

Agenda Item: B-2



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DECEMBER 2000 REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Fisheries managed under delegated authority of the State of Alaska since the last council meeting: salmon, crab, Southeast demersal shelf rockfish, and state waters Pacific cod

SALMON TROLL FISHERY

(FIGURE 1) The Southeast Alaska Winter Troll fishery opened October 11. The fishery will continue through April 14, or until 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested.

Preliminary harvest data (more recently updated from those seen in Figure 1) indicates approximately 9,000 chinook have been harvested to date, with approximately 10% of those being of Alaska hatchery origin. The recent five year average harvest to date is 9,900 fish.

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES:

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

(FIGURE 2) **OPEN ACCESS:** A total of 244 vessels participated in the 2000 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery (BBRKC). There were 246 actually registered, but two had mechanical problems and did not make a landing. Included in the 244 vessels were 7 catcher/processors, and 26 catcher only vessels fishing in the AFA cooperative. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) was 7.723 million pounds, and the final catch was approximately 7.55 million pounds. Based upon current regulation (5 AAC 34.825 LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA T) when the GHL (less than 9 million)

and the number of vessels (over 200) the pot limits are 100 for vessels with an aggregate length of 125 feet or less, and 125 pots are permitted for those vessels larger than 125 feet. This year the season was delayed 24 hours due to bad weather and rough seas that could have hampered any necessary US Coast Guard rescue efforts. The Department agreed that the Coast Guard make the call on their rescue abilities, and used our Emergency Order authority to delay the fishery based on their call. The fishery was managed inseason from about 36% of the fleet reporting.

Average weights were up about 0.3 pounds due to the high numbers of post recruits. Exvessel price was \$4.80 in Dutch Harbor, with similar prices paid in most areas. A total of 26 vessels delivered to Kodiak, where they were paid approximately \$5.00 per pound. The total fishery value is estimated at \$36 million, which is approximately 52% of the \$69 million for last year's fishery, when much higher prices brought about by Millennium celebrations factored in heavily. AFA vessels got their self-imposed 80% call at 11:00 a.m. on October 20th, but only three vessels were actually able to catch the remaining fixed limit they were given at that point. Therefore only 3 vessels out of the 26 were actually constrained by the AFA sideboard provisions. This year was also the first that we put observers on catcher only vessels. Funded from cost recovery fishing, our coverage was at about 8%. Weather on the grounds was generally good, although the front end was a bit stormy as the weather we delayed for moved through, and the fleet caught the start of another storm as they departed the grounds. In fact, some vessels quit a bit early to beat the storm, and this may be one reason why the final catch came up slightly short. Regardless, we were within about 2% of the GHL.

BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) FISHERY:

(FIGURE 3) Allocation was 7.5% of total harvest, which resulted in a GHL of 610,265 pounds. There were 11 vessels that fished for 5 CDQ groups. Vessels could not start fishing until 72 hours after the open access fishery, which was sufficient time for us to get all vessels permitted under a Commissioner's permit and determine the GHL from the open access harvest. Vessels were given full 200/250 pot limits under their permits if they so desired. Most vessels completed their fishing activities by October 31. Their final total harvest was 608,281 pounds, or 99.7% of their allocation. One vessel went

over and was cited. Price was \$4.51 per pound, compared to \$5.88 last year. Average weight was 6.7 pounds, 0.3 pounds more than in the open access fishery. There was 100% observer coverage on this fishery, and observers did not see any crab high grading (tossing back smaller, but legal sized crabs). Total estimated value of this year's CDQ fishery was \$2.7 million, compared to last year's \$3.4 million.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING CRAB

(FIGURE 4) The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery east of 174° W. longitude. closed on September 24 after three million pounds had been landed. The fishery west of 174° W. longitude. remains open. Currently eight vessels are fishing west of Adak Island. Through November 18, eight vessels have landed 0.7 million pounds. The fleet is averaging eight legal crabs per pot lift and landed crabs have average 4.5 pounds each. Effort is expected to decrease around mid-December and will remain low until after the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. A portion of the western Aleutian Islands will open to commercial fishing for red king crab in January. The fishery will provide data to help the department evaluate the depressed western Aleutian Islands red king crab stock that is not currently surveyed. Participants will be randomly assigned stations to fish. The stations must be fished in a systematic manner specified by the department and the number of pot pulls will be limited in each station. Participants may retain all legal red king crab captured and must report fishing results to the department. The fishery is expected to conclude in February.

