



**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 salmon, crab, scallops, and groundfish.

Salmon

The Southeast Alaska summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2022. The summer fishery targets the annual Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook salmon quota during multiple open periods during the July 1 to September 30 timeframe. During the summer season, most waters of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat area are open to commercial trolling, including outer coastal waters in the EEZ and excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150. Preliminary Chinook harvest during the summer troll fishery was 153,197 fish and 147,871 of those fish are estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon (Figure 1).

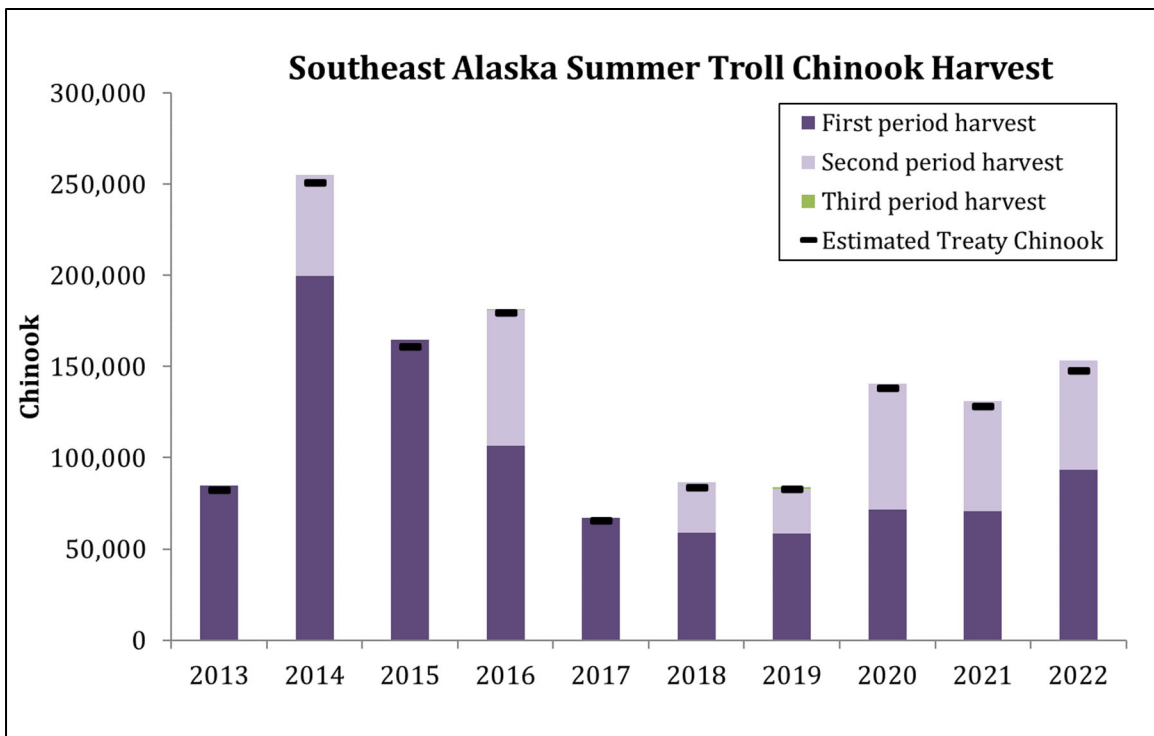


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Chinook harvest and estimated treaty Chinook harvest during the summer season by harvest period, 2013-2022.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2022/23 Aleutian Islands (AI) commercial 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. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 5.05 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. For the 2022/23 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.32 million pounds and the western TAC is 1.73 million pounds. Ten percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. All harvest is currently confidential (Figure 2). Both areas close by regulation on April 30, 2023.

