



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

### Fisheries

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

### **Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2022/23 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2022, for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2022, for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. All fisheries closed by regulation on April 30, 2023. 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 2022/23 fishing year, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC was 5.05 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude. The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC was 3.32 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC was 1.73 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 EAG and WAG, 100% of the TAC was harvested (Figure 1).

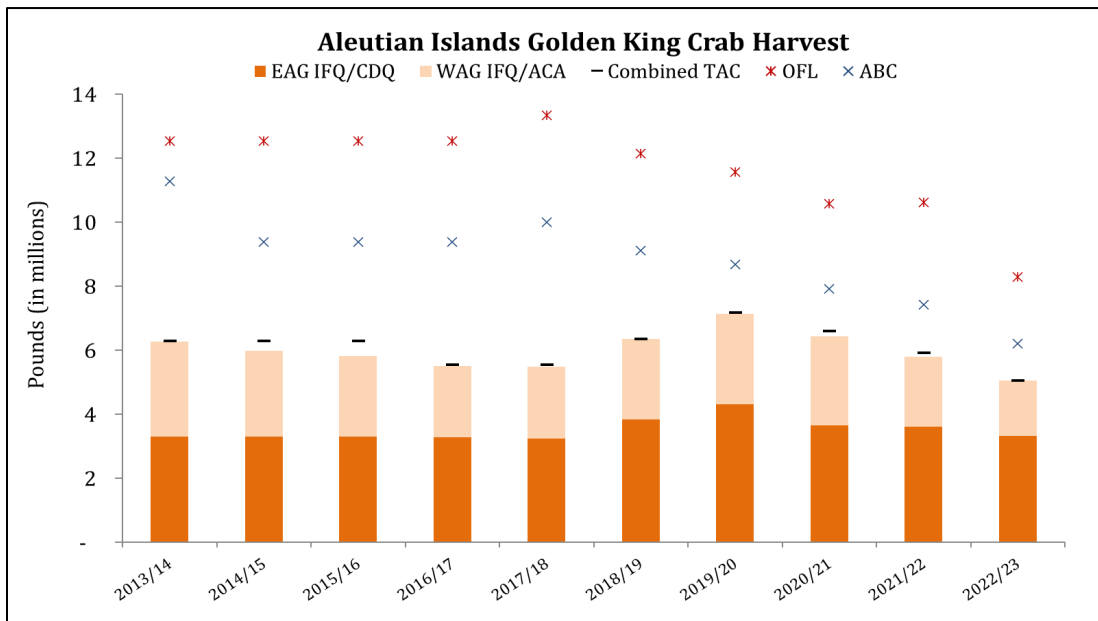


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2013/14 – 2022/23 seasons.

### **Norton Sound Red King Crab**

The Norton Sound red king crab GHLL for 2023 is 392,500 pounds with 92% allocated to the summer season and 8% to the winter season; 7.5% of the total GHLL is allocated to the CDQ fishery, available for harvest during the winter or summer season. The 2023 winter commercial fishery closed on April 30

with a total harvest of 9,500 pounds by 8 permit holders (Figure 2). The remaining winter commercial GHL will rollover to the summer GHL. The Norton Sound red king crab summer fishery will open on or after June 15.