OPIILIO (SNOW) CRAB FISHERY FOR 2001

In November the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met in Anchorage. One item for discussion was Agenda Change Request number 4 which asked that the opilio crab season be moved from January 15 to April 1. After discussion the board voted unanimously to keep the season opening date on January 15.

STATE OF ALASKA PACIFIC COD FISHERIES

(FIGURE 5) The Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas opened at noon on March 11, seven days after the closure of the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska. The Cook Inlet Area opened by regulation on March 5, just 24 hours

following the closure of the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. The Chignik area opened on April 15. The following is an update through late November, 2000.

Prince William Sound The Prince William Sound Area GHL is 2.95 million pounds, which is 25% of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of Pacific cod. Through November 15 the harvest by both pot and jig gear 262,462 pounds from 10 vessels in 31 landings. The fishery will remain open until the allocation is taken.

Cook Inlet The Cook Inlet Area GHL is 2.16 million pounds, which is equal to 2.25% of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of Pacific cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. The state waters fishery opened at noon March 5 and harvest is 842,708 pounds from 283 landings by 27 vessels. Pot gear, which closed by regulation on May 1 and reopened June 15, has accounted for greater than 98% of the total harvest. The fishery will remain open until the allocation is taken.

(FIGURE 6) Kodiak The Kodiak Area GHL is 12.0 million pounds, which is 12.5% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was split equally between pot and jig gear. (FIGURE 7) The harvest through November 18th is 8.2 million pounds. Sixty-two pot vessels have harvested 5.4 million pounds. One hundred thirty eight jig vessels have taken 2.9 million pounds to date. Gear allocations were removed September 1st. Exclusive area registration and gear limits were removed October 31. Both pot and jig activity was minimal July through October; however, there has been a renewed interest in November with 125,000 pounds landed during the first 2 weeks.

(FIGURE 8) Chignik The Chignik area GHL is 6.7 million pounds, which is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The season opened on April 15th. Nineteen pot vessels have harvested 1.8 million pounds. Less than three jig vessels have fished with few landings. Their harvest remains confidential. No landings have occurred since July 1st. Gear allocations were removed September 1st. The vessel size and gear limits were removed October 31st.

(FIGURE 9) South Alaska Peninsula The South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL and catch was 15.2 million pounds, which was 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC for cod. The guideline was allocated 85 percent pot gear and 15 percent jig gear. The South Alaska Peninsula Area closed for pot gear on April 8, 2000 for the remainder of the year. Sixty-seven pot vessels harvested 14.4 million pounds. Twenty-eight jig vessels have taken 750,000 pounds and fishing closed to that gear type on September 18th for the remainder of the year.

OTHER FISHERIES

Southeast Alaska

NSEI SABLEFISH The NSEI (Chatham) sablefish fishery ended November 15. Total season landings were 1,383 mt.

SSEI SABLEFISH The sablefish pot gear fishery in SSEI (Clarence) ended November 15 and the remaining 41 mt were taken by the beginning of this reporting period. A total of 268 mt were landed in the SSEI sablefish fishery (pot and longline gear).

LINGCOD A total of 2.7 mt of lingcod were landed in October and November, 67% (1.84 mt) as bycatch in the directed demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery, 10% (0.27) as bycatch in the halibut longline fishery and 23% (0.63) in the directed fishery. The directed lingcod fishery ends November 30.

DSR The directed DSR fishery opened November 16, 2000 and 13.48 mt have been taken to-date. A total of 0.63 mt of black rockfish in the directed fishery and 0.15 mt as bycatch in other fisheries were landed during this reporting period.

PACIFIC COD Pacific cod landings were 2 mt during October and November.

OTHER Other groundfish landings totaled 61.47 mt, 60% were thornyhead rockfish, 15% roughey rockfish, and 19% shortraker.

