



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**March/April 2011**

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

**Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)**

The Southeast Alaska winter troll Chinook salmon season opened October 11, 2010. It will remain open through April 30, 2011, 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. Latest catch estimates put the harvest at 20,409 Chinook salmon; approximately 87% of the harvest is estimated to be treaty fish.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 2)**

The 2010/11 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2010. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Three vessels participated in the western Aleutian Islands and harvested 2.54 million pounds. One vessel participated in the Adak community allocation so that harvest remains confidential. At this time, all vessels have checked out of the fishery and have completed fishing operations.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 3)**

The 2010/11 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010. The 2010/11 snow crab TAC is 54.28 million pounds with 48.85 million pounds apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 5.43 million pounds apportioned to the CDQ fishery. Sixty-seven vessels participated this season and have harvested 47.84 million pounds of IFQ quota and 5.01 million pounds of CDQ quota.

**Central Region Pacific cod (FIGURES 4 & 5)****Prince William Sound (PWS)**

The PWS state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 5, 2011, seven days after the close of the directed federal season in the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) area. The 2011 guideline harvest level (GHL) is 1.435 million pounds (651 mt), 25% of the Eastern GOA Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC). The fishery is open to pot, jig, and longline gear and has an exclusive registration designation. The fishery closed on February 23, 2011. A total of 1.59 million pounds (723 mt) was harvested by 68 longline vessels.

**Cook Inlet**

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on January 30, 2011 with a GHL of 4.45 million pounds (2,020 mt). The GHL is calculated as 3.75% of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC and is allocated 75% to pot gear and 25% to jig gear. The fishery closed to pot gear on March 19 with a total pot harvest of 3.03 million pounds (1,374 mt). The jig fishery remains open; total jig harvest to date is 20,800 pounds (9.4 mt). Unharvested jig allocation can be released to all legal gear types on September 1. In addition to the directed fishery, Pacific cod may be retained in state waters as bycatch to other directed groundfish and halibut fisheries at a maximum of 20%. Cook Inlet is designated as an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

**Westward Region Pacific cod (FIGURES 6 - 8)****Kodiak**

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened on February 5, seven days after the close of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) inshore component of the Central GOA Pacific cod fishery. The 2011 GHL is 14.83 million pounds (6,727 mt) or 12.5% of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC. The GHL is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gear and 50% to pot gear. The fishery closed to pot gear on February 18, with a total pot harvest of 8.13 million pounds (3,688 mt). Vessels fishing with jig gear have harvested a total of 2.4 million pounds (1,088 mt). The Kodiak Area is designated as an exclusive registration area for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

**Chignik**

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opened by regulation on March 1, 2011 with a GHL of 10.38 million pounds (4,700 mt). The GHL is calculated as 8.75% of the Central GOA Pacific cod ABC and is apportioned 90% to pot gear and 10% to mechanical jig and hand troll gear. The fishery closed to vessels using pot gear on March 17, 2011 with a total pot harvest of 9.37 million pounds (4,250 mt). The fishery remains open to vessels using jig gear and to date no jig vessels have registered. The area is designated as a superexclusive registration area for the state-waters Pacific cod season.

**South Alaska Peninsula (SAP)**

The Pacific cod fishery for the SAP opened on February 25, seven days after the close of the NMFS inshore component of the Western GOA Pacific cod fishery. The 2011 GHL is 16.74 million pounds (7,600 mt) or 25% of the Western GOA Pacific cod ABC. Vessels participating in

the SAP fishery may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Pot vessel harvest is capped at 85% with the remaining GHL allocated to jig vessels. The fishery closed to pot gear on March 11 with a total harvest of 14.36 million pounds (6,513 mt) and current jig harvest is 390,000 pounds (177 mt). The SAP is designated as an exclusive registration area fishery.

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

#### **Failed proposals:**

- Extend the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery beyond May 15 if the TAC is not achieved.
- Change the eastern boundary of the Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery from 163° W long. To 159° W long.
- Establish an Alaska Peninsula Community Harvest Area in the Bering Sea for king and Tanner crab.

#### **No Action proposals:**

- Change fishing season for St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.

#### **Carried proposals:**

- Increase biodegradable twine requirement to 60-thread twine in the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.
- Amend onboard observer standards.
- Reduce minimum size for Bering Sea Tanner crab. Legal retention sizes are now 4.4 inches in the Western District and 4.8 in the Eastern District. The TAC will be based on an industry standard of 5.0 inches in the Western District and 5.5 inches in the Eastern District.
- Management measures in the Aleutian Island Pacific cod fishery.

