and essential fish habitat in the Bering Sea (5 AAC 39.164(b) and 5 AAC 39.167).

**Proposal 371** – Provide a uniform vessel size limit of 60 feet LOA in the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery (5 AAC 28.647 (d)(3)).

**Proposal 372** – Reduce daily catch limit to 75,000 pounds for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery (5 AAC 28.647 (d)(7)).

*amended to 58'*  
**Proposal 373** – Limit longline vessel to 55 feet in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area Pacific cod fishery (5 AAC 28.087).

**Proposal 374** – Reporting requirements for the Parallel Fisheries

**Proposal 375** – Full documentation of retained groundfish catch

*to be added to memo March 2009 mtf*

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NPFMC  
Agenda Item B-3**



**December 2008**



**Figure 1a. 2009 Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Fishery Update** 17-Nov

Data for October 26- Nov 1 (week 44)							Catch through Week 44
Troll Year	Permits Fished	Landings	Number of Kings	Catch/Landing	Average Price	Average Weight (lbs.)	
2009	61	81	588	7.3	\$7.35	12.1	2,137
2008	51	59	292	4.9	\$7.92	13.1	2,964
5-year ave	87	111	1,442	13.0	\$5.49	12.9	6,733
2009	Week	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds	Ave Price	Ave Wt.
	42	80	94	1,215	15,444	\$7.29	12.7
	43	39	42	329	4,017	\$7.42	12.2
	44	61	81	588	7,106	\$7.35	12.1
	45	56	93	602	7,470	\$7.28	12.4
	46	15	15	62	733	\$7.32	11.8
<b>Regional Totals:</b>		140	326	2,801	34,817	\$7.32	12.5

Note: Data is preliminary and based on fish tickets received.

Districts listed have highest catch, confidential data omitted

2009 Cumulative Catch and Effort by District and Percentage of Regional Catch							
District	Permits	Landings	Kings	K/permit	K/landing	% Region	
113	50	108	862	17.2	8.0	31%	
110	20	31	608	30.4	19.6	22%	
183	27	93	565	20.9	6.1	20%	
107	9	13	162	18.0	12.5	6%	
108	11	22	150	13.6	6.8	5%	
101	11	15	144	13.1	9.6	5%	
106	7	16	66	9.4	4.1	2%	
114	5	8	54	10.8	6.8	2%	
109	9	11	52	5.8	4.7	2%	
<b>Regional Totals:</b>		140	326	2,801	20.0	8.6	