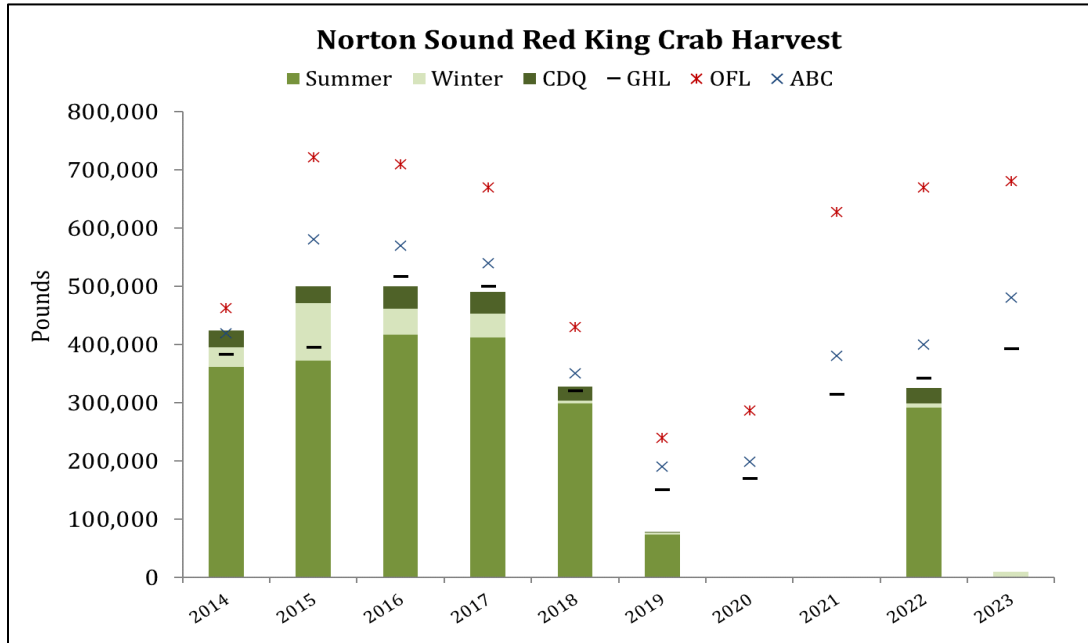


Figure 2. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, 2014-2023.

### Pacific Cod

State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and 2023 GHLs are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2023 GHL (pounds)	2023 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	193,456	88
			Longline	1,096,249	497
Chignik	8.75%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	286,074	130
			Pot	2,574,670	1,168
Kodiak	12.50%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	2,043,389	927
			Pot	2,043,389	927
Cook Inlet	3.75%	CGOA - 25%	Jig	183,907	83
			Pot	1,042,139	473
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	740,481	336
			Pot	4,196,059	1,903
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 12%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	38,316,000	17,380
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 39%		All	11,875,000	5,386

Prince William Sound

The 2023 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.290 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 27 and closed on April 3. State-waters opened for vessels fishing with longline gear on March 10 and closed on March 23. Vessels using longline gear harvested one million pounds and vessels using pot gear harvested 261,644 pounds (Figure 3).

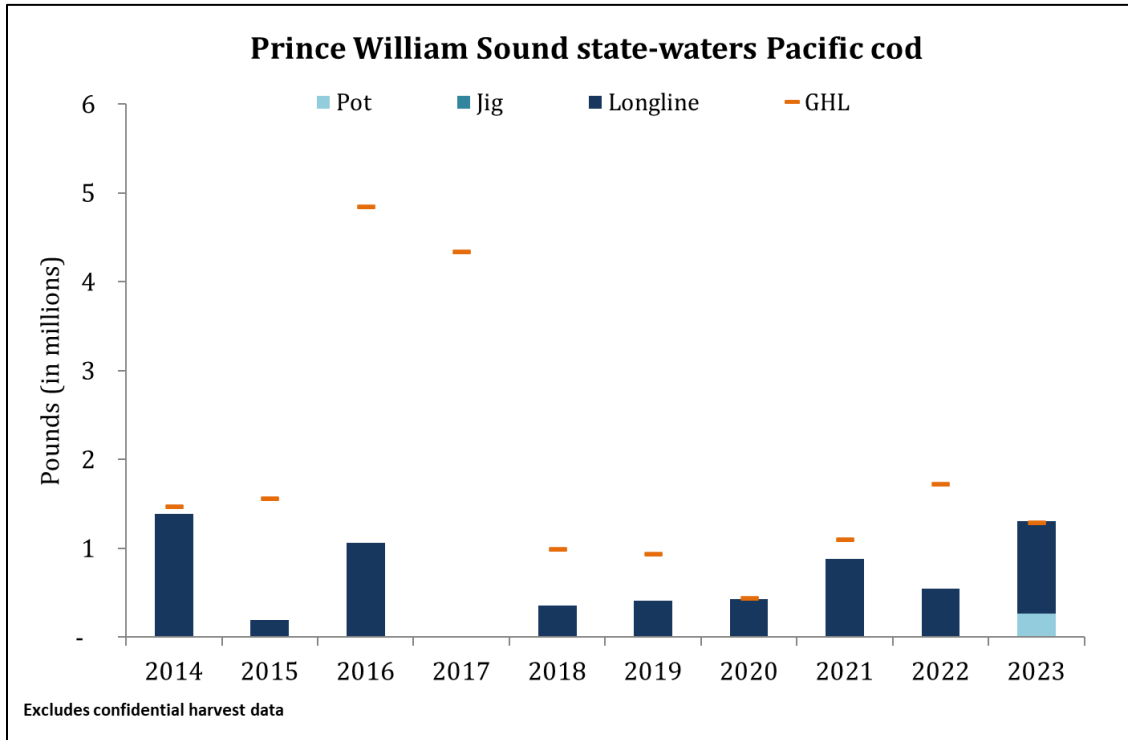


Figure 3. Annual Prince William Sound Pacific cod harvest by gear and GH, 2014-2023.