### **Call for proposals:**

**Deadline 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2011.**

- 1) Finfish regulations for Prince William Sound, SE Alaska, and Yakutat management areas;
- 2) King and Tanner crab regulations for SE Alaska and Yakutat management areas;
- 3) Dungeness crab, shrimp, and miscellaneous shellfish fisheries statewide; and
- 4) Pacific cod regulations for the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas for parallel and state-waters Pacific cod seasons to address coordination of the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries with Gulf of Alaska federal sector splits scheduled for implementation in January 2012. Fishing seasons including season opening, season closure, late season harvest opportunities and coordinating state-waters seasons with federal A and B seasons may be addressed, as well as other issues necessary for coordination of the fisheries. **Deadline will be extended for state-water Pacific cod season proposals to sometime late spring/early summer in an effort to coordinate with the proposed regulations for GOA federal sector splits.**

Figure 1

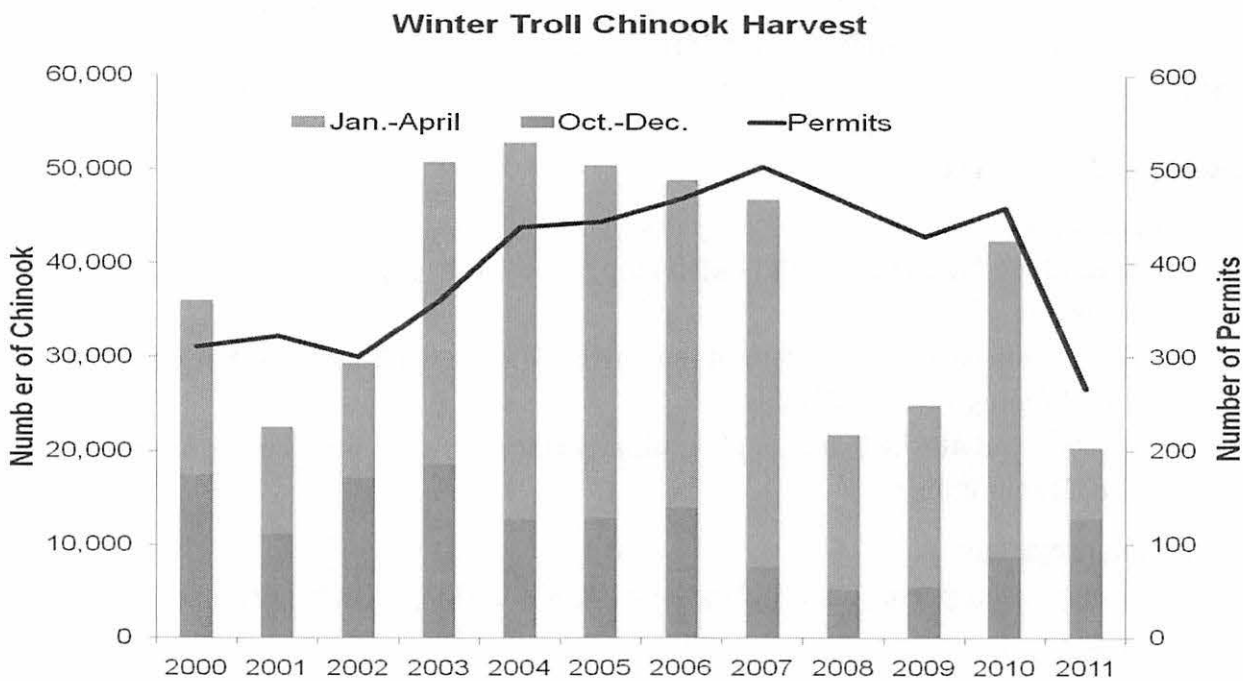


Figure 2