TABLE 1. SOUTHEAST ALASKA WINTER TROLL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY

TROLL YEAR	TROLL CATCH TO DATE	TOTAL CATCH	PERMITS FISHED	LANDINGS	CATCH PER LANDING	AVERAGE WEIGHT	AVERAGE PRICE PER POUND (from fish tickets)
NOVEMBER 5-11 (Statistical Week 46)							
2001	7,678	1,183	65	75	16	15.1	\$3.23
2000	11,531	3,186	75	124	26	14.6	\$3.38
5-year average 1996-2000	8,732	1,869	52	80	23	15.7	\$2.73

Last updated November 17,2000. Numbers are for the period from October 11 through November 11 (week 46)

BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB OPEN ACCESS CATCHES, 1984-2000

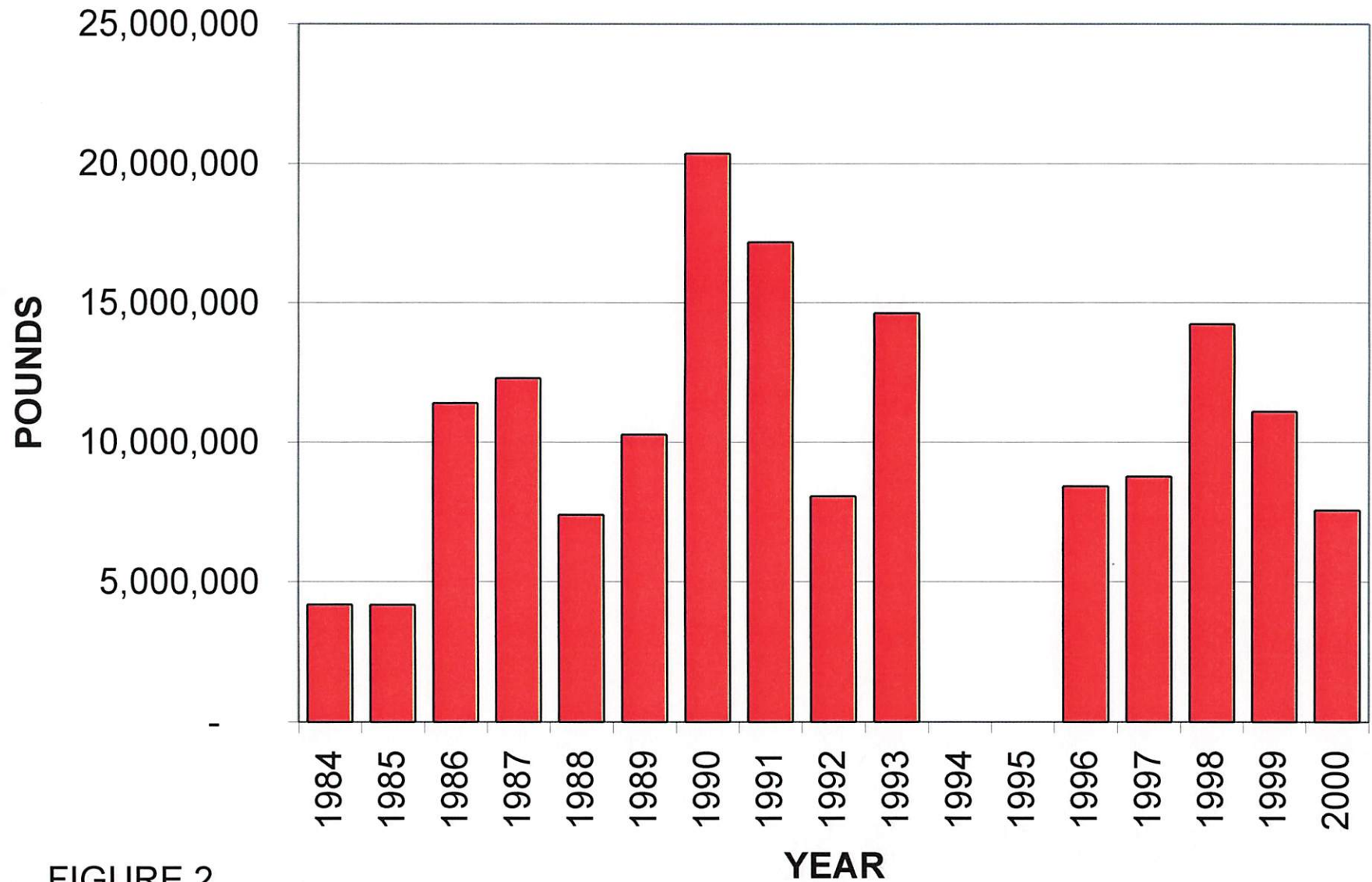


FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