Chignik

The 2023 GH for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 2.86 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 5 and to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15. To date there has been no activity in the jig fishery and one vessel has participated in the pot fishery therefore harvest is confidential.

Kodiak

The 2023 state-waters GH for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 4.087 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 March 5 and closed on March 15, with a total harvest of 2.2 million pounds (Figure 4). The jig fishery opened on January 1 and closed on April 22, with a total harvest of 2.1 million pounds.

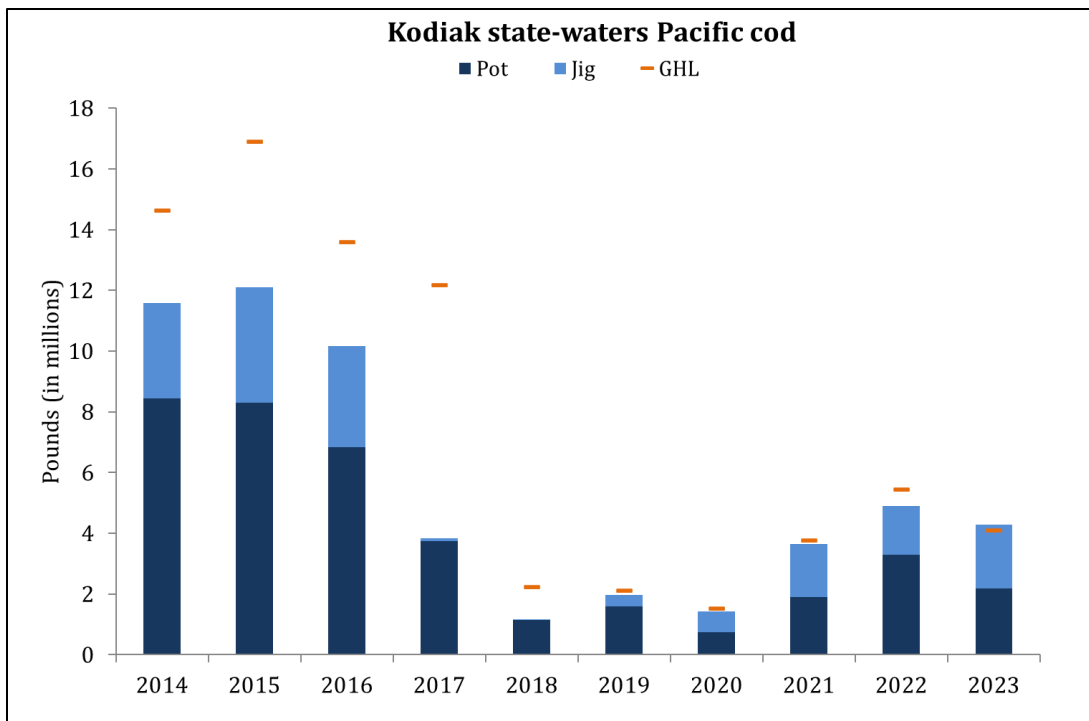


Figure 4. Annual Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2023.

Cook Inlet

The 2023 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.226 million pounds with 1.042 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 184,000 pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery for vessels greater than 58 feet in overall length (OAL) opened on February 27 and closed on March 5, harvest is confidential. The state-waters pot fishery for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet OAL opened on February 27 and closed on April 9, with a total harvest of 787,838 pounds (Figure 5). If there is remaining GHL on September 1, the fishery may re-open to pot gear. The jig fishery opened on April 28, following the closure of the federal sector, and remains open. Ten thousand pounds have been harvested by jig gear.