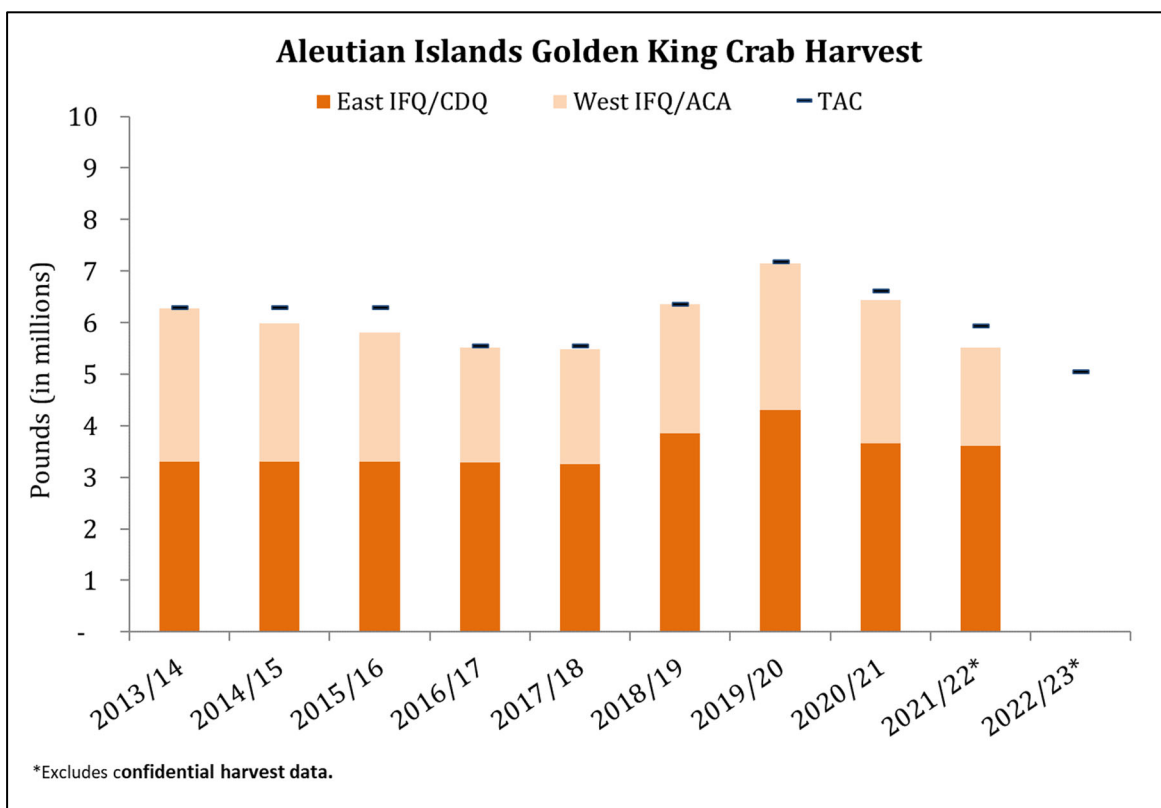


Figure 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2013/14 – 2022/23 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2022. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2022/23 season is 375,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 30,000 pound increase from the 2021/22 cumulative GHL. To date 199,915 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (Figure 3).

| 2022/23 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest and Crab Bycatch Levels | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 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 for the 2021/22 season</i> | N/A | N/A |
| | West Kayak Subsection | 8,000 | N/A | N/A |
| Cook Inlet | Kamishak Bay District | <i>Closed for the 2021/22 season</i> | N/A | N/A |
| Kodiak | Northeast District | 40,000 | 24,000 | 25 |
| | Shelikof District | 100,000 | 50,000 | 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 | 3,750 | 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>Copilio & hybrids</i> | |
| | | | 11,250 | |

¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

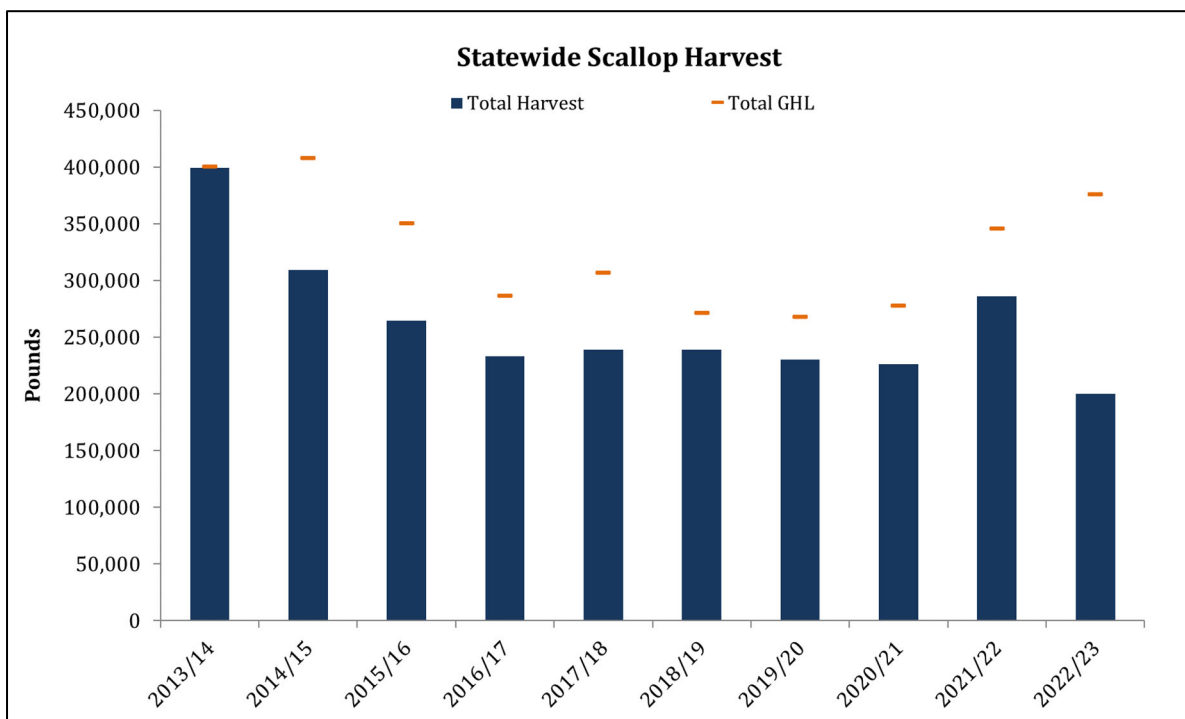


Figure 3. Statewide scallop harvest and GHL, 2013/14-2022/23 seasons.

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. Since the last state report to the Council, harvest in the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries has occurred in Prince William Sound, Kodiak, South Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Aleutian Islands. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and 2022 GHLs are as follows:

| State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------|---------------|
| State Management Area | ABC and GHL percentage in regulation | | Gear | 2022 GHL (pounds) | 2022 GHL (mt) |
| Prince William Sound | EGOA - 25% | | Jig/Pot | 257,693 | 117 |
| | | | Longline | 1,460,259 | 662 |
| Chignik | 8.75% | | Jig | 381,021 | 173 |
| | | | Pot | 3,429,189 | 1,555 |
| Kodiak | CGOA - 25% | | Jig | 2,721,579 | 1,234 |
| | | | Pot | 2,721,579 | 1,234 |
| Cook Inlet | 3.75% | | Jig | 244,945 | 111 |
| | | | Pot | 1,388,019 | 630 |
| South Alaska Peninsula | WGOA - 30% | | Jig | 986,316 | 447 |
| | | | Pot | 5,589,124 | 2,535 |
| Dutch Harbor Subdistrict | Bering Sea - 11% | | Jig | 100,000 | 45 |
| | | | Pot | 37,196,000 | 16,872 |
| Aleutian Islands Subdistrict* | Aleutian Islands - 39% | | All | 15,000,000 | 6,804 |

*AI Subdistrict GHL is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)

Prince William Sound: The 2022 GHL for Prince William Sound (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.718 million pounds and is allocated 85% to longline gear and 15% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to pot gear on February 17 and for longline gear on March 22. Both fisheries closed on September 1. The longline fishery harvested 543,371 pounds (Figure 4).