**Figure 1b.**

### Historical Oct-Dec Winter Troll Chinook Harvest

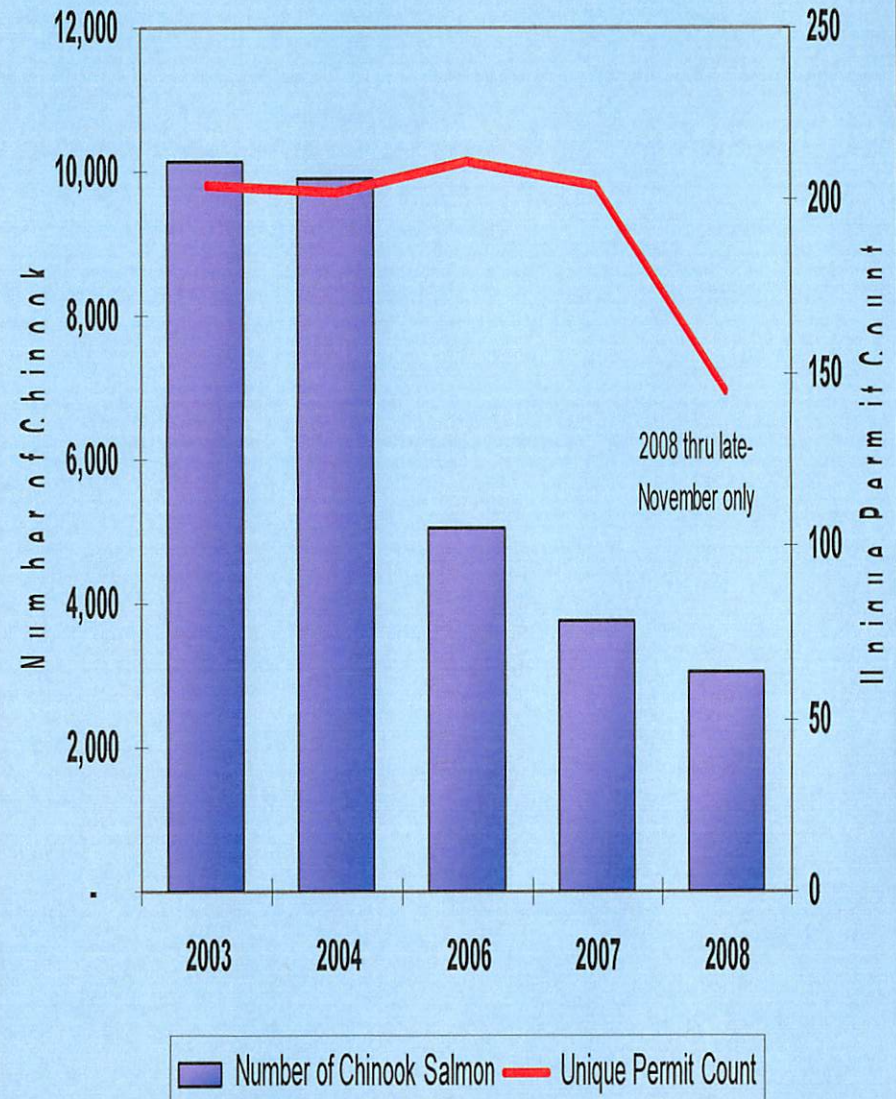


Figure 2

# Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