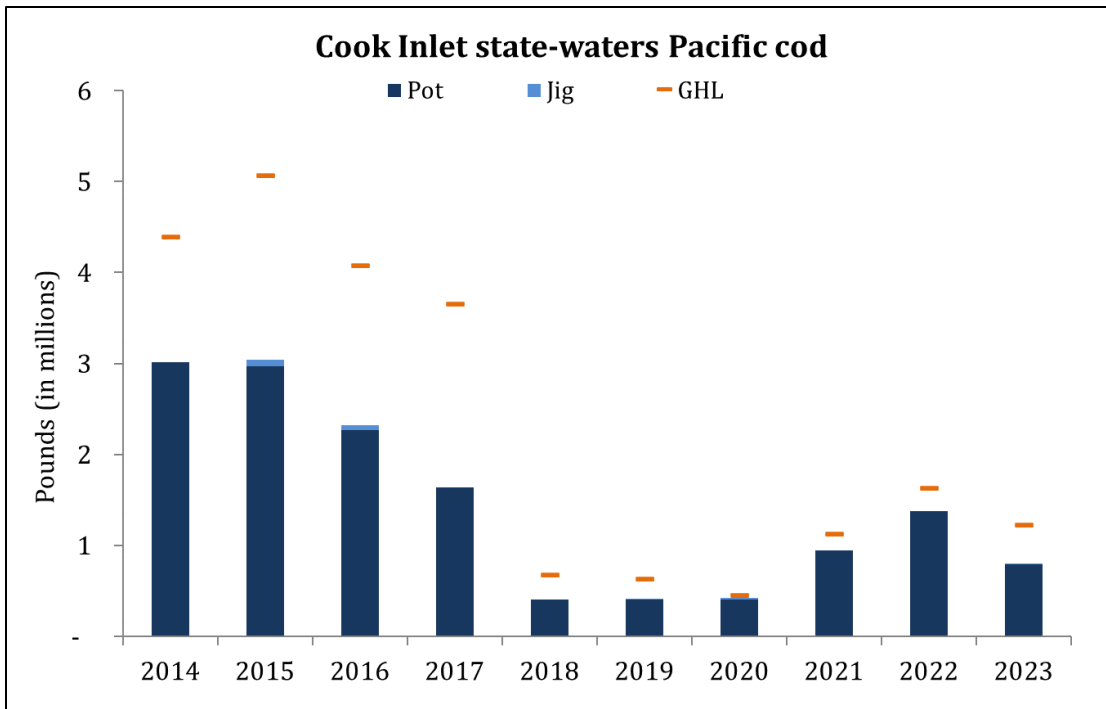


Figure 5. Annual Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2023.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2023 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 4.937 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 12, with a total harvest of 3.98 million pounds (Figure 6). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 14 and 495,711 pounds have been harvested by jig gear.

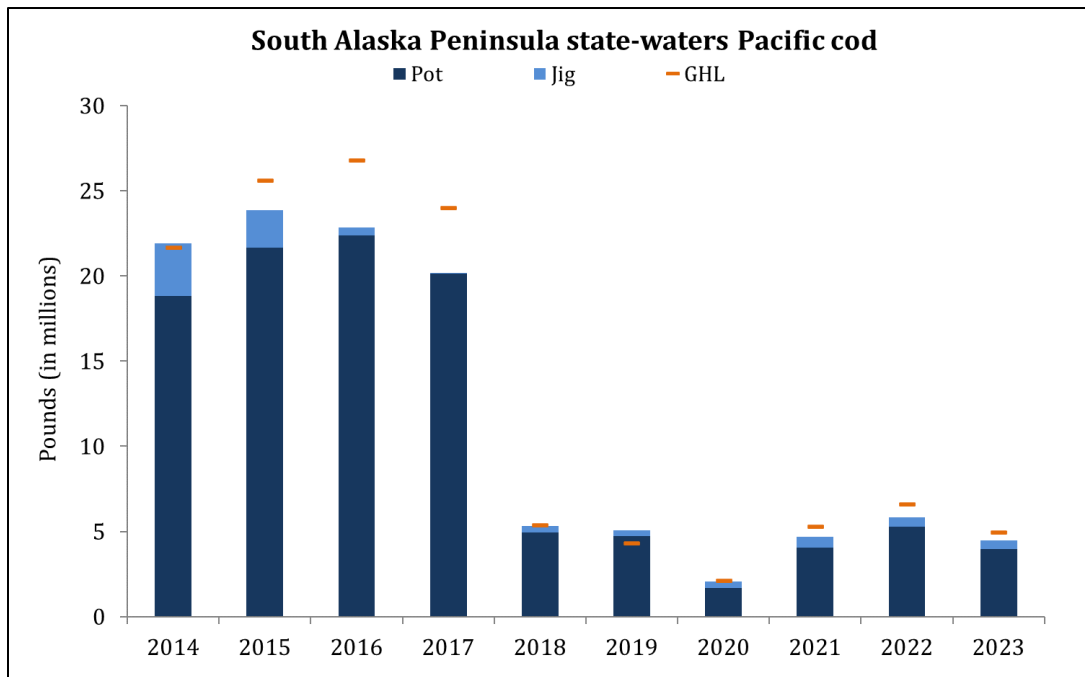


Figure 6. Annual South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2023.

