



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

### **Coronavirus response**

All necessary state research and management infrastructure is in place to manage state and cooperative state/federal fisheries this year. This was done in a manner that protects the health of staff, the fishermen, and the communities they operate in. ADF&G has developed action plans to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 for the current field season. These plans cover all projects, including those that deploy seasonal workers in remote locations, and are designed to protect communities and our staff. ADF&G is encouraging testing for staff prior to deploying to remote communities. Additionally, the department is encouraging local hiring from communities where possible to limit travel of seasonal staff in and out of remote communities.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state has instituted several health mandates and measures to keep communities and individuals in the fishing industry safe while still providing the opportunity to harvest fish. These mandates and others can be found on the state coronavirus website at <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>. Additional information on complying with the mandates has been provided by industry groups such as the United Fishermen of Alaska, <http://www.ufafish.org/ufa-covid-19/> and Kenai River Sportfishing Association, <https://krsa.com/covid-19/>.

### **Fisheries**

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

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** Fisheries were open for Aleutian Islands golden king crab and Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab. Ten percent of each total allowable catch (TAC) is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

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

The 2019/20 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened July 15, 2019. The TAC for this stock is 7.18 million pounds and this TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude; for the 2019/20 fishing year, the eastern TAC was 4.31 million pounds and the western TAC was 2.87 million pounds. Ten percent of the eastern TAC is allocated to the CDQ fisheries and ten percent of the western TAC is allocated to the ACA fisheries. In the western area, harvest was 2.84 million pounds (99% of the quota) and the fishery closed by emergency order on May 7. In the eastern area, harvest was 4.31 million pounds (100% of the quota) and closed by regulation on April 30.

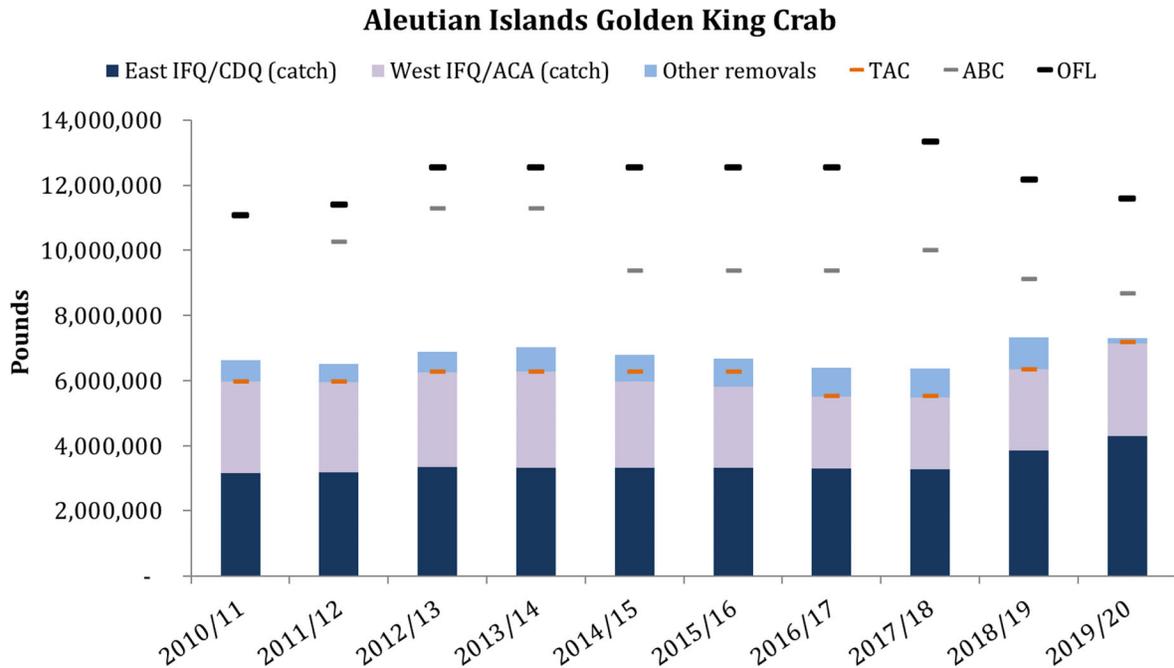


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2010/11 - 2019/20.

### Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2019 and closed on May 15, 2020 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and on May 31, 2020 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2019/20 snow crab TAC is 34 million pounds and 100% of the quota was harvested.

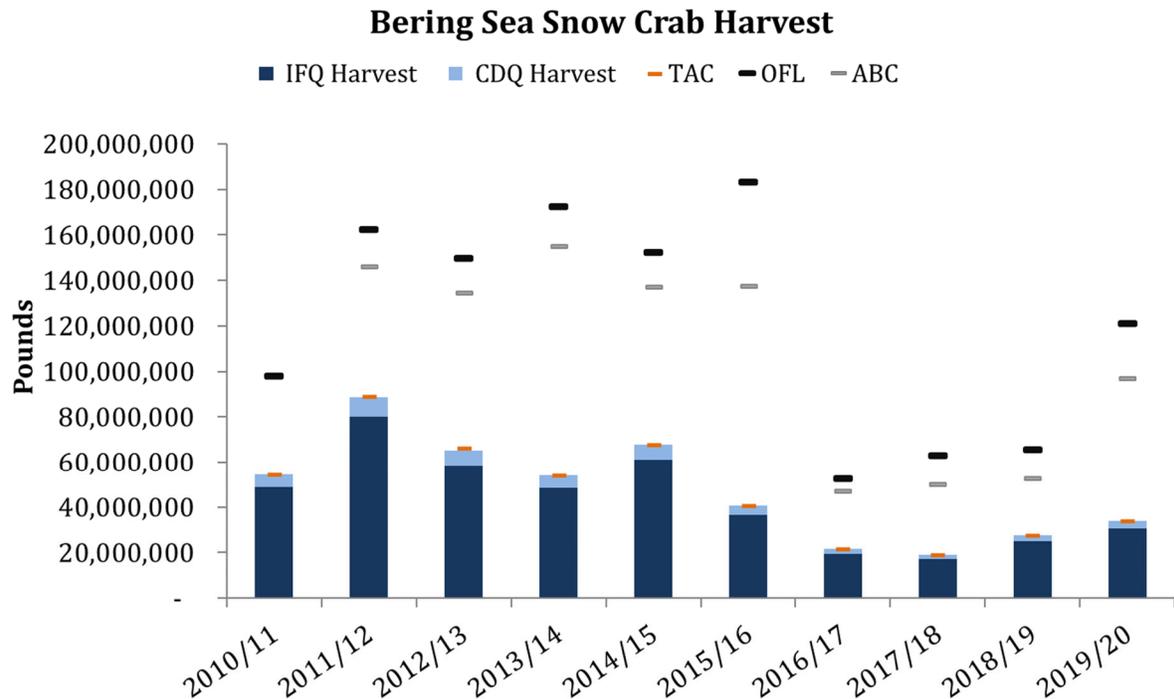
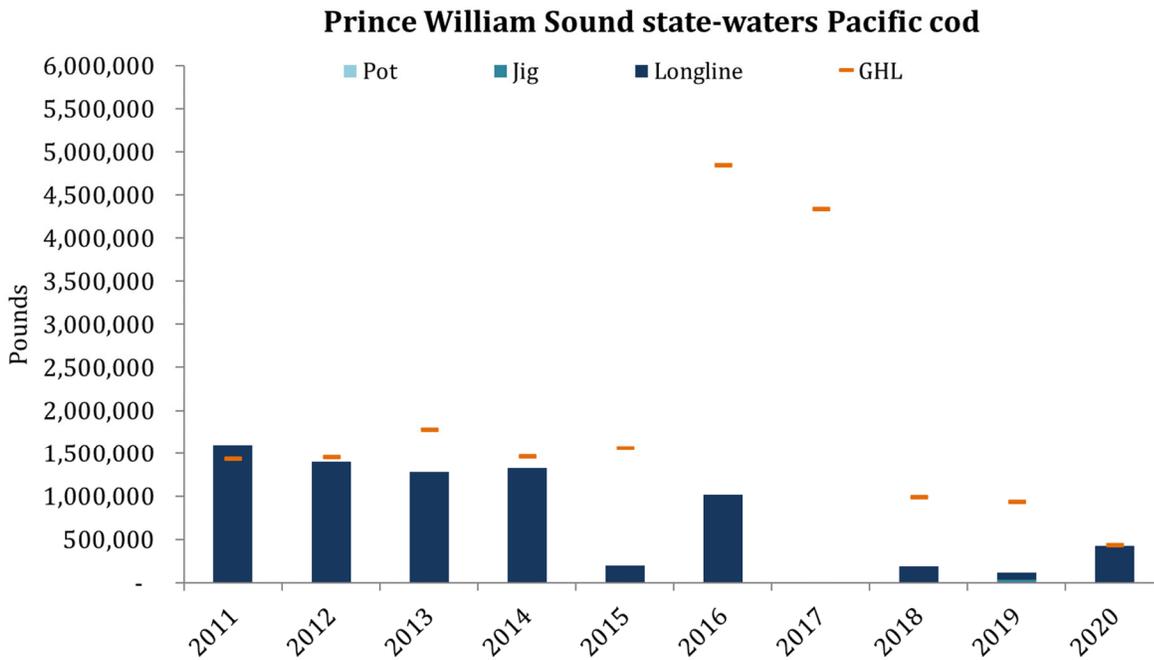