CDQ CATCHES, BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB

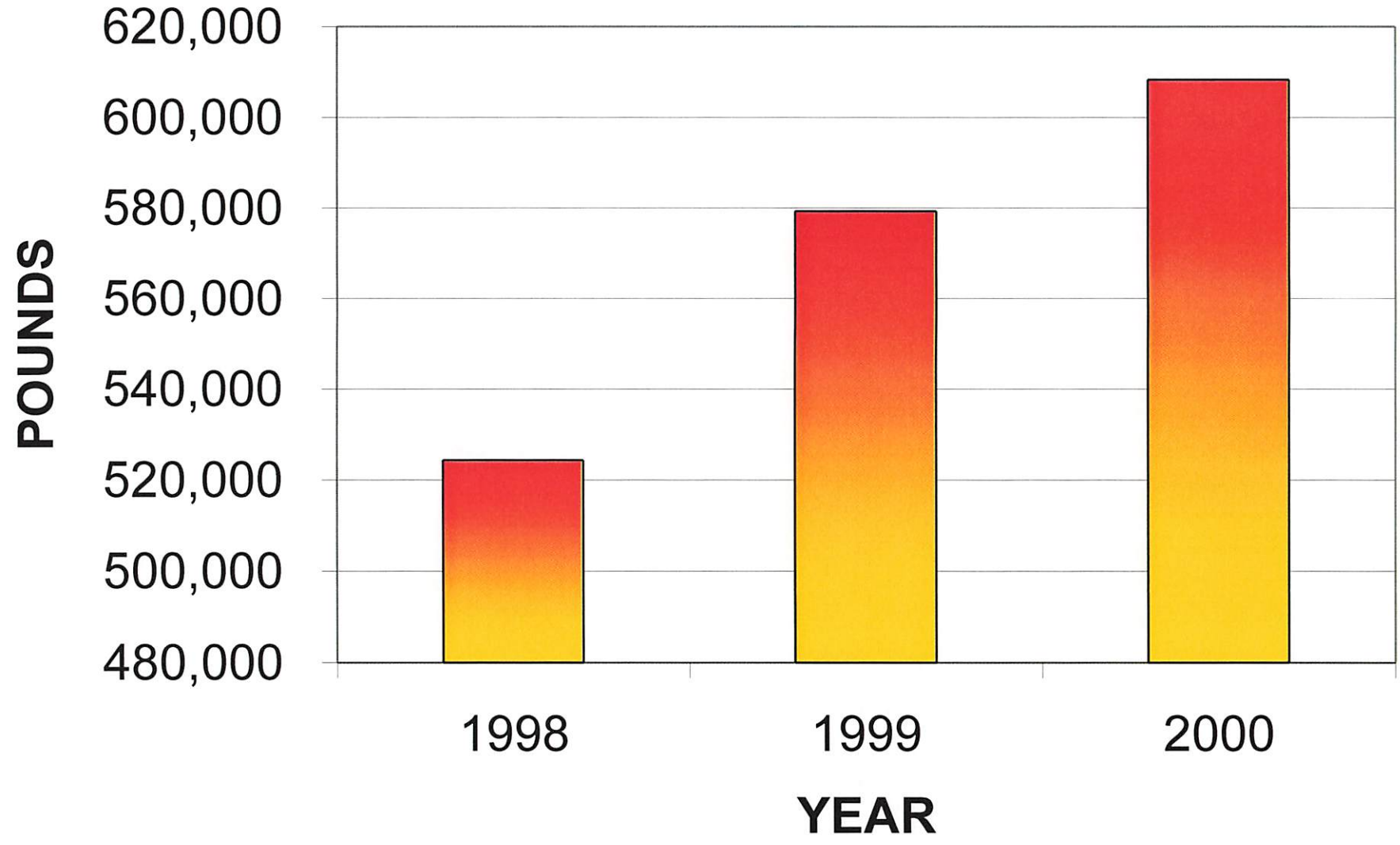


FIGURE 4 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB CATCHES

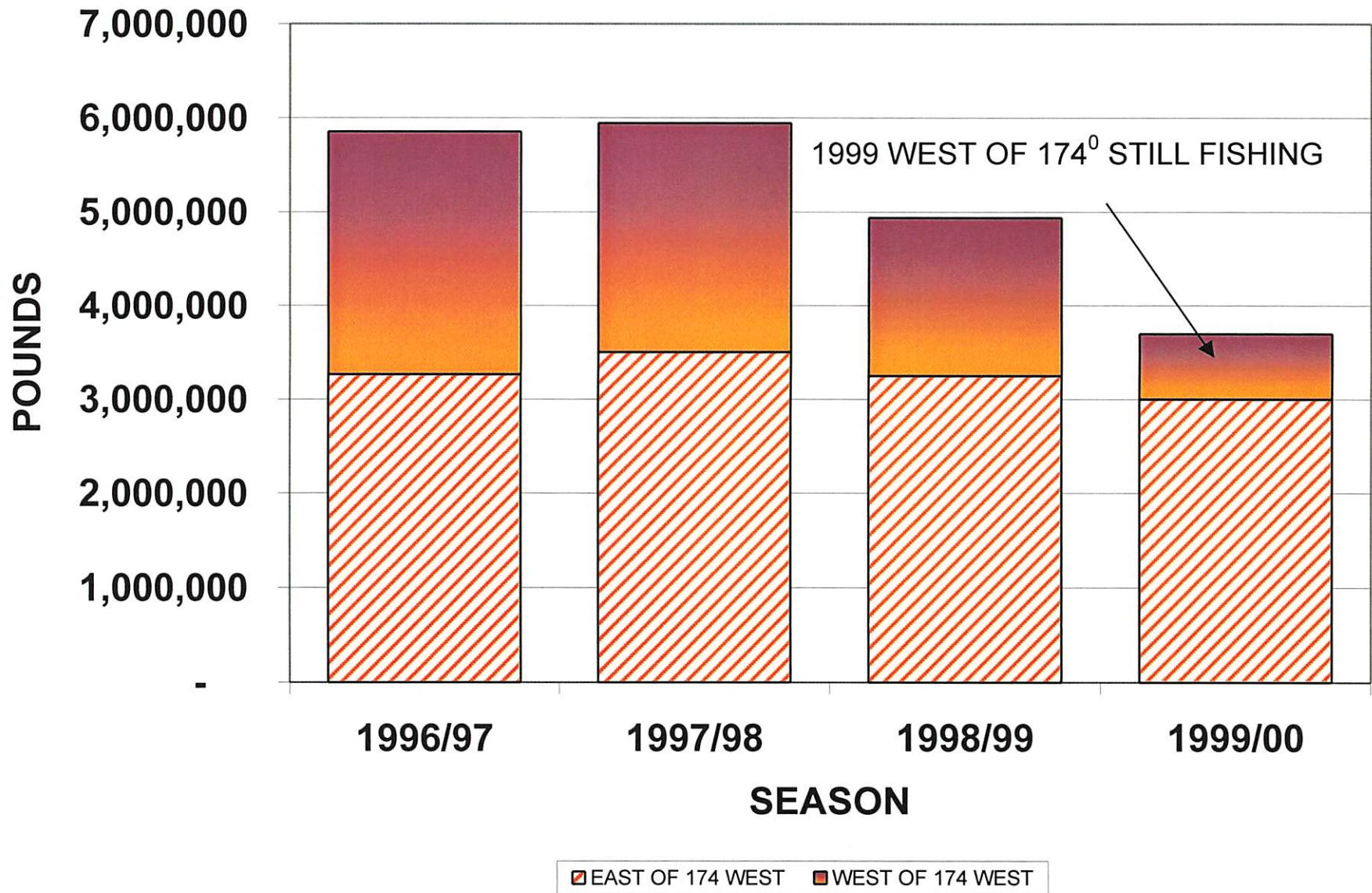


FIGURE 5. 2000 harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through 15 Nov 2000.