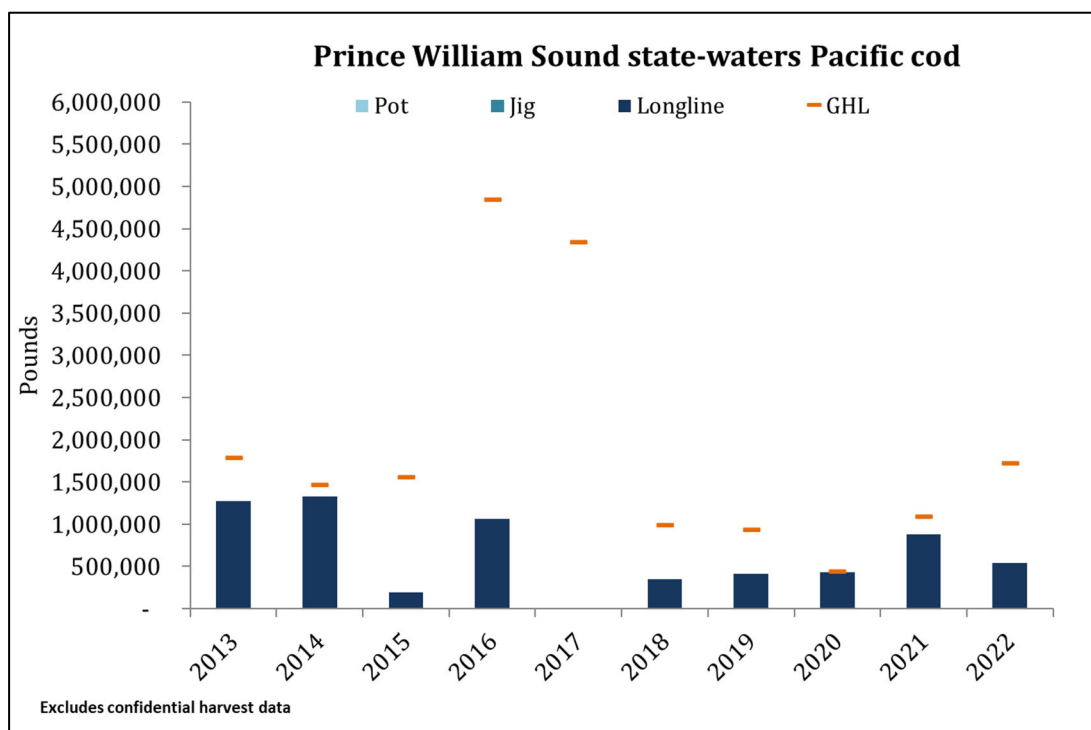


Figure 4. Annual Prince William Sound Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Kodiak

The 2022 state-waters GHL for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.443 million pounds and is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear (2.7 million pounds each). The state-waters pot fishery initially opened on February 22 and closed on March 10. The pot fishery reopened with a rollover GHL from the jig sector on April 1 and closed on September 1. The jig fishery opened on January 1 and remains open. The pot fishery has harvested 3.3 million pounds and the jig fishery has harvested 1.6 million pounds (Figure 5).

