

Introduction to Groundfish Trawl Proposals 43, 44, and 45

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Oral Report RC 3, Tab 3

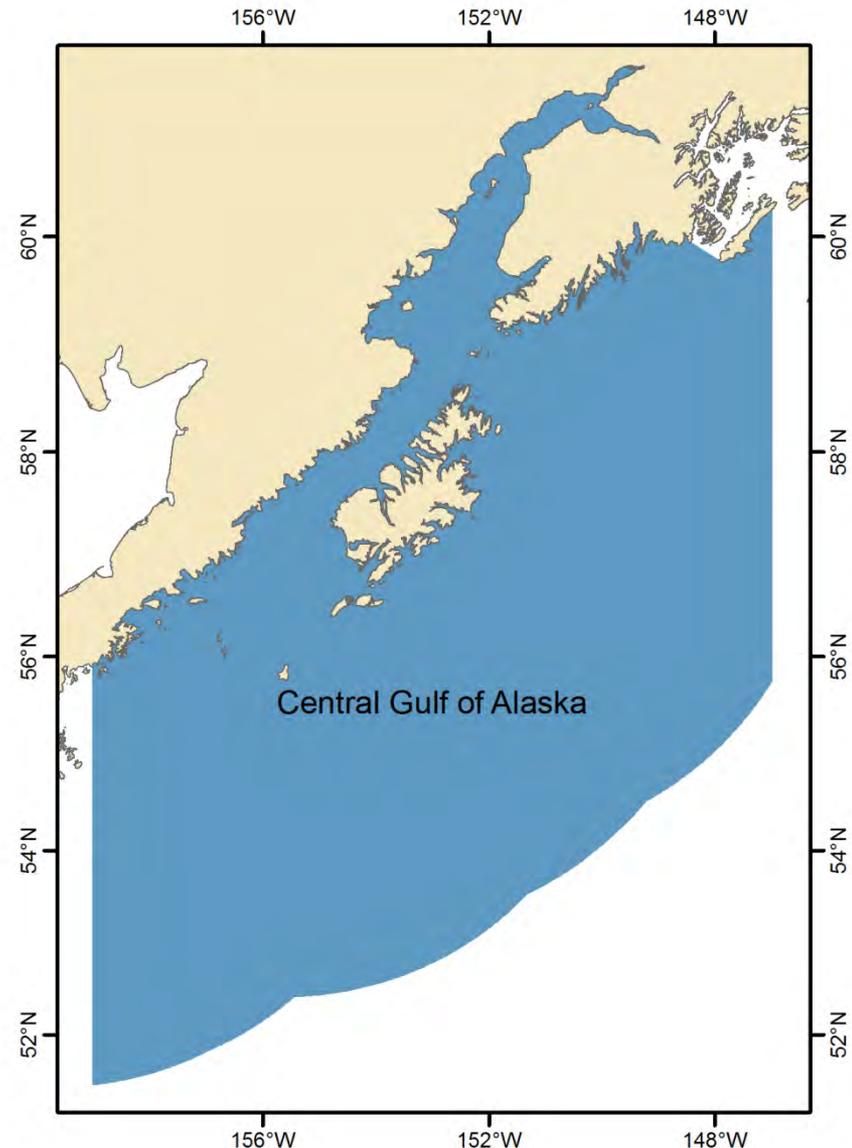
Staff Comments RC 2, Tab 6

Groundfish Fishery Management:

- **Federal:** Federal waters (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) guided by NPFMC process
- **Parallel:** State waters (0–3 nmi) concurrent with adjacent federal fishery and generally adopt federal regulations and management measures as guided by BOF process
- **State-Waters (GHL):** State waters (0–3 nmi) guided by BOF process