Pacific Cod	PARALLEL SEASON* - STATE WATERS					
	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll (05)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs (26)	2			0	0	0
Trawl (47)	0	0	0	3		
Longline (61)	89	219	793,145	56	134	401,488
Pots (91)	20	210	770,299	10	45	332,311
Totals	111	435	1,563,444	69	187	734,222
Status		Bycatch			Bycatch	
Federal seasons: Central Gulf	Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 4			Opened - Closed Jan 1 - noon Mar 4		

*Parallel season concurrent with federal waters of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

TOTALS EXCLUDE CONFIDENTIAL CATCHES

Pacific Cod	STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS*					
	Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound Inside District Only		
GHL (lb)		2,160,000			2,950,000	
Gear	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll (05)	2			0	0	0
Jigs (26)	7	10	13,674	4	10	21,048
Pots (91)	18	271	829,034	6	21	241,414
Totals	27	283	842,708	10	31	262,462
State seasons: Jigs (26) Status	Opened - Closed Noon Mar 5 - ongoing Open			Opened - Closed Noon Mar 11 - ongoing Open		
State seasons: Pots (91) Status	Opened - Closed Noon Mar 5 - Noon May 1 June 15 - ongoing Open			Opened - Closed Noon Mar 11 - ongoing Open		

The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive area registration 24 hours after the Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS.

* Federally managed and bycatch not included in weights, vessels or landings.

Effective 10/31 gear limits and nonexclusive area registrations are lifted in CI & PWS.

TOTALS EXCLUDE CONFIDENTIAL CATCHES



**FIGURE 6. STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY
PRELIMINARY CATCH RESULTS BY WEEK**

UPDATED: 11/27/00

KODIAK				
VESSEL REGISTRATIONS	Total	Pot	Jig	
	206	62	144	
2000 GHL:	12.0 Million			
ALLOCATIONS: 50% Jigs, 50% Pots				
DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
3/11 to 3/18	47	395,510	31	32,519
3/19 to 3/25	70	1,047,157	45	75,237
3/26 to 4/1	32	450,994	38	47,014
4/2 to 4/8	52	798,999	61	51,279
4/9 to 4/15	52	782,818	51	80,713
4/16 to 4/22	61	872,684	91	168,428
4/23 to 4/29	33	324,008	109	261,737
4/30 to 5/6	29	231,017	105	305,449
5/7 to 5/13	23	141,893	147	431,113
5/14 to 5/20	6	31,200	161	410,994
5/21 to 5/27	10	40,008	168	489,426
5/28 to 6/3	X	X	91	220,077
6/4 to 6/10	3	22,143	67	164,412
6/11 to 6/17	X	X	25	50,363
6/18 to 6/23	X	X	18	24,783
6/24 to 7/1	X	X	15	23,020
7/2 to 7/8	0	0	X	X
7/9 to 7/15	0	0	X	X
7/16 to 7/22	0	0	X	X
7/23 to 7/29	0	0	12	9,153
7/30 to 8/5	0	0	X	X
8/6 to 8/12	0	0	0	0
8/13 to 8/19	0	0	0	0
8/21 to 8/26	0	0	0	0
8/27 to 9/2	0	0	0	0
9/3 to 9/9	0	0	X	X
9/10 to 9/16	X	X	X	X
9/17 to 9/23	X	X	0	0
9/24 to 9/30	4	47,324	0	0
10/1 to 10/7	X	X	0	0
10/8 to 10/14	0	0	0	0
10/15 to 10/21	X	X	0	0
10/22 to 10/28	X	X	0	0
10/29 to 11/4	8	50,190	18	10,708
11/5 to 11/11	4	31,043	X	X
11/12 to 11/18	6	94,776	3	2,069
11/19 to 11/25	5	75,918	0	0
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	445 (Total combined)	5,437,682	1,256	2,858,494 8,296,176

CHIGNIK				
Total	Pot	Jig		
23	19	4		
6.7 Million				
85% Pots, 15% Jigs				
DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
opened 4/15, no reported landings				
43	670,401	0	0	
44	492,129	0	0	
35	362,467	0	0	
16	142,677	0	0	
9	78,708	0	0	
4	25,789	0	0	
X	X	0	0	
0	0	X	X	
0	0	X	X	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	151 (Total combined)	1,772,171	X	X 1,772,171

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA				
Total	Pot	Jig		
95	67	28		
15,174,540 Million (Actual)				
85% Pots, 15% Jigs				
DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
113	1,948,659	0	0	
101	2,929,982	0	0	
124	3,624,017	0	0	
133	5,041,388	X	X	
35	909,694	7	6,468	
Closed 4/8 @ NOON		6	20,132	
Closed		0	0	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		15	41,848	
Closed		12	60,672	
Closed		36	173,832	
Closed		6	29,929	
Closed		14	91,288	
Closed		8	59,042	
Closed		3	29,212	
Closed		6	13,805	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		0	0	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		0	0	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		17	84,600	
Closed		5	27,380	
Closed		X	X	
Closed		7	32,615	
Closed		6	57,430	
Closed		4	25,463	
Closed			Closed 9/19 @ Noon	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
Closed			Closed	
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	506 (Total combined)	14,453,740	152	753,715 15,207,455