Dutch Harbor

The 2023 GHL for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was set at 38.316 million pounds. The fishery is limited to vessels 58 feet or less overall length. The state-waters pot fishery opened on January 23 and closed on April 7, with 26 vessels harvesting 37.6 million pounds (Figure 7). The Dutch Harbor jig fishery opened May 1 with a GHL of 100,000 pounds. By regulation, the jig fishery closes December 31, 2023, or when the GHL is achieved. To date there has been no activity in the jig fishery.

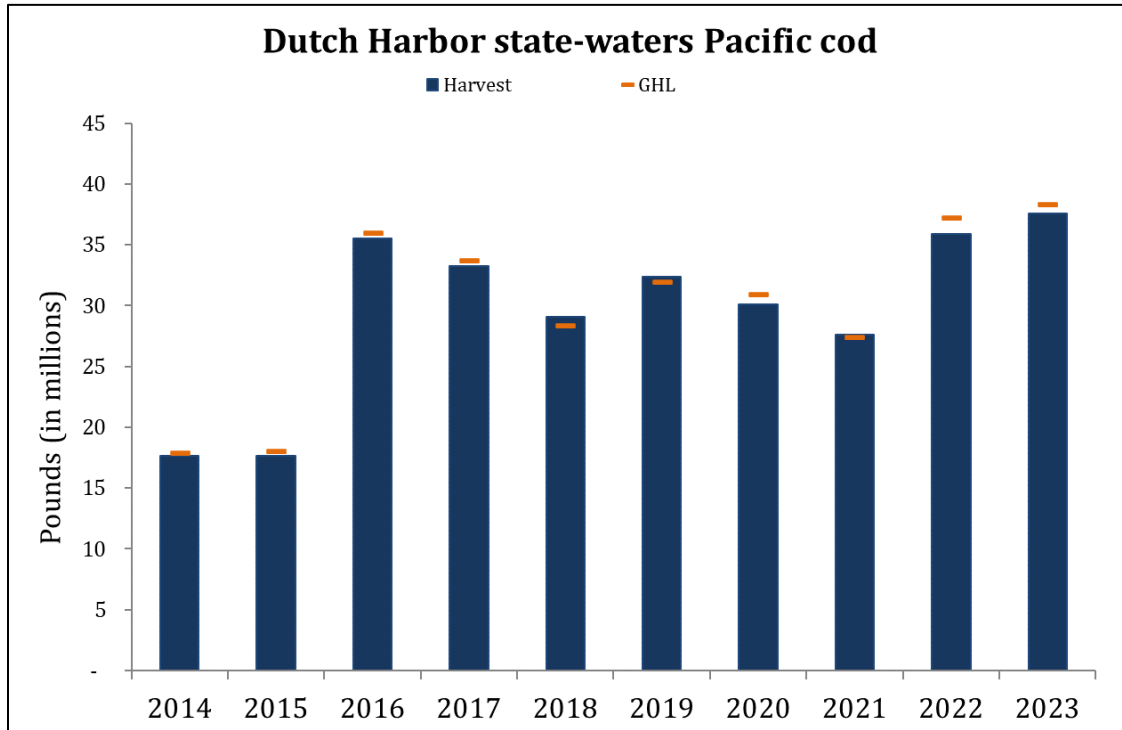


Figure 7. Annual Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2014-2023.

Aleutian Islands

The 2023 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 11.875 million pounds which represents 39% 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 overall length, except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to an OAL of 58 feet. On January 16, all state waters of the AIS opened to vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl or mechanical jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. On March 15, the AIS opened to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear and vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear. On March 25, the AIS fishery was designated as a nonexclusive registration area. By regulation, the fishery closes December 31 or when the GHL is achieved. Nine vessels have harvested 9.9 million pounds, 84% of the GHL (Figure 8).