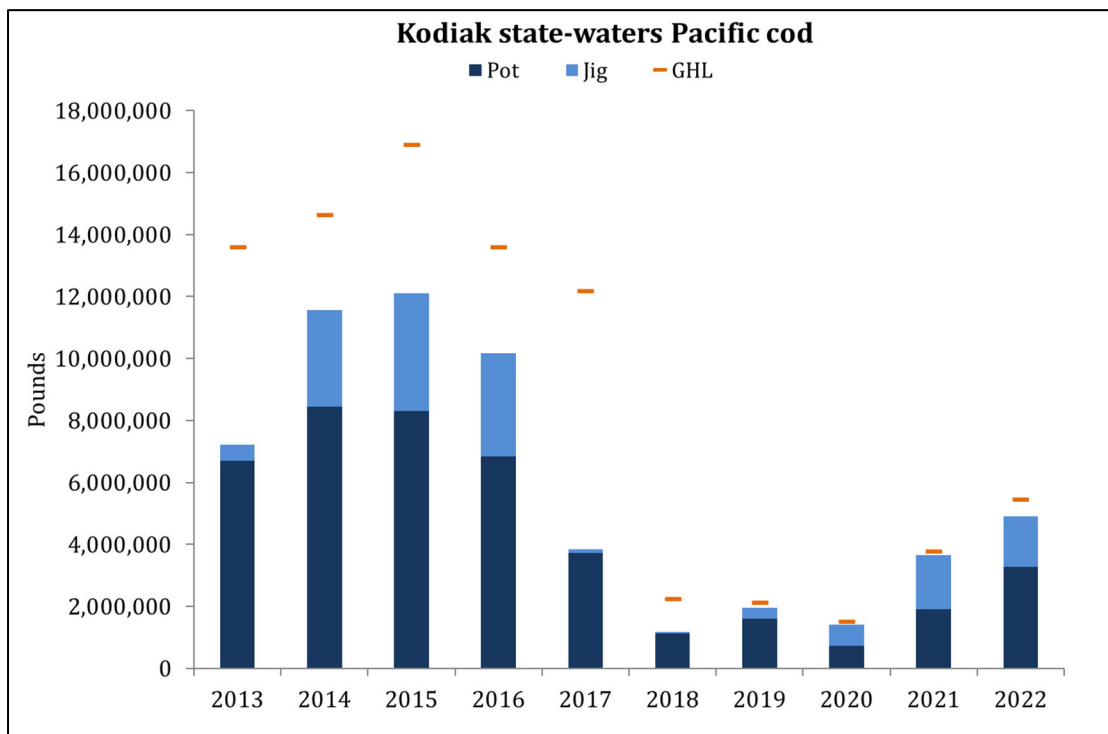


Figure 5. Annual Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2022 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula is 6.575 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on March 7 and closed on March 16, harvesting 5.3 million pounds (Figure 6). The jig fishery opened on March 15 and remains open. 461,059 pounds have been harvested in the jig fishery.