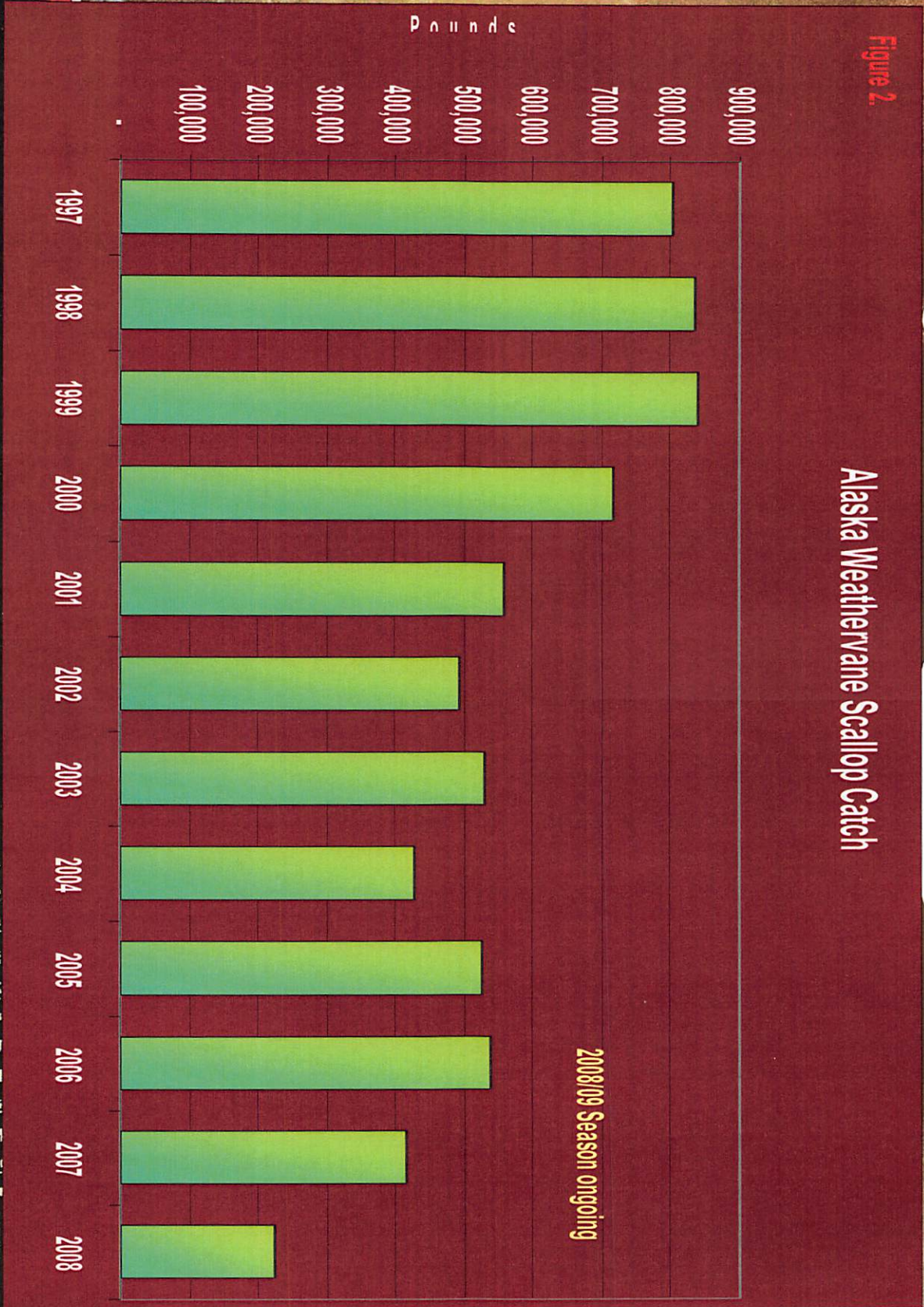


Figure 3.

### Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Harvest IFQ fishery only

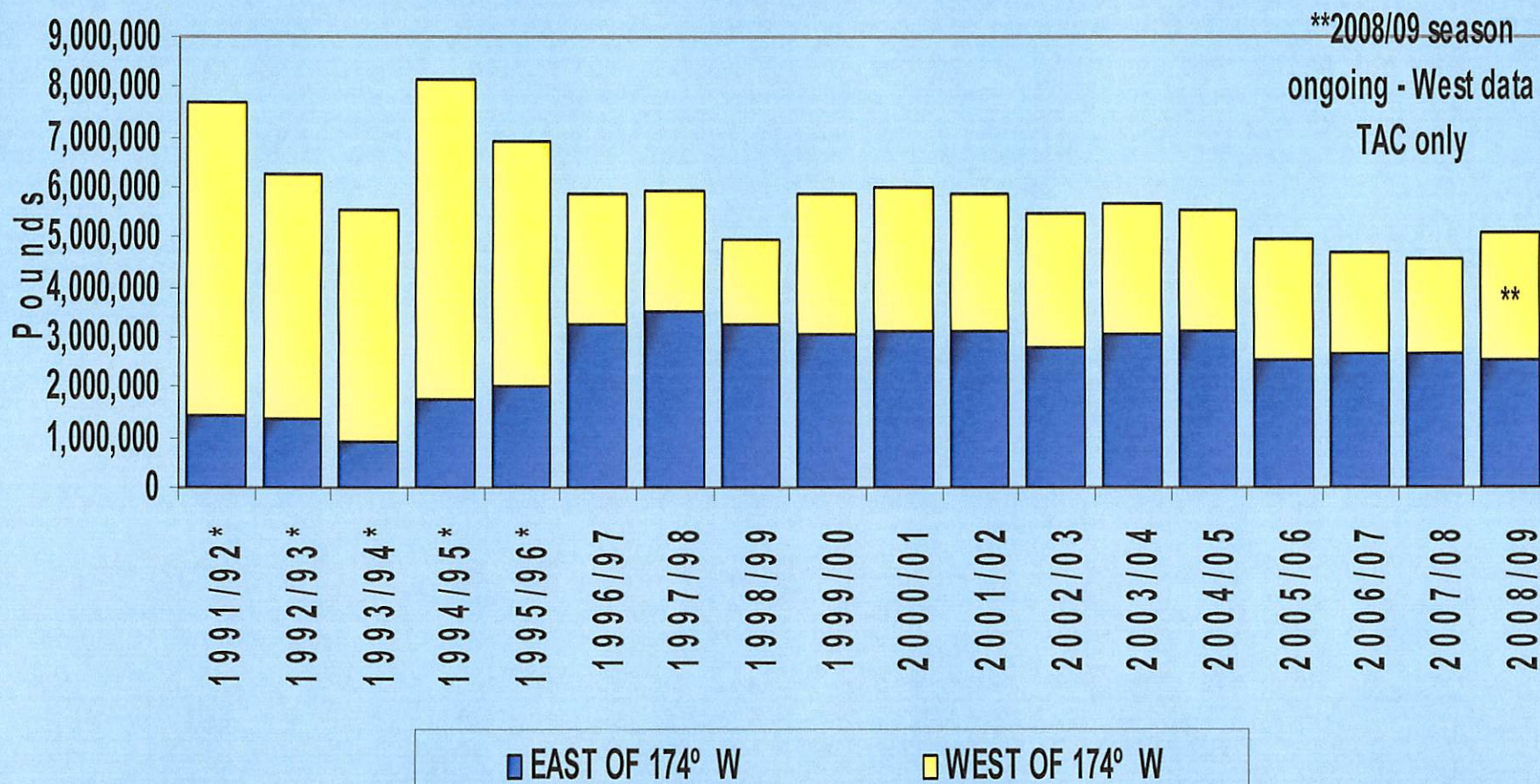
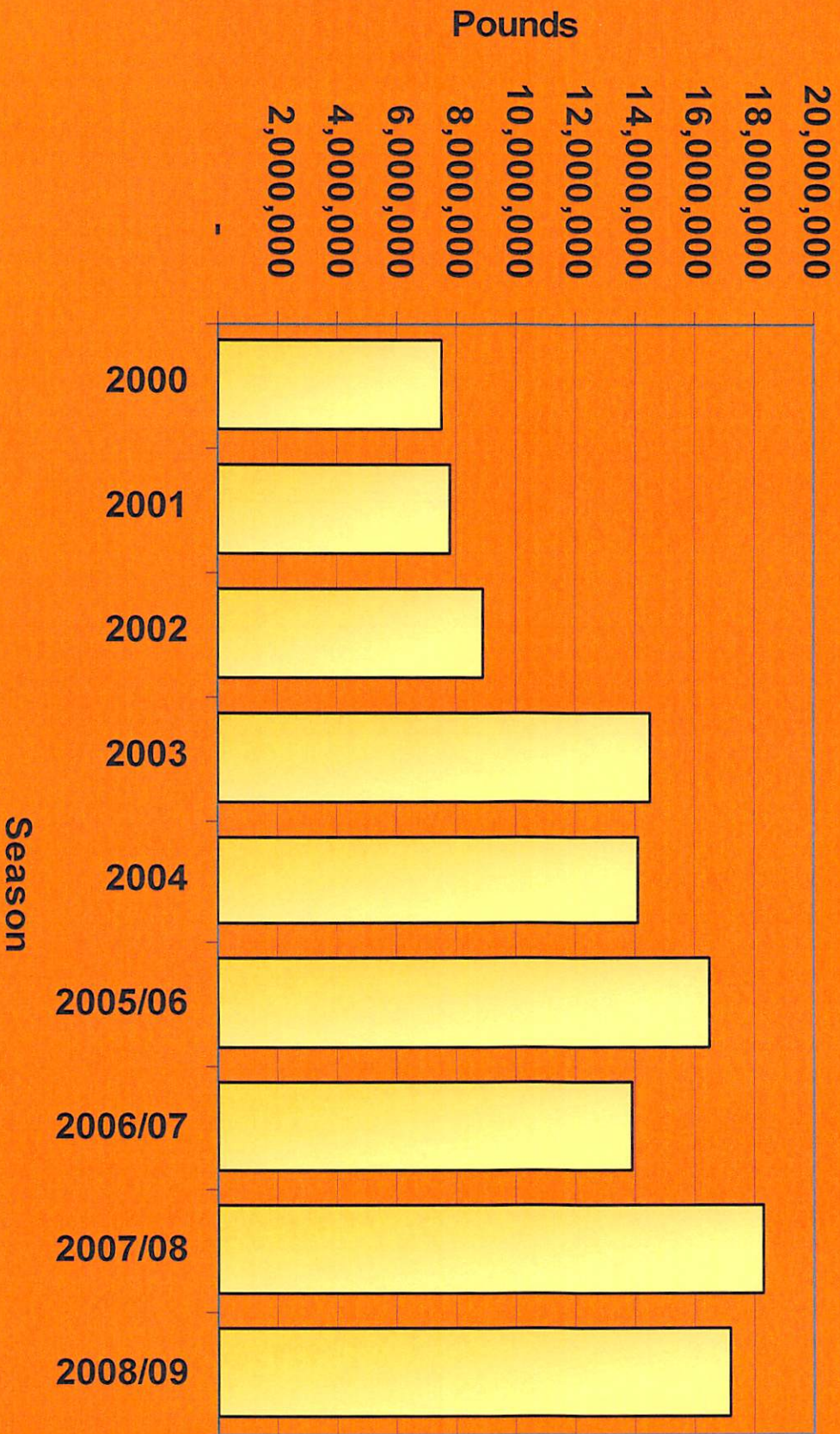