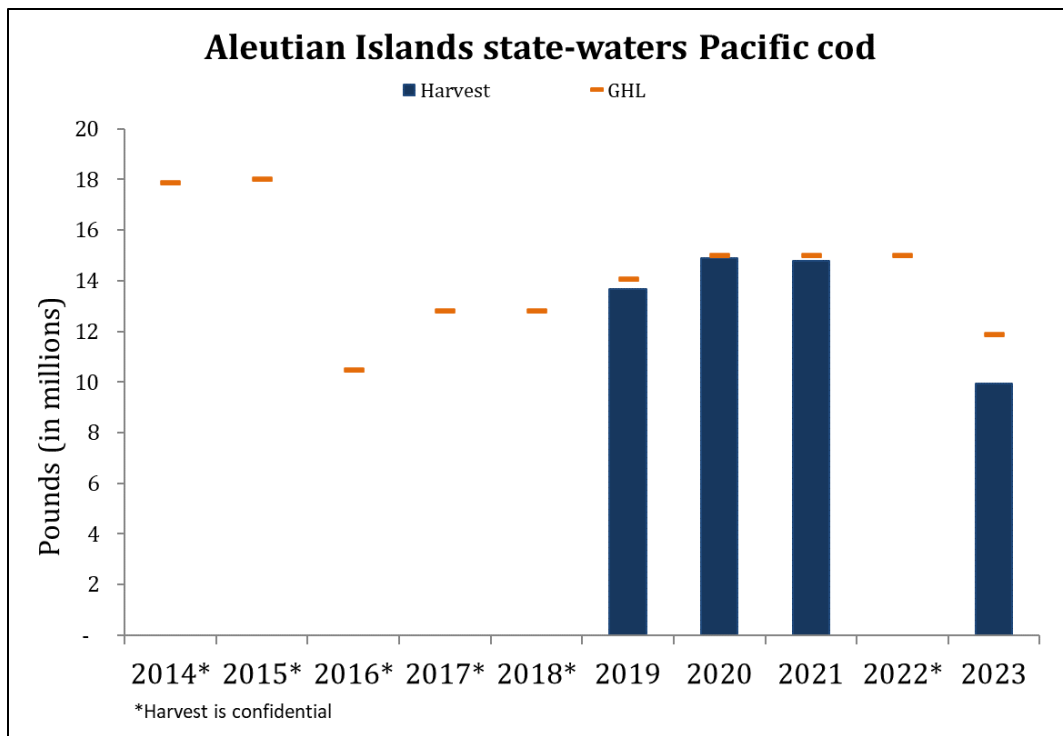


Figure 8. Annual Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2014-2023.

### Alaska Board of Fisheries

The proposal book for the 2023/2024 Board cycle will be available in August. The Agenda Change Request deadline for this cycle is August 14, 2023, and comments for the October meeting are due by September 27, 2023. The tentative 2022/2023 meeting schedule is as follows:

- Work Session: October 12 – 13, 2023 (Anchorage)
- Lower Cook Inlet Finfish: November 28 – December 1, 2023 (Homer)
- Kodiak Finfish: January 9 – 12, 2024 (Kodiak)
- Upper Cook Inlet Finfish: February 23 – March 7, 2024 (Anchorage)

### Federal Fishery Disasters

The Secretary of Commerce recently announced allocations totaling \$215.9 million in fishery disaster assistance to address losses across several fisheries in Alaska affected by fishery failures.

1. 2020 Prince William Sound pink and coho salmon fisheries: \$15,730,357
2. 2020 and 2021 Norton Sound red king crab fisheries: \$2,804,214
3. 2021/22 Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries: \$94,489,726
4. 2022/23 Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries: \$96,621,465
5. 2021 Chignik salmon fishery: \$4,989,902
6. 2021 Kuskokwim River and Norton Sound salmon fisheries: \$1,268,317

The Department has opened an initial public comment period for these disasters through June 30, 2023. The Department will also host [two virtual listening sessions](#) on June 14 and 15, 2023, to receive initial input on funding priorities from affected fishery participants. Initial spend plans for these disasters will

be drafted based on input received during the listening sessions and through comments emailed to: [dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov).

Additional opportunities to comment on the draft plans will be provided before the final plans are submitted to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for final grant preparation and NOAA Fisheries approval. Information on other Alaska fishery disasters, including spend plan development, can be found on the Department's [Fishery Disaster webpage](#).