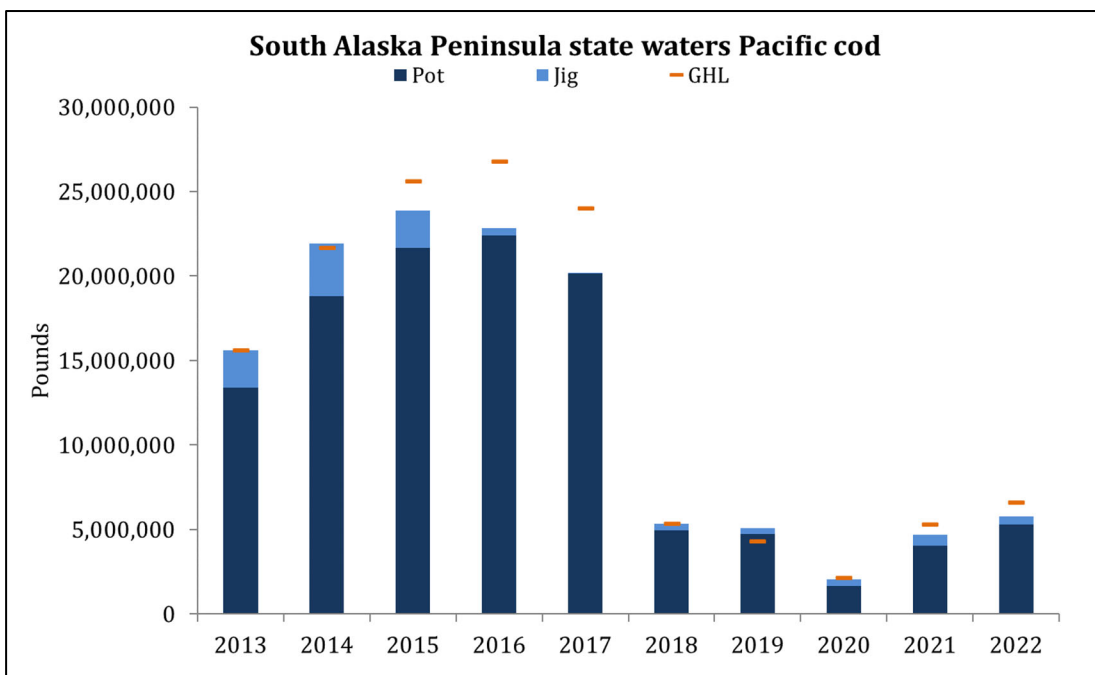


Figure 6. Annual South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2013-2022.

Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot fishery opened on February 2 with a GHL of 37.2 million pounds and approximately 35.4 million pounds (95% of the GHL) have been harvested by 29 vessels (Figure 7). The pot fishery remains open although most harvest occurred this spring. The jig fishery opened May 1 with a GHL of 100,000 pounds; harvest is confidential. By regulation, the fisheries close December 31 or when the GHL is achieved.

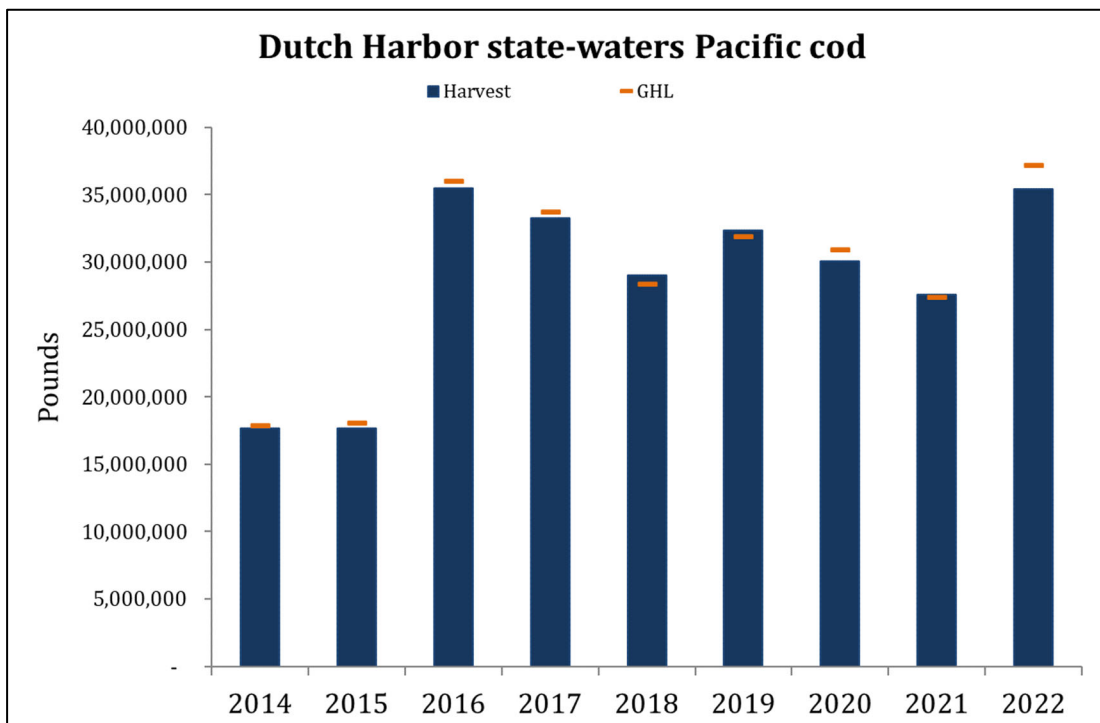


Figure 7. Annual Dutch Harbor Pacific cod harvest and GHL, 2014-2022.