X = CONFIDENTIAL DATA (catch combined with following week)

BLACK ROCKFISH CATCH BY AREA (INCLUDING BYCATCH)			
AREA	HARVEST	GUIDELINE	STATUS
Kodiak	256,429	185,000	All Sections Closed
Chignik	96,433	100,000	Closed 7/25
Peninsula	96,131	100,000	Closed 7/13

FIGURE 7

Kodiak State Managed Pcod Catches - through November 2000

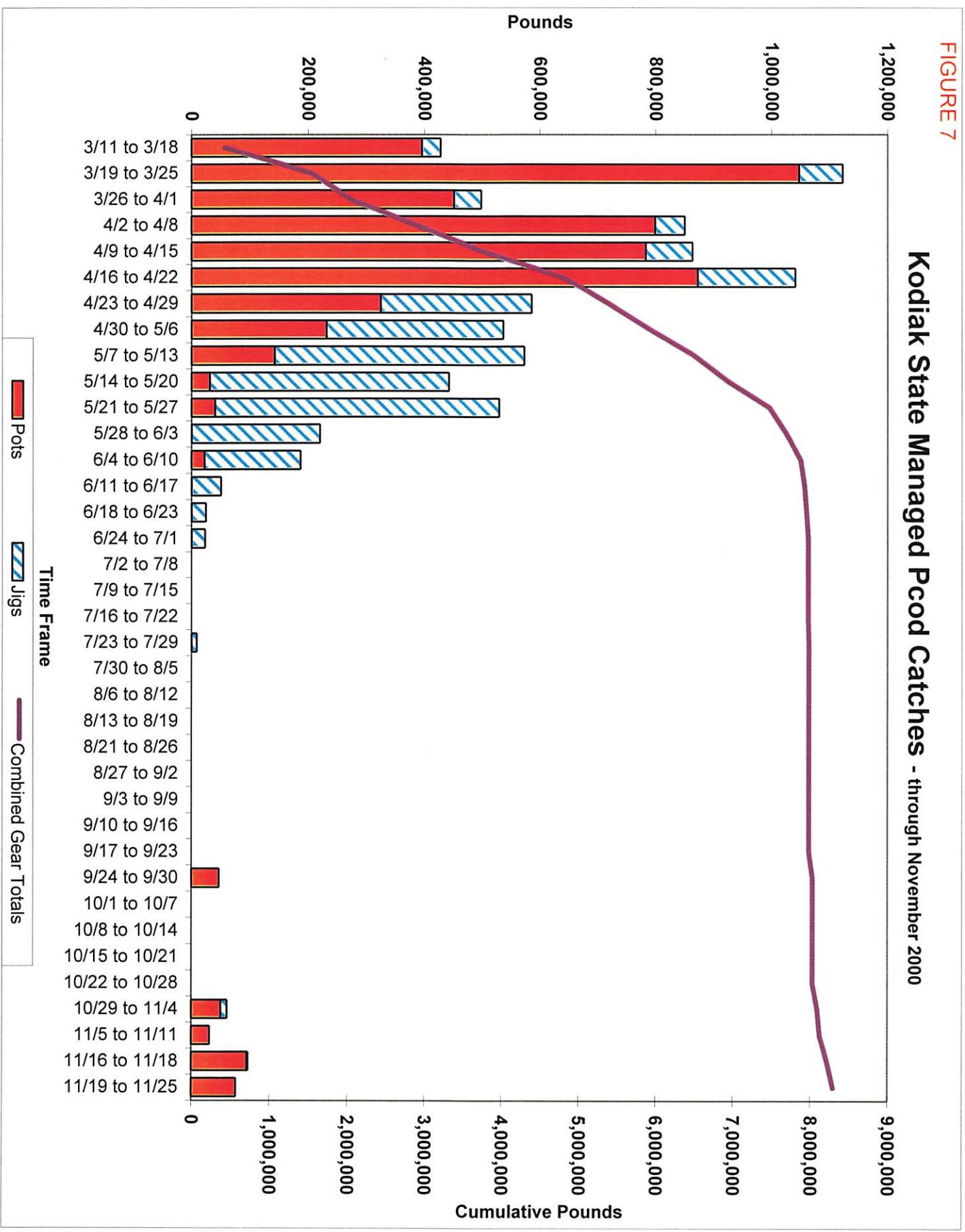


FIGURE 9

AK Pen State Managed Pcod Catches - through November 2000

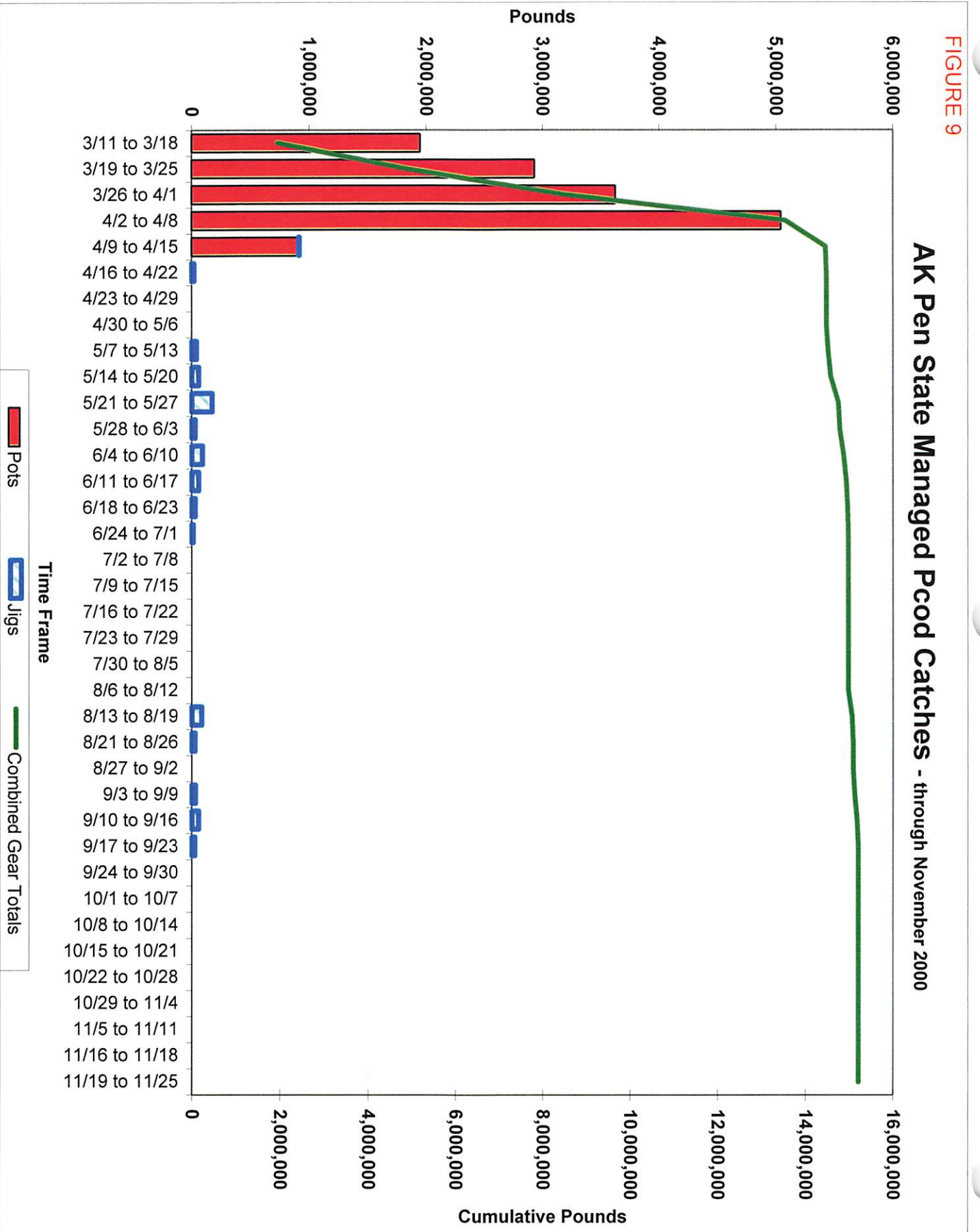


FIGURE 9

AK Pen State Managed Pcod Catches - through November 2000