Figure 4.

# Bristol Bay Red King Crab (IFQ fishery)

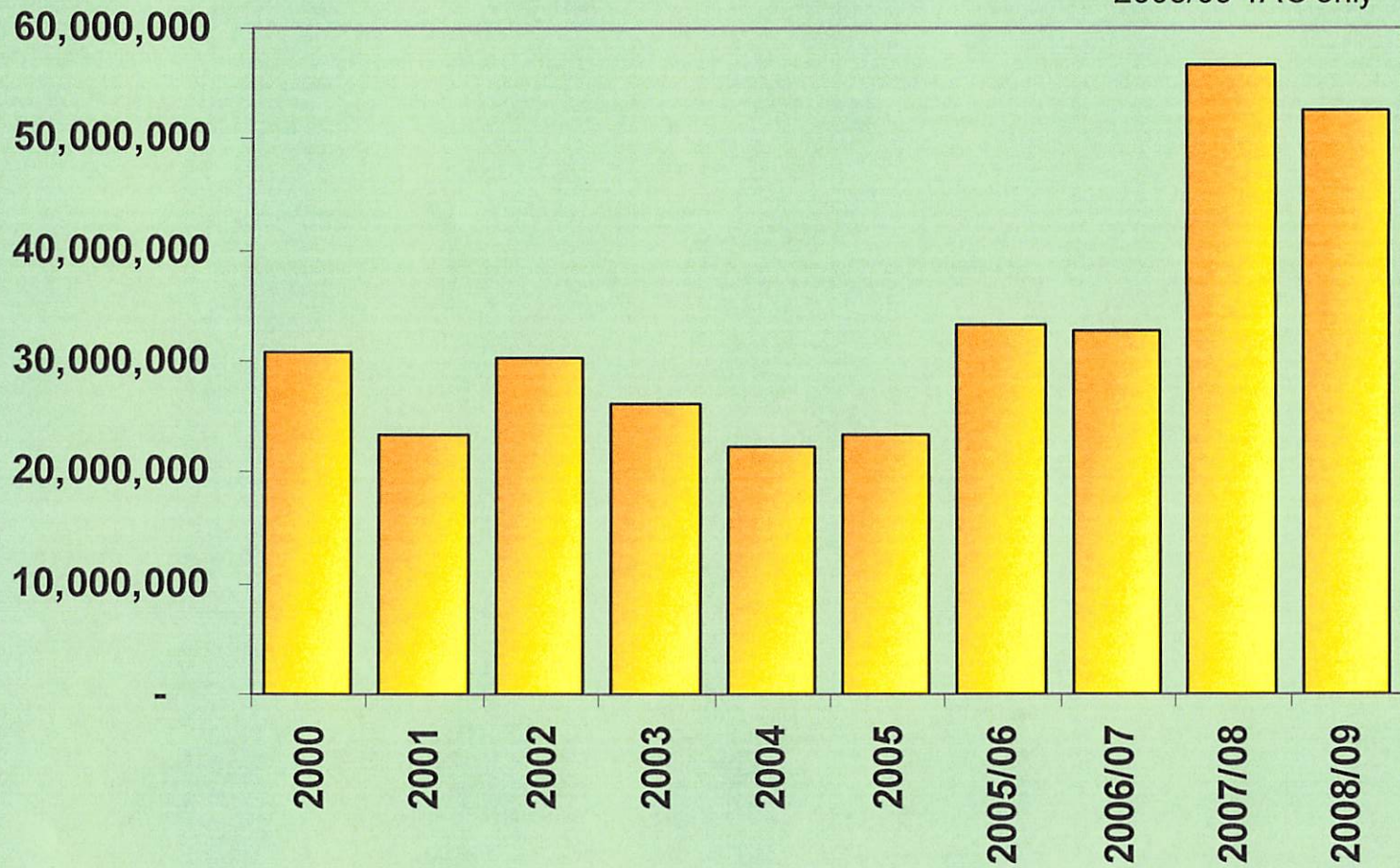
2008/09 season  
ongoing



**Figure 5.**

## Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvests IFQ only

2008/09 TAC only



T.M. Swilko

Figure 6.