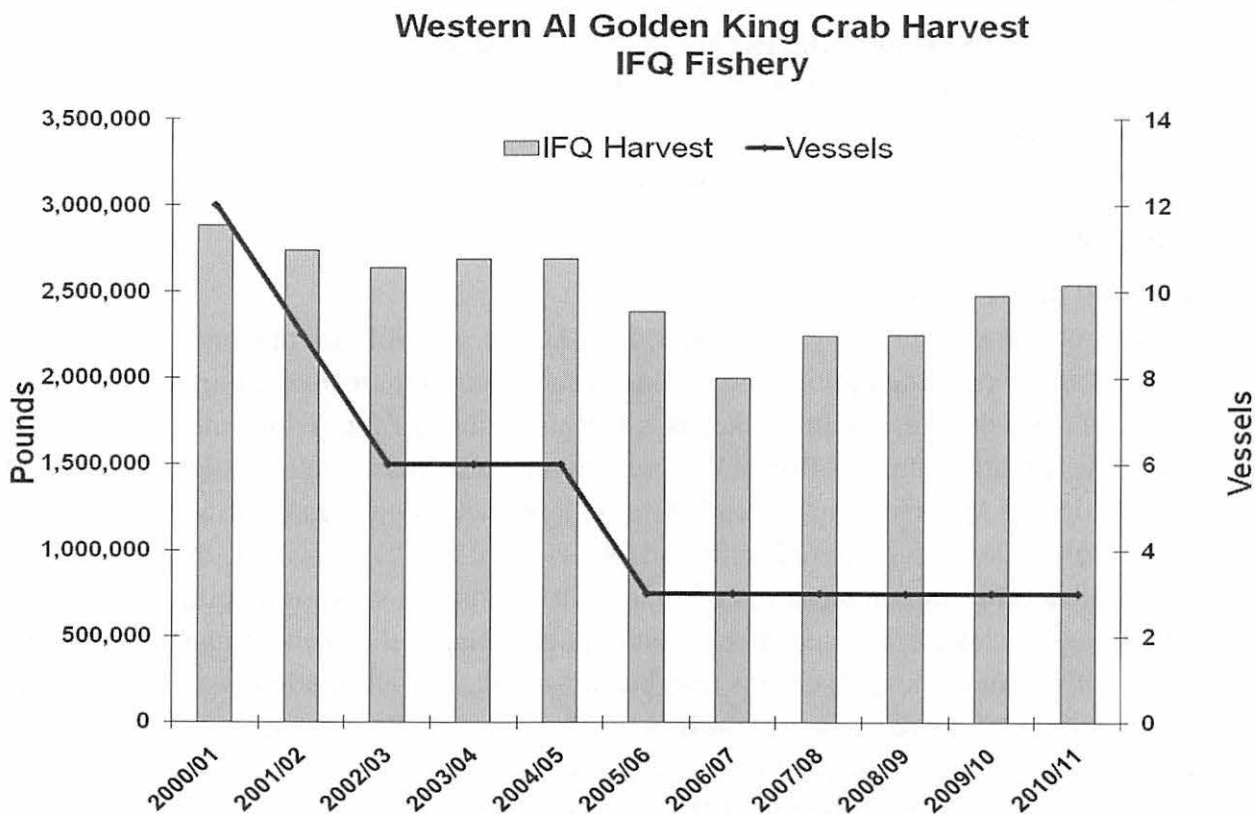


Figure 3

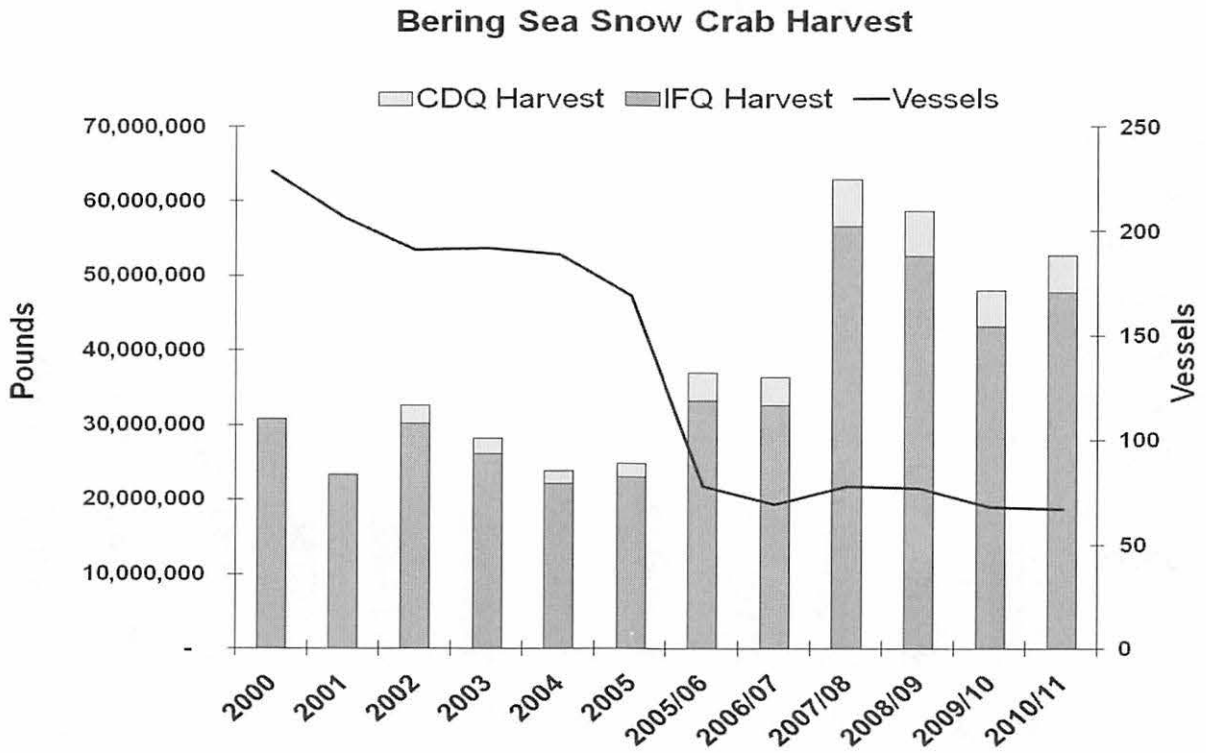


Figure 4

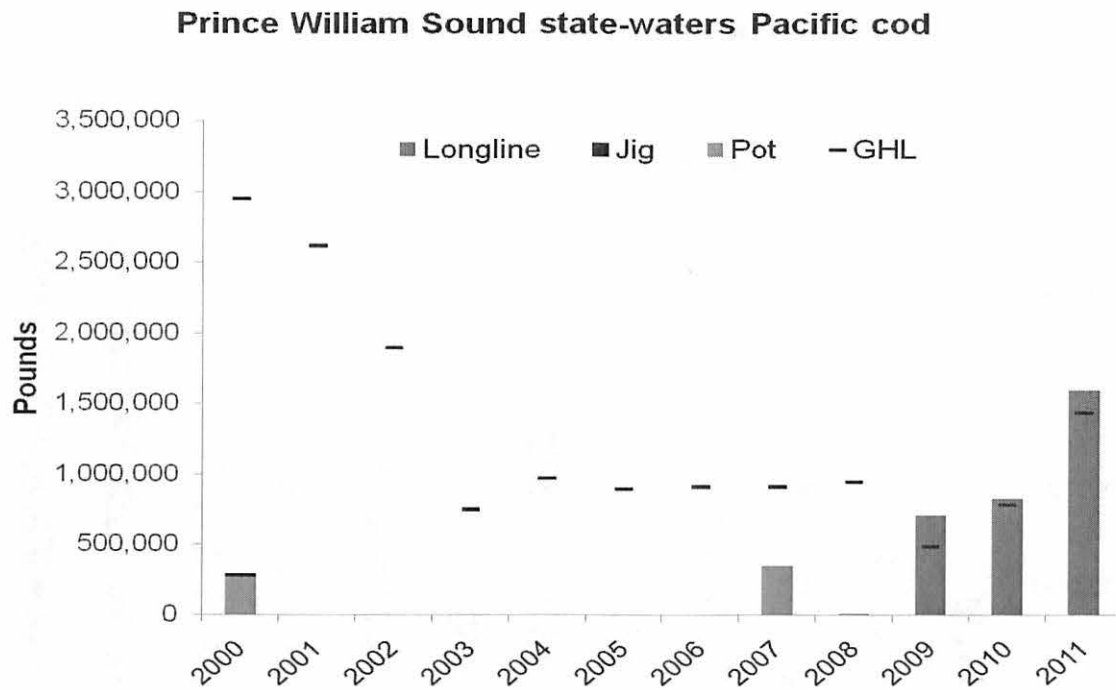


Figure 5

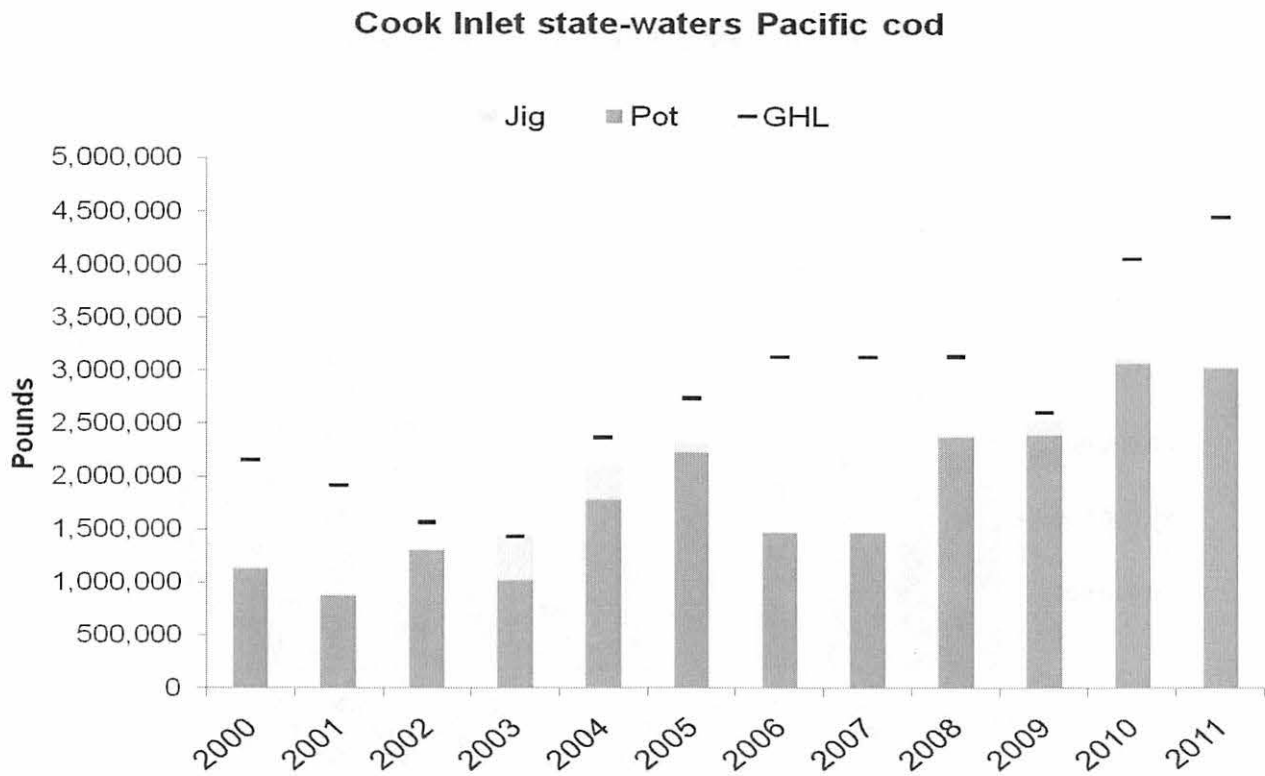


Figure 6

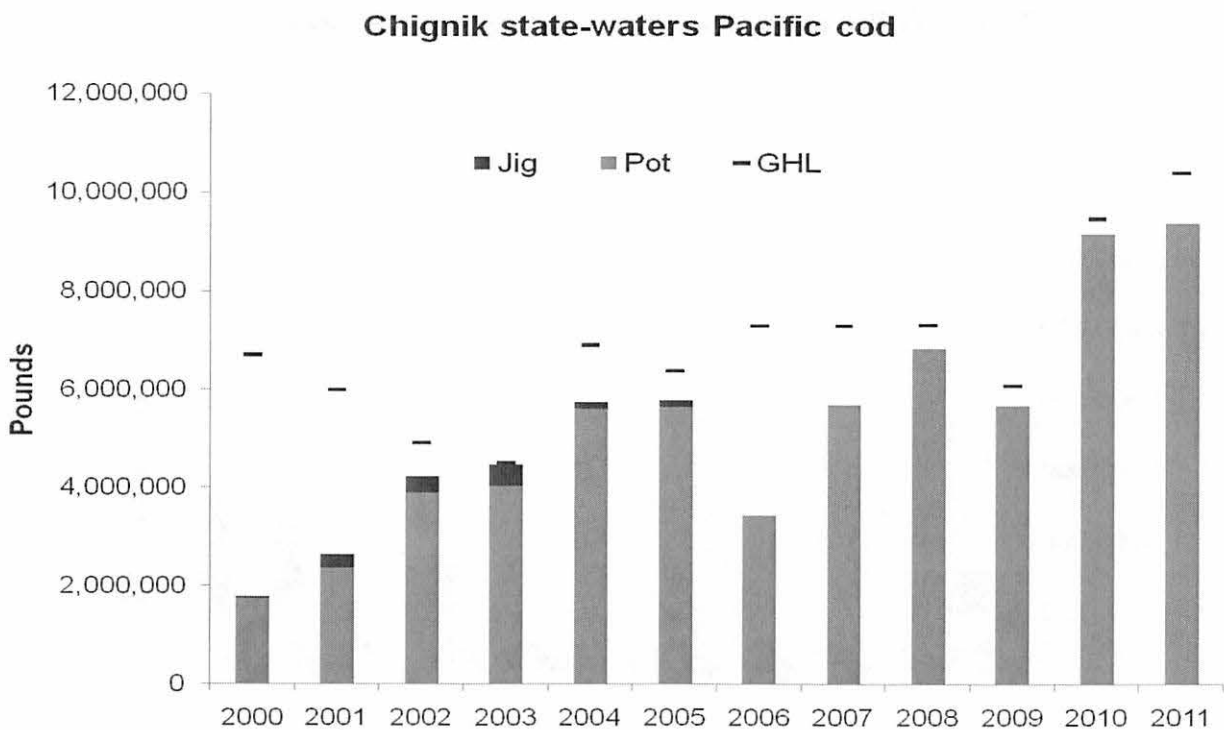


Figure 7

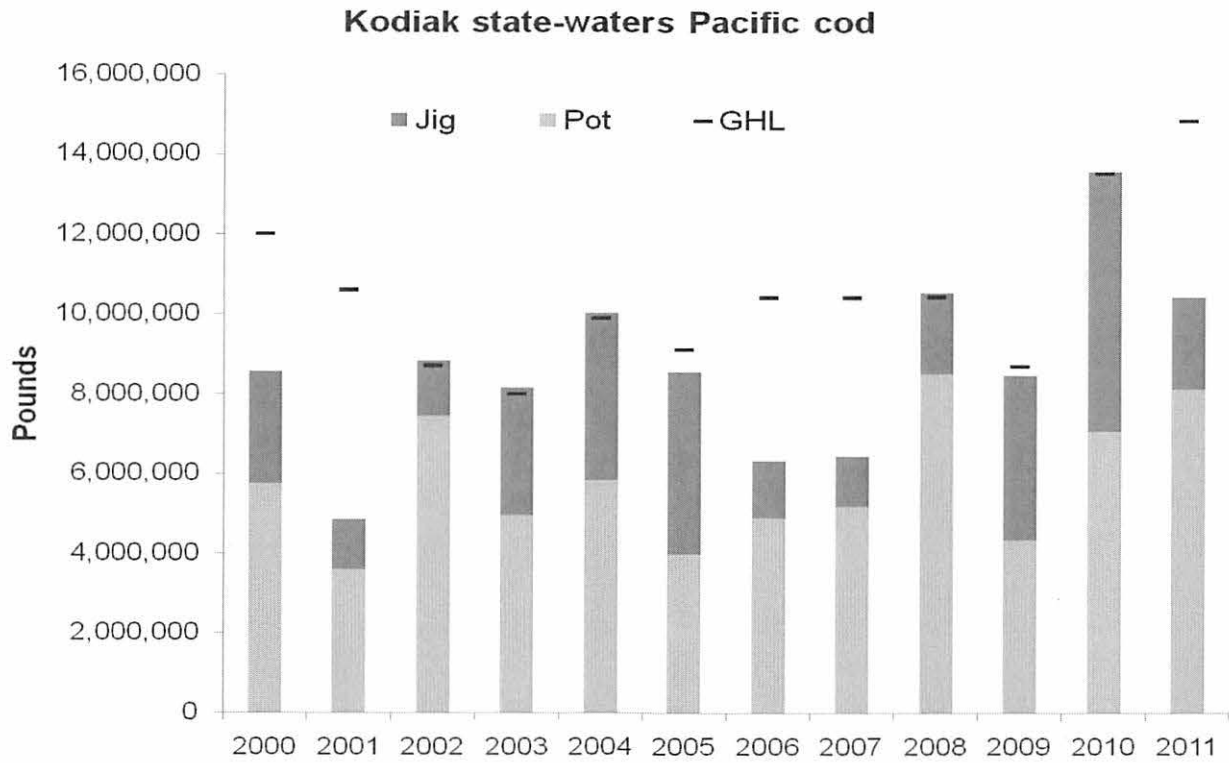


Figure 8