Figure 2. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2010/11 - 2019/20 seasons.

**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.

**Central Region:  
Prince William Sound**

The state-waters pot and jig seasons opened on February 1, 2020 and these fisheries remain open. The state-waters longline season opened February 1, 2020 and closed on March 4, 2020, harvesting 426,119 pounds (97% of the GHL).



**Figure 3. Prince William Sound state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2011 – 2020.**

## Cook Inlet

The state-waters pot season opened on February 1 and closed on February 28. A total of 4 vessels harvested 393,930 pounds (87% of the GHL). The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opened on January 1 and remains open.

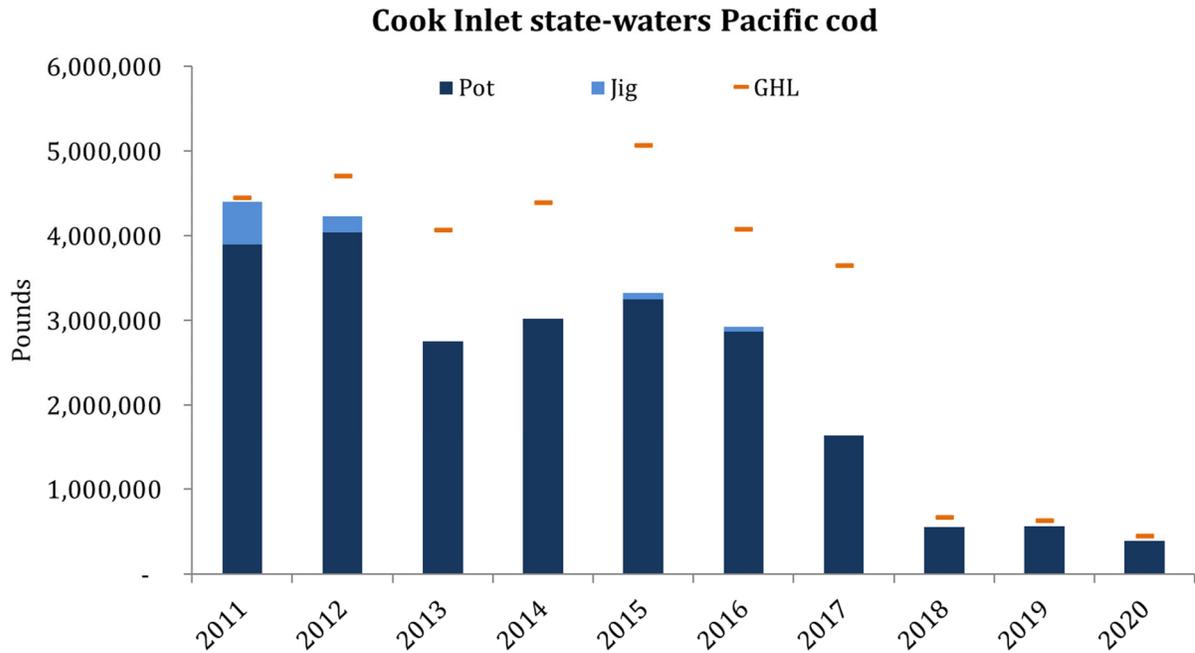


Figure 4. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2011 - 2020.