### Bering Sea Tanner Crab Harvest

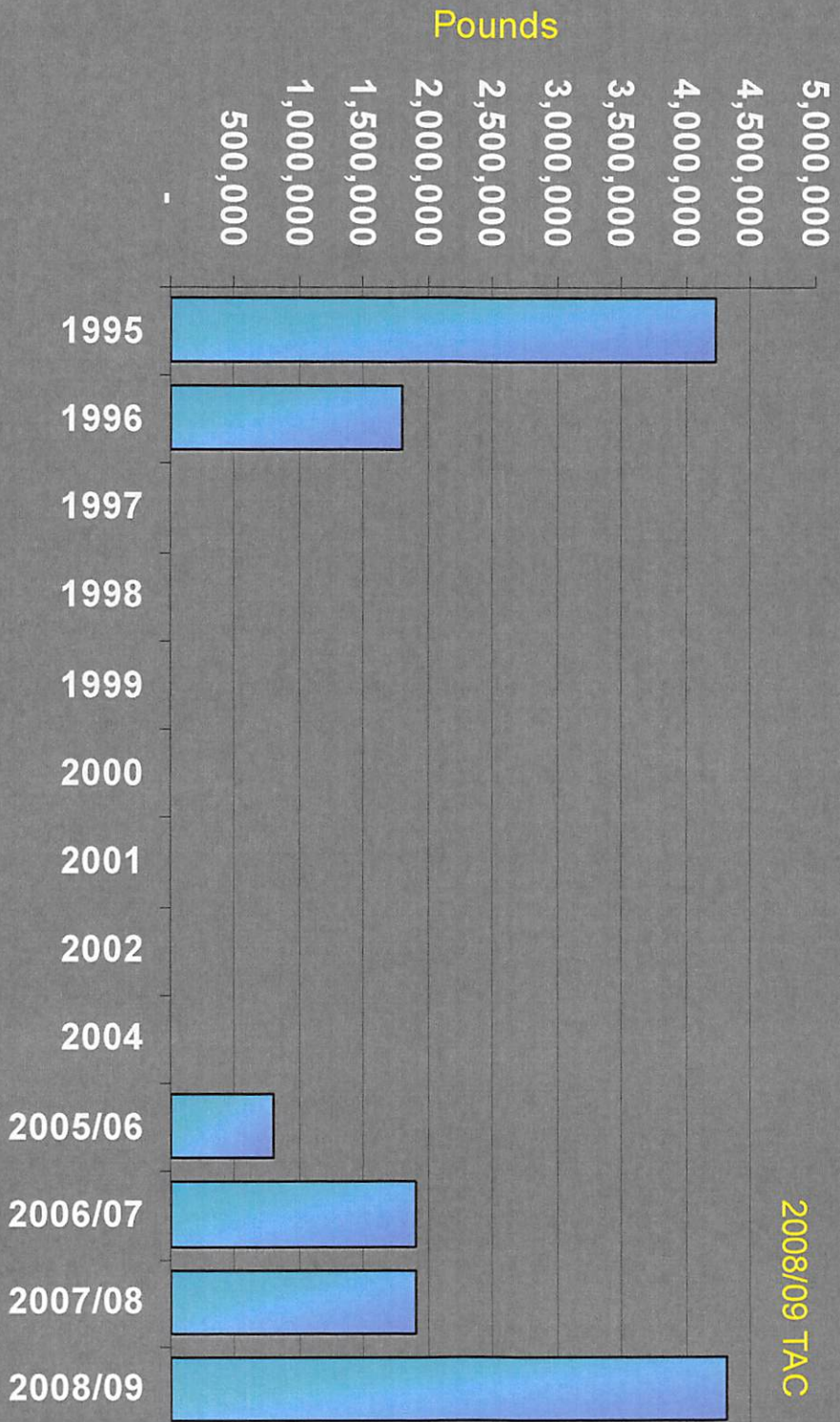


Figure 7. 2008 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through October 31.

This summary censored for CONFIDENTIAL reports or records.

Pacific Cod	PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS			PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND			
	Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longline	45	112	267,126	35	76	65,853	
Pots	7	48	145,473	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>412,689</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>65,853</b>	
Status	Closed			Closed			
Federal seasons:	Directed Opened - Closed			Directed Opened - Closed			
Central Gulf	Jan 1 - noon Feb 20			Jan 1 - noon Feb 20			
	Sept. 1 - Oct. 3			Sept. 1 - Oct. 3			
Parallel season concurrent with federal waters of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). Totals include Pacific Cod bycatch to other directed fisheries e.g. halibut & sablefish. Prince William Sound Jig cod remains confidential.							
*STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS							
GHL (00)	*Cook Inlet Management Area			*Prince William Sound			
	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	
Gear	4	7	14,456	4	5	7,557	
Jigs	11	196	2,171,906	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>2,186,362</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7,557</b>	
State seasons:	Opens - Closes			Opened - Closed			
Jigs	noon Feb 21 - noon May 1			noon Feb 27 - noon Sept 1			
	noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			
	Oct 31 -			Oct 31 -			
*Status	Open			Open			
Pots, <58', CI only	Opens noon Oct. 4			Opens noon Oct. 4			
	noon Feb 21 - noon May 1			noon Feb 27 - noon Sept 1			
	noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			
	Oct 31 -			Oct 31 -			
Status*	Open			Open			
Pots, >58', CI only	Opens noon Feb 21 - noon May 1			Opens noon Feb 27 - noon Sept 1			
	noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			noon Oct 4 - Oct 31			
	Oct 31 -			Oct 31 -			
Status*	Open			Open			

\*The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive jurisdiction 24 hours after the initial Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS. Inshore fisheries are managed by the state. This summary censored for CONFIDENTIAL reports or records. Gear and exclusive vessel registrations are not in effect during parallel season.



**Figure 8. 2008 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH**  
**PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK**

UPDATED: 11/17/2008 

Vessel Registration	KODIAK				CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA				
	Total	Pot	Jig		Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig		
	Current	26	17	9	0	0	0	na	na	na		
Overall	26	17	9	0	0	0	na	na	na			
10.44 Million Pounds				7.31 Million Pounds			14.29 Million Pounds					
ALLOCATIONS: 50% Jigs, 50% Pots Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GH. before Sept. 1. Jigs = 5.22 million, Pots = 5.22 million, >58' pots 2.60 before Sept.1				90% Pots, 10% Jigs Pots = 6.58 million Jigs = .73 million			85% Pots, 15% Jigs Pots = 12.15 million Jigs = 2.14 million					
DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
Fishery opens 2/27/08 at 12 Noon												
2/27-3/1/08	15	291,300	7	9,063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3/2-3/8/08	53	1,249,414	10	8,939	20	450,596	-	-	11	274,389	-	-
3/9-3/15/08	58	1,678,552	25	51,075	33	856,974	-	-	112	2,985,634	-	-
3/16-3/22/08	59	1,347,118	33	81,788	24	495,110	-	-	99	2,612,421	-	-
3/23-3/29/08	143	857,757	37	78,351	29	677,771	-	-	77	3,221,722	-	-
3/30-4/5/08	Closed 3/26/08		29	62,940	52	1,282,350	-	-	90	2,795,594	-	-
4/6-4/12/08	-	-	29	91,409	48	1,578,881	-	-	Closed 4/1/08			-
4/13-4/19/08	-	-	40	76,886	52	1,348,427	-	-	Confidential			-
4/20-4/26/08	-	-	62	199,170	Closed 4/17/08		-	-	Confidential			-
4/27-5/3/08	-	-	36	128,160	-	-	-	-	Confidential			-
5/4-5/10/08	-	-	27	63,674	-	-	-	-	9	39,037	-	-
5/11-5/17/08	-	-	14	44,151	-	-	-	-	26	95,355	-	-
5/18-5/24/08	-	-	54	253,208	-	-	-	-	11	55,256	-	-
5/25-5/31/08	-	-	40	233,559	-	-	-	-	25	119,592	-	-
6/1-6/7/08	-	-	13	62,161	-	-	-	-	16	73,846	-	-
6/8-6/14/08	-	-	33	110,535	-	-	-	-	25	138,977	-	-
6/15-6/21/08	-	-	34	115,765	-	-	-	-	36	188,610	-	-
6/22-6/28/08	-	-	19	55,049	-	-	-	-	18	113,844	-	-
6/29-7/5/08	-	-	16	51,605	-	-	-	-	18	106,072	-	-
7/6-7/12/08	-	-	12	22,233	-	-	-	-	23	125,755	-	-
7/13-7/19/08	-	-	24	80,059	-	-	-	-	27	110,355	-	-
7/20-7/26/08	-	-	18	35,935	-	-	-	-	30	124,286	-	-
7/27-8/2/08	-	-	19	36,120	-	-	-	-	15	39,630	-	-
8/3-8/9/08	-	-	5	11,680	-	-	-	-	13	35,996	-	-
8/10-16/08	-	-	Confidential		-	-	-	-	7	9,006	-	-
8/17-23/08	-	-	Confidential		-	-	-	-	Confidential			-
8/24-30/08	-	-	7	11,926	-	-	-	-	Confidential			-
8/31-9/6/08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Confidential			-
9/7-13/08	-	-	Closed 9/1/08		-	-	-	-	Closed 9/1/08			-
9/14-20/08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Closed 9/1/08			-
9/21-27/08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Closed 9/1/08			-
9/28-10/4/08	Open 10/5/08		Open 10/5/08		Open 10/5/08		Open 10/5/08					
10/5-11/08	7	182,573	Confidential		-	-	-	-				
10/12-18/08	16	392,973	6	4,681	-	-	-	-				
10/19-25/08	14	448,099	Confidential		-	-	-	-				
10/26-11/1/08	14	397,546	4	13,479	-	-	-	-				
11/2-8/08	22	534,422	7	33,867	-	-	-	-				
11/9-11/15/08	12	308,217	-	-	-	-	-	-				
<b>ACCUMULATIVE</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>7,687,971</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>2,034,260</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>6,690,109</b>			<b>389</b>	<b>11,889,760</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1,392,963</b>
<b>CATCH</b>	<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>9,722,231</b>		<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>6,690,109</b>		<b>(Total combined)</b>		<b>13,282,723</b>	