Aleutian Islands

The 2022 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHl is 39% of the Aleutian Islands ABC; however, the AIS GHl is capped by regulation at 15 million pounds which represents 33% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC in 2022. The Adak Section, between 175° W. long and 178° W. long, opened January 1 to vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to an OAL of 58 feet. The entire AIS opened on January 27 to vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl or jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. 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 15. Current harvest is confidential and the GHl is not achieved at this time.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Upcoming meetings:

- [Joint Protocol Committee](#), October 13, 2022, Anchorage. Comments are due by October 5, 2022. The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene its Joint Protocol Committee (JPC). The JPC plans to: receive updates on Bering Sea crab stocks and rebuilding plans, discuss state and Federal management of Pacific cod, discuss recent council action on small boat access in the Pacific cod fishery, and discuss upcoming Board proposals affecting Pacific cod management.

- [Work Session](#), October 25-26, 2022, Anchorage. Comments are due October 11, 2022. No regulatory action is taken at this meeting. Agenda change requests (ACRs) that may be of interest to the Council include:

ACR 5. Repeal prohibition on retaining sablefish caught in the federal fishery while participating in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery during the same trip.

ACR 8. Allow groundfish pots to be longlined in the Prince William Sound Area.

- [Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod](#), October 27-28, 2022, Anchorage. Comments are due October 11, 2022. Proposals that may be of interest to the Council include:

Proposal 1. (ADF&G) In the AIS Pacific cod fishery, coordinate season opening dates, clarify reporting and landing requirements, and require pot vessels to deliver their catch prior to hauling stored gear after the fishery closure. *The department seeks to clarify that if the second AIS triggered season opening date has not occurred at the time of the third triggered opening on March 15, the second opening date becomes null and all waters of the AIS shall open at 12:00 noon on March 15 to all vessels eligible to participate in the AIS. Additionally, since the subdistrict covers two time zones, the department seeks to clarify that all closure and opening times are in Alaska time, not Hawaii-Aleutian time.*

Proposal 2. In the AIS Pacific cod fishery, restrict legal gear to pot and mechanical jigging machines, increase pot limit, and limit total harvest by vessels greater than 58 feet in length to align the AI management plan with other State Water P cod management plans.

Proposals 3 and 4. In the AIS Pacific cod fishery, change season start date from March 15 to March 1 for trawl gear vessels over 60 feet in length.

Proposal 5. In the DHS Pacific cod fishery, reduce maximum allowable vessel size from 58 feet to 55 feet in length inside state waters near Unalaska Bay.

Proposal 6. Establish new framework for setting the annual DHS Pacific cod GHLs. *Proposes a 4-tier approach for setting the DHS GHL. Under this approach, the GHL would continue to be set as a percentage of the federal Bering Sea ABC each year and that percentage would be determined by a combination of the latest estimate of Pacific cod biomass and recent fishery performance.*

Proposal 7. (ADF&G) Clarify gear marking and landing requirements for groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands area. *The proposed changes would align the Bering Sea–Aleutians Area regulations with most other groundfish fisheries around the state and reflect current management practices.*

Proposal 9. In the Chignik area, remove vessel registration exclusivity for state-waters jig gear fisheries and open state-waters Pacific cod seasons for jig gear on January 1. *This would eliminate the federal parallel jig fishery in state waters and promote harvest opportunities for the jig fleet.*

Proposal 10. (ADF&G) Define harvest allocation for the Aleutian Islands and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish fishery. *The GHL has been fixed at 5% of the federal ABC since 2006, however, the allocation was never defined in regulation. Formalizing the Aleutian Islands sablefish GHL allocation in regulation will provide stability and transparency for managers and stakeholders participating in this fishery.*

Emerging issue

The [European Green Crab](#) (EGC) is a high-risk global invader that can devastate coastal marine ecosystems by displacing native species, degrading and disturbing native habitats (including eelgrass), and altering food webs. EGC was first detected within Alaska at Annette Islands Reserve in July 2022. Since detection, ADF&G has engaged in early detection trapping and molt surveys in the Ketchikan area with no EGC observed. To respond to this new invasive marine species, ADF&G will continue to engage with Metlakatla Indian Community, NOAA Fisheries, as well as partners in British Columbia, Canada, Washington state, and Alaska.