## Westward Region:

### Kodiak

The 2020 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area is 1.52 million pounds, allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (0.76 million pounds each). The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 24, 2020 and closed on March 11, 2020. Seven pot vessels harvested 735,450 pounds (49% of the GHL). The state-waters jig fishery opened on January 1, 2020 by regulation and remains open. 26 vessels have harvested 607,137 pounds (40% of the GHL) in the jig fishery. In January, the Board of Fisheries increased the jig gear limit for the Kodiak Area and beginning on June 5, vessels using jig gear may operate up to 6 machines with 30 hooks per line.

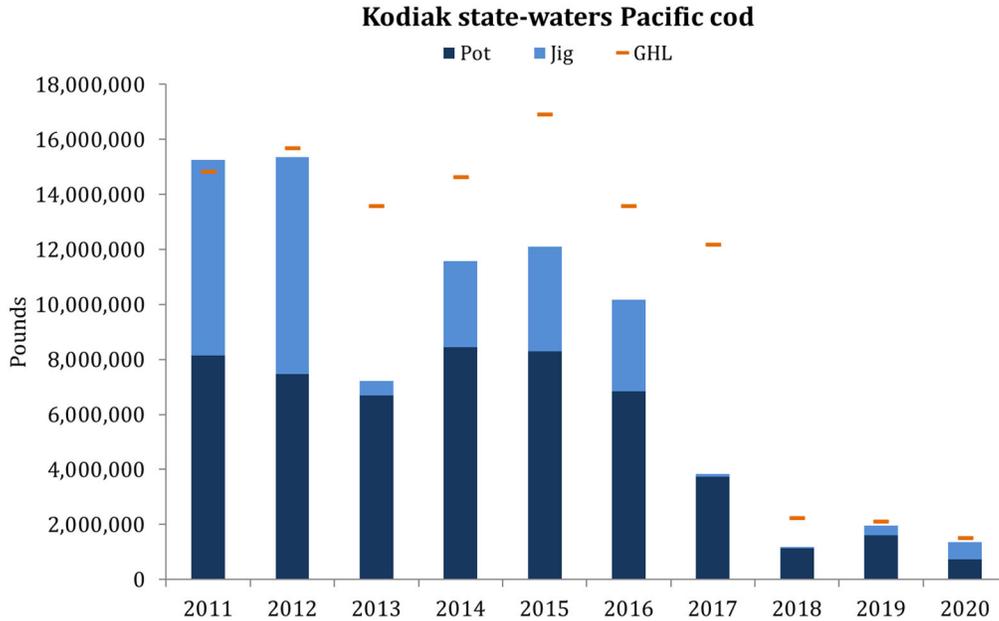


Figure 5. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2011 - 2020.

### Chignik

The 2020 GHL in Chignik is 1.06 million pounds. The state-waters pot season opened on March 1, 2020 and closed on March 13. Four vessels harvested 980,177 pounds (92% of the GHL) in the pot fishery. The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on January 1, 2020; however, there is no harvest to date in this fishery.