# Kodiak State Waters Pacific Cod Harvest

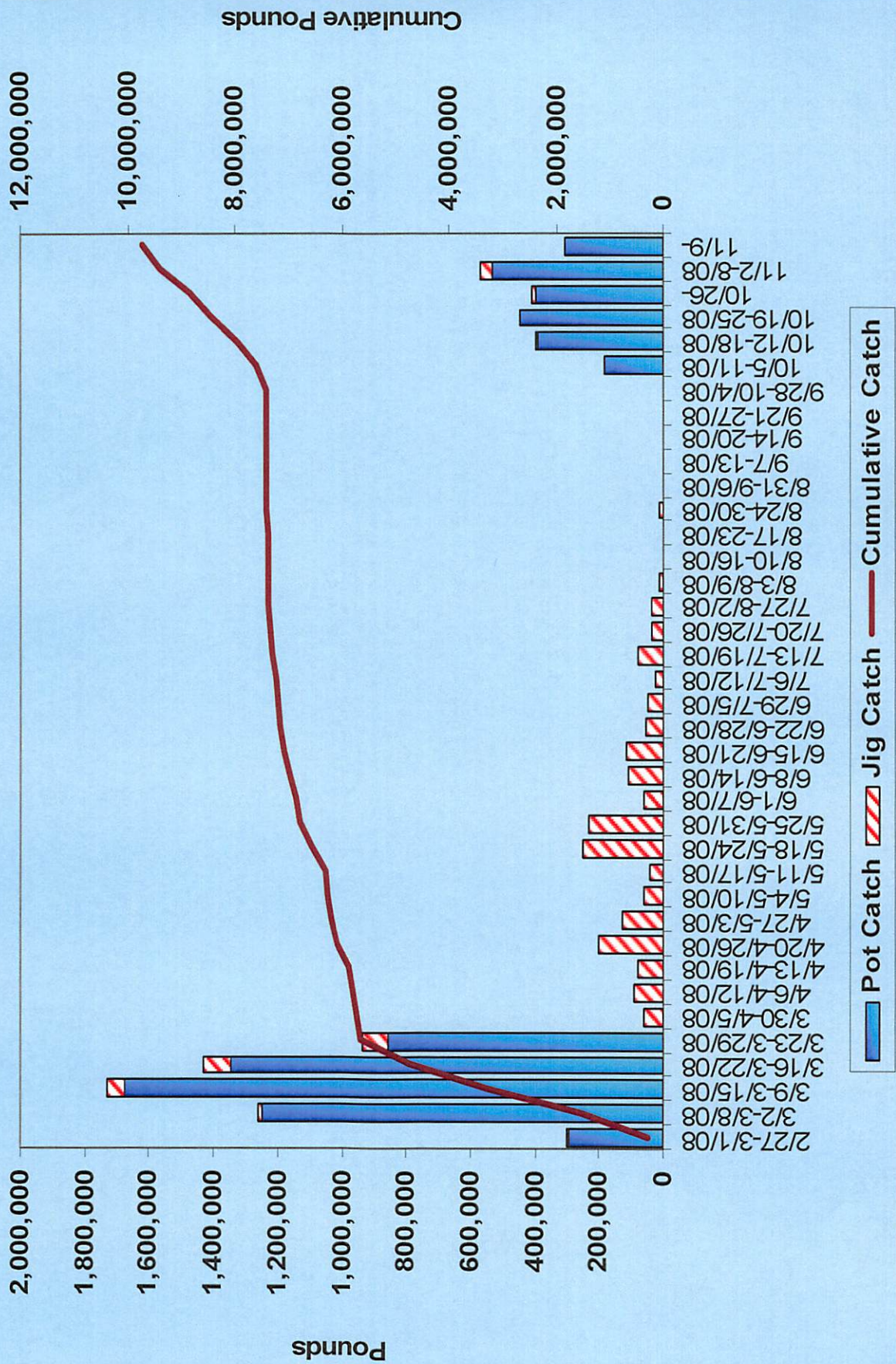


Figure 9

Figure 10

Chignik State Waters Pacific Cod Harvest

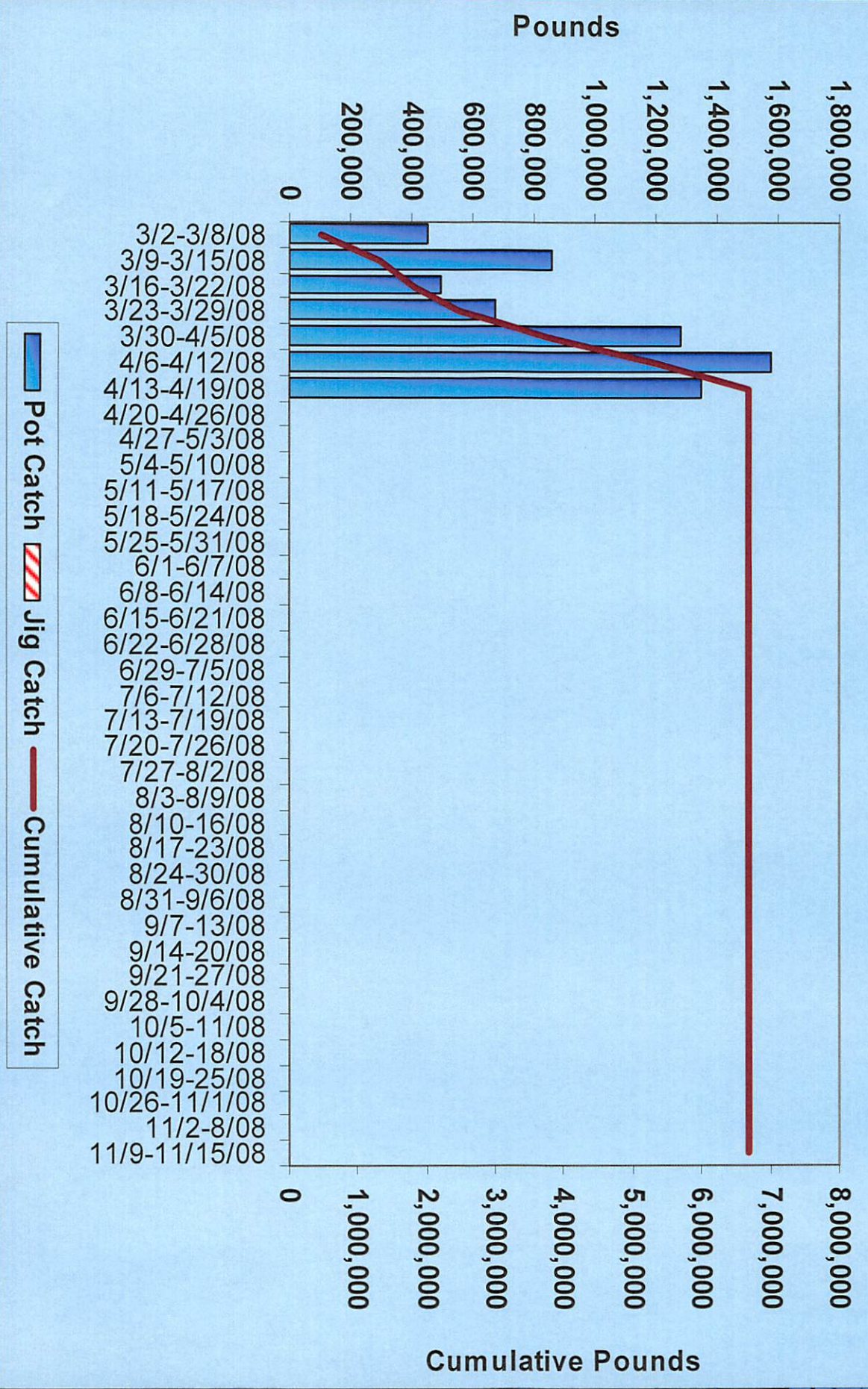
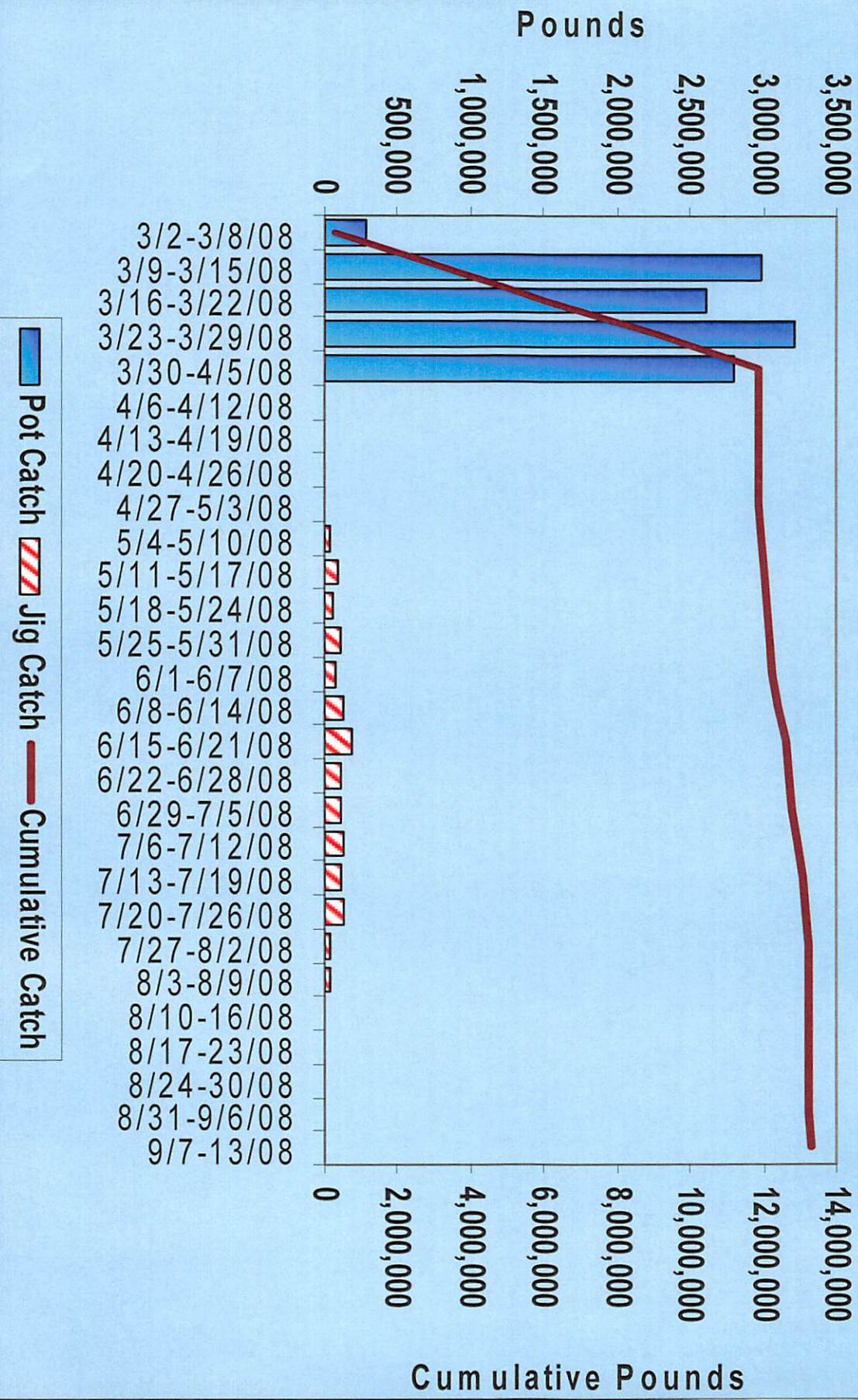


Figure 11

### S. AK Peninsula State Waters Pacific Cod Harvest



144 W



### Southwest Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

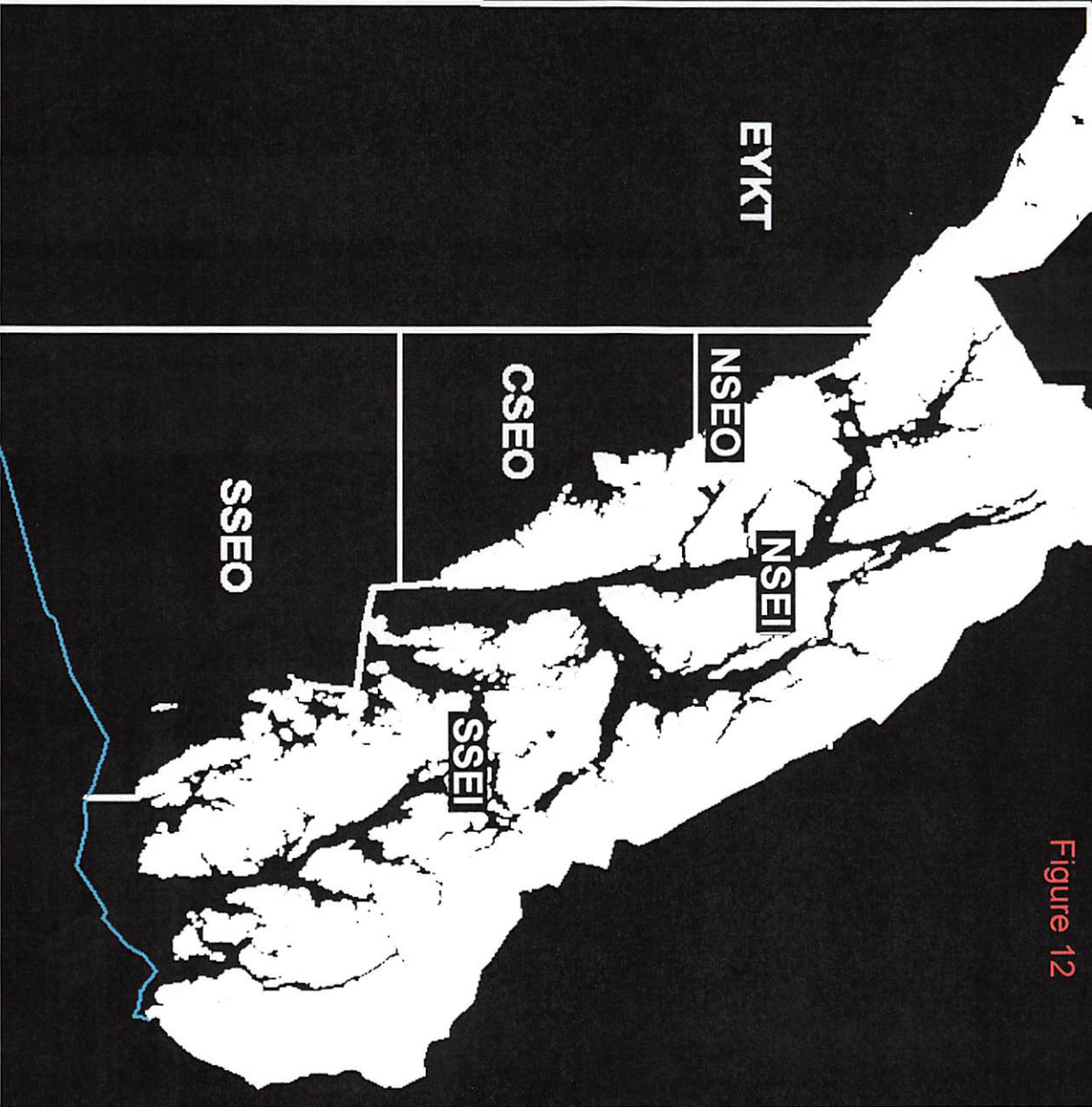
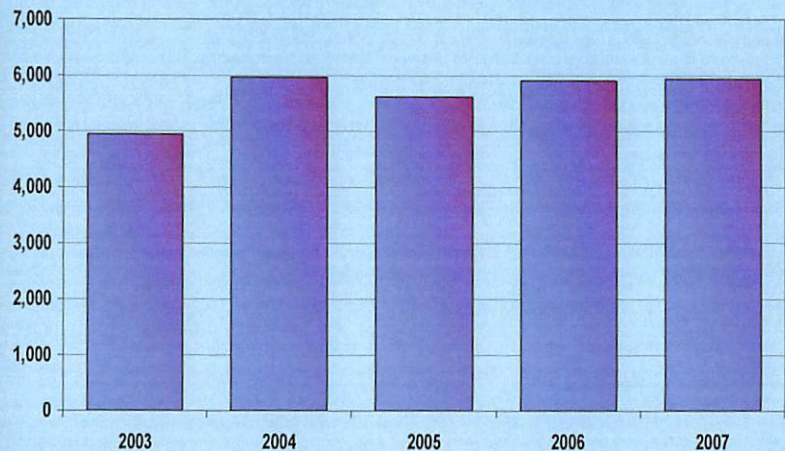


Figure 12

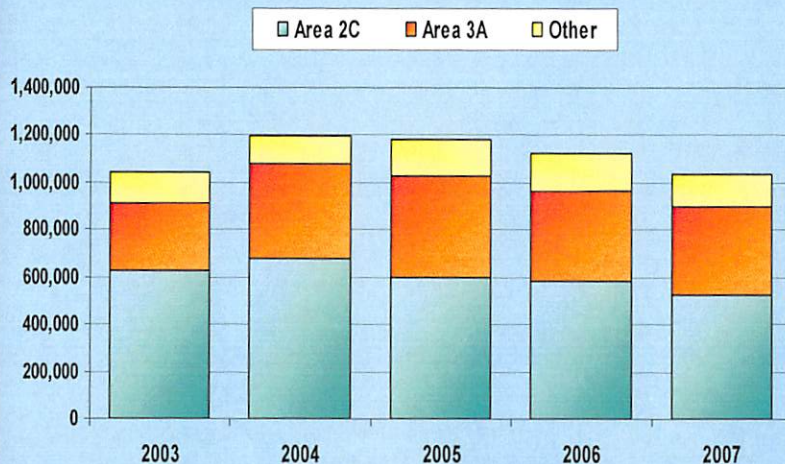
# Subsistence Halibut 2007

Figure 12

Estimated Number of Individuals Subsistence Fishing for Halibut in Alaska, 2003 - 2007



Estimated Subsistence Harvests of Halibut in Alaska, 2003 - 2007 (lbs net weight)



- Project conducted by ADF&G Division of Subsistence, funded by NMFS.
- 2007 was 5th year; same methods as previous study years.
- Findings in Technical Paper 342
- Response rate: 58%
- Estimated fishers: 5,933 fishers
- Estimated harvest: 1,032,293 lbs (net weight); 53,697 fish.
- 51% in Area 2C; 36% Area 3A
- Reduced funding for 2008 estimates; data collection will focus on Areas 2C and 3A.
- Continuation of harvest monitoring beyond 2008 uncertain.

# Alaska Board of Fisheries

December 1-7, 2008 Cordova, AK

Figure 13

- Proposal 34 – Manage by Emergency Order in the Pacific cod fishery
- Proposal 35 – Modify opening of the Pacific cod fishery to EGOA
- Proposal 36 – Permit halibut/sablefish IFQ holders to target Pacific cod
- Proposal 37 – Increase bycatch allowances to retain more Pacific cod
- Proposal 38 - Expand the PWS Outside District to harvest of Pacific cod

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
December 1-7, 2008 Cordova, AK