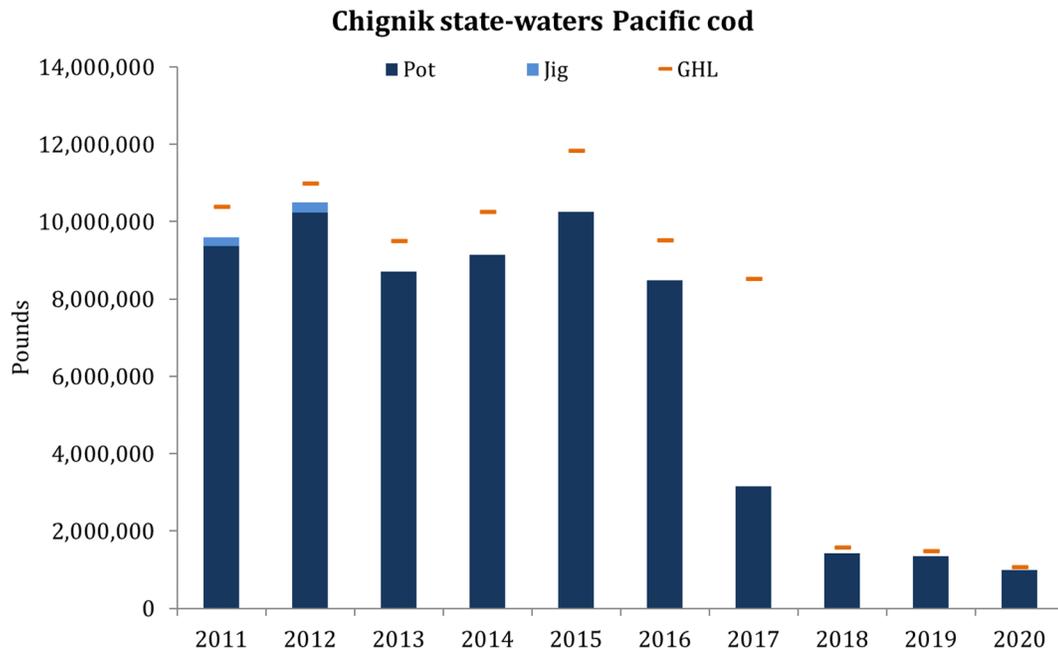


Figure 6. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2011 - 2020.

### South Alaska Peninsula

The 2020 GHL in South Alaska Peninsula is 2.12 million pounds. The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 7, 2020 and closed on March 27. Nineteen pot vessels harvested 1.68 million pounds (79% of the GHL). The state-waters jig fishery opened on January 1, 2020. To date, eight jig vessels have harvested 133,168 pounds (6% of the GHL). The Jig fishery remains open.

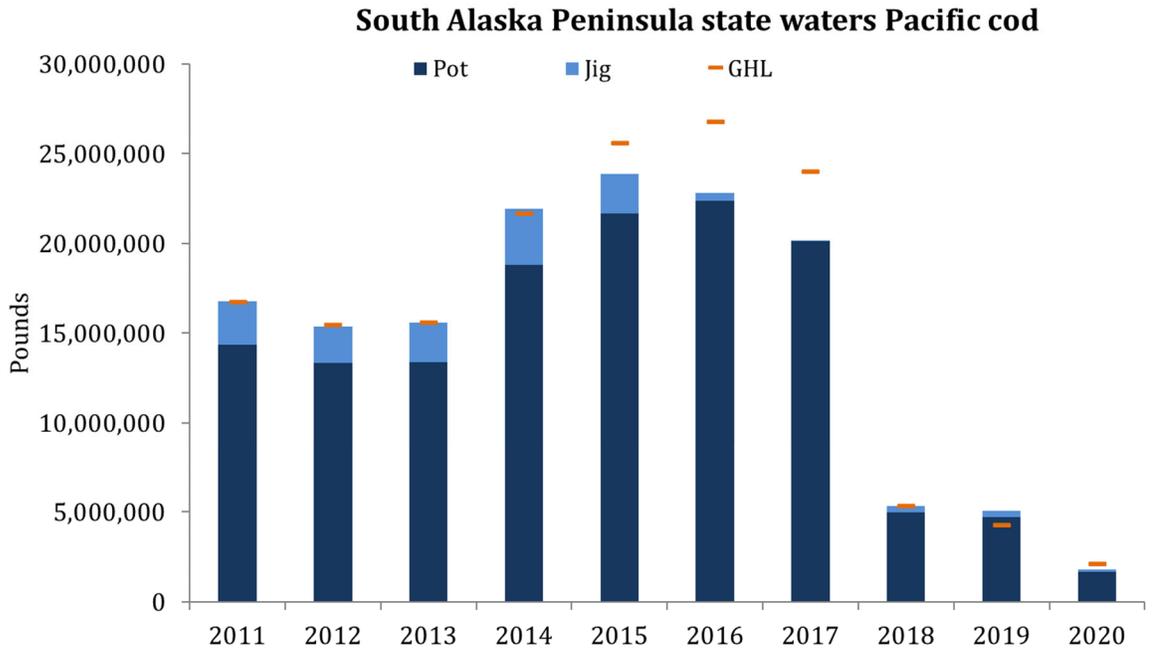


Figure 7. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2011 – 2020.