Figure 13

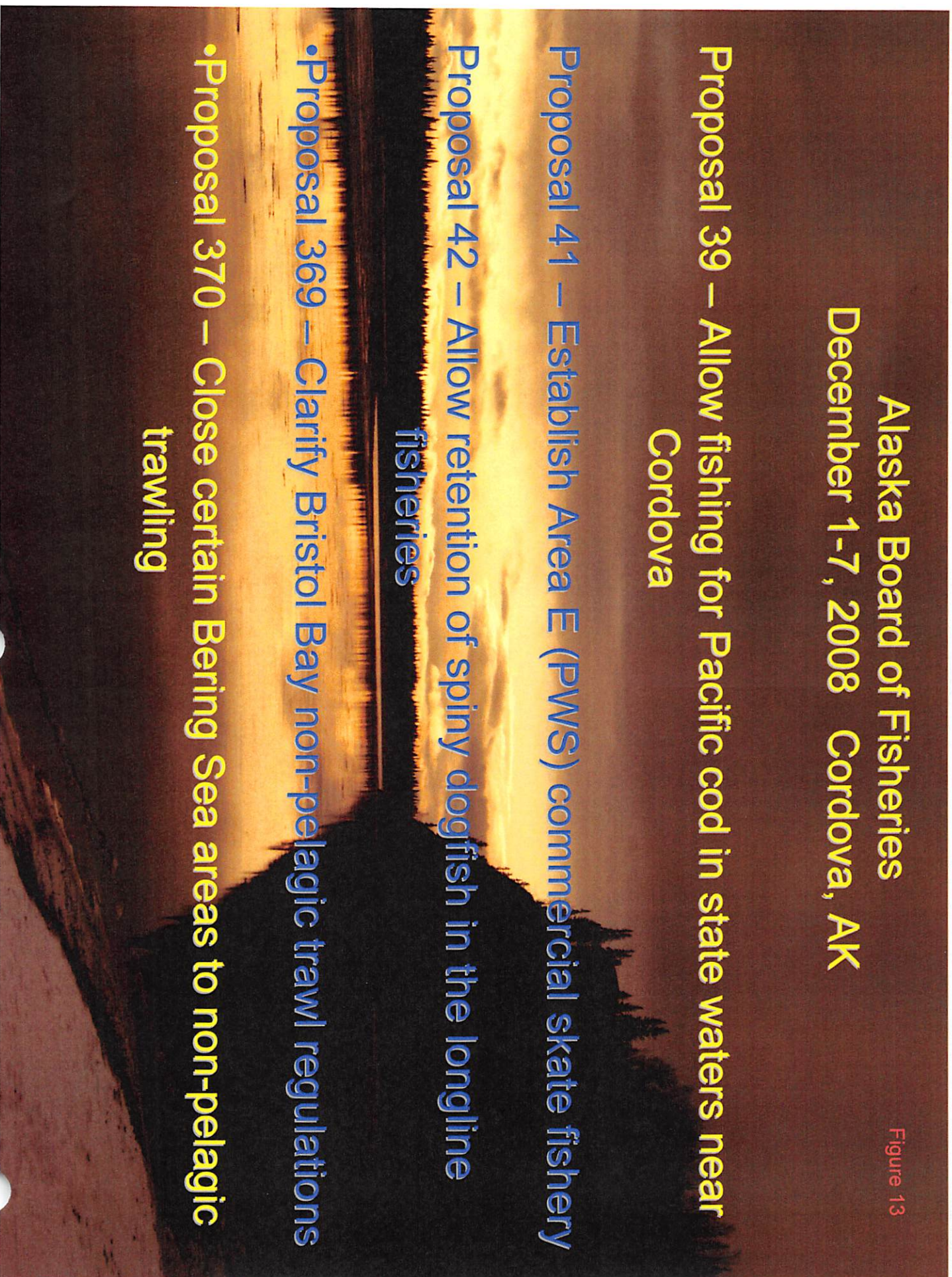
Proposal 39 – Allow fishing for Pacific cod in state waters near  
Cordova

Proposal 41 – Establish Area E (PWS) commercial skate fishery

Proposal 42 – Allow retention of spiny dogfish in the longline  
fisheries

• Proposal 369 – Clarify Bristol Bay non-pelagic trawl regulations

• Proposal 370 – Close certain Bering Sea areas to non-pelagic  
trawling



Alaska Board of Fisheries  
December 1-7, 2008 Cordova, AK

Figure 13

Proposal 371 – Restrict vessel size in State waters Pacific cod fishery

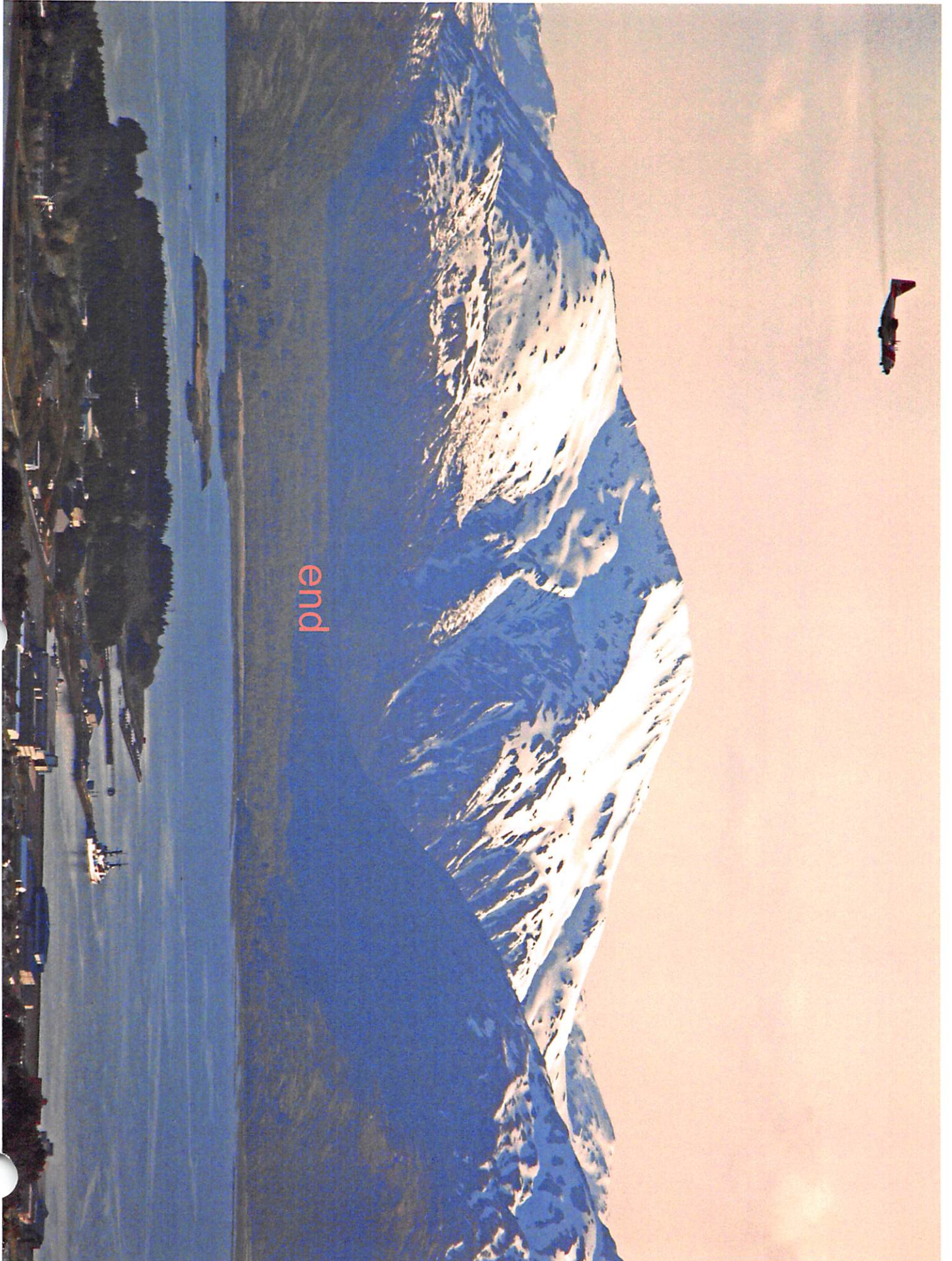
Proposal 372 – Reduce daily trip limits in State waters Pacific Cod fisheries

Proposal 373 – Restrict vessel size in BSAI parallel Pacific cod fishery

• Proposal 374 – Parallel groundfish fishery reporting requirements

• Proposal 375 – Full documentation of retained commercial catch in groundfish fisheries





end