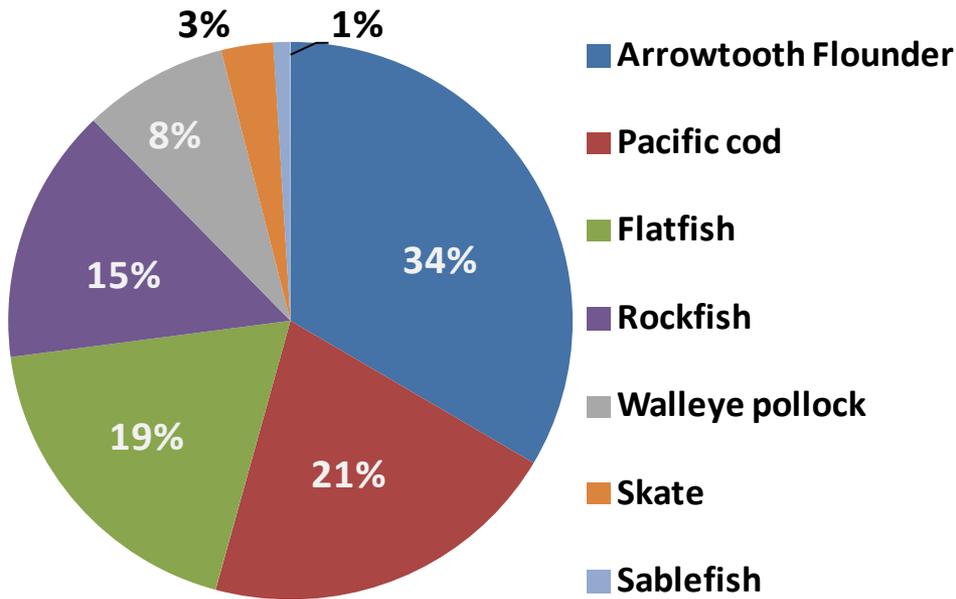
Central Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fisheries

- **Management:** Federal/parallel
- **Participation:** 50 to 60 vessels (CV/CP)
- **Catcher-vessel size:** 58-125 feet in length
- **Total retained groundfish catch (2012):** 268 million pounds
- **Exvessel value (2012):** \$52 million
- **Delivery location:** 97% of trawl catcher-vessel harvest delivered to Kodiak



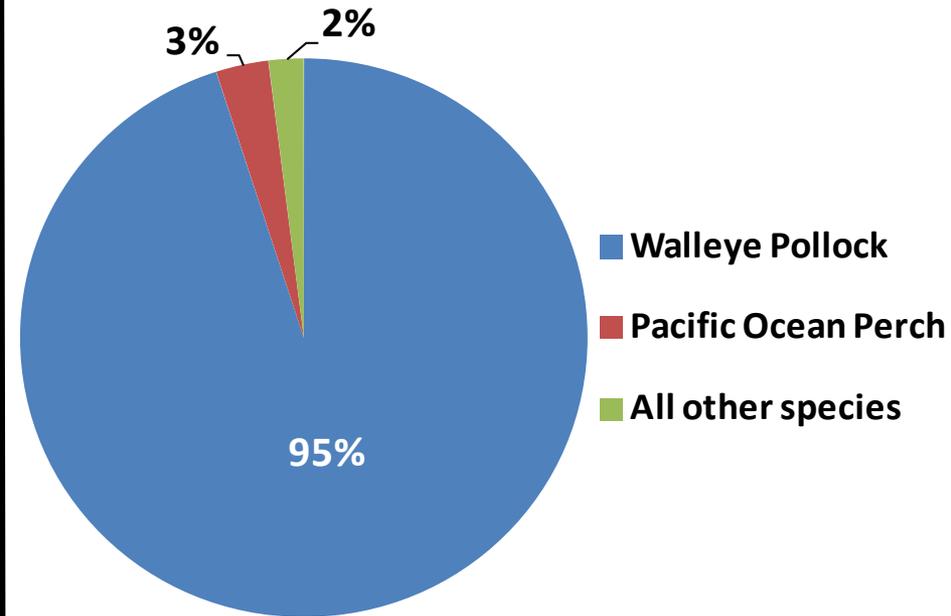
Nonpelagic Trawl Gear

Target Species:



Pelagic Trawl Gear

Target Species:



2012 Catch: 116 million pounds

Prohibited Species Catch Concerns:

Halibut, King salmon, Crab

2012 Catch: 151 million pounds

Prohibited Species Catch Concerns:

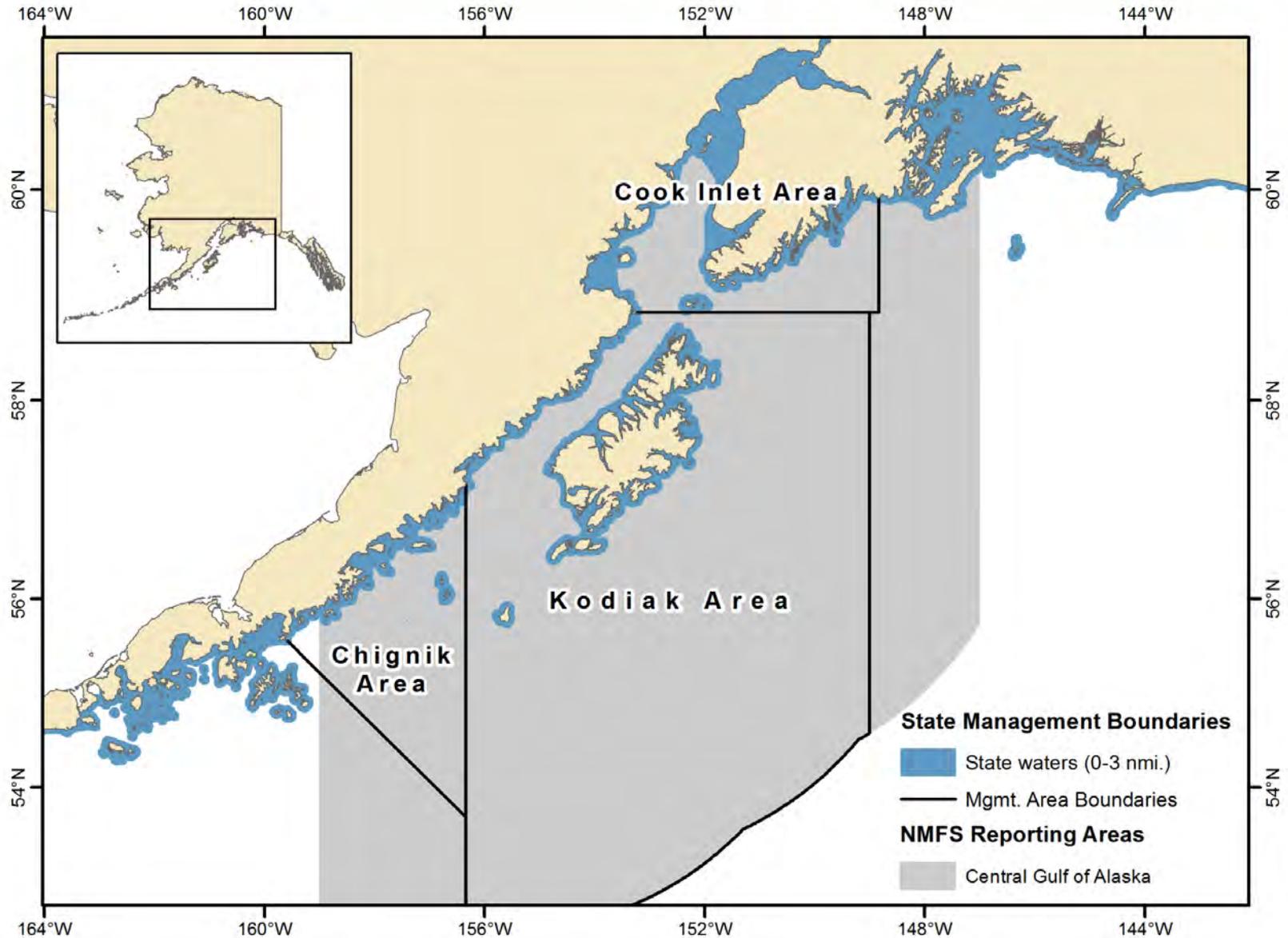
King salmon

Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik Groundfish Proposals

- **Proposal 43**: Create state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries for all groundfish species
- **Proposal 44**: Create state-waters walleye pollock fisheries
- **Proposal 45**: Require 100% observer coverage for all trawl vessels fishing inside state waters



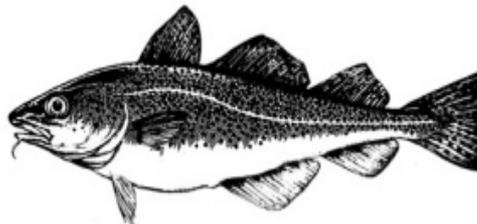
Proposal 43 – Create state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas



Proposal 43 - Nonpelagic Trawl

Proposal Elements

- GHUs based on CGOA groundfish ABCs
- Establish prohibited species catch (PSC) limits
- Require 100% observer coverage
- Limit vessels to maximum of 58 feet in length
- Establish season dates and landing limits



Proposal 43 – Groundfish GHLs

- Proposed GHL based on 25% of **ALL** CGOA groundfish ABCs (17 CGOA ABCs)
- ABCs include offshore/deepwater species
 - sablefish, deepwater flatfish, rockfish
- ADF&G nearshore trawl survey (7 species)
 - Arrowtooth flounder, Pacific cod, flathead sole, yellowfin sole, rock sole, longnose skate, and big skate
 - 2013 ABCs = 532 million pounds
 - 25% GHL = 133 million pounds
- Increase groundfish harvest inside state waters
 - Reduce federal groundfish quotas
 - SSL critical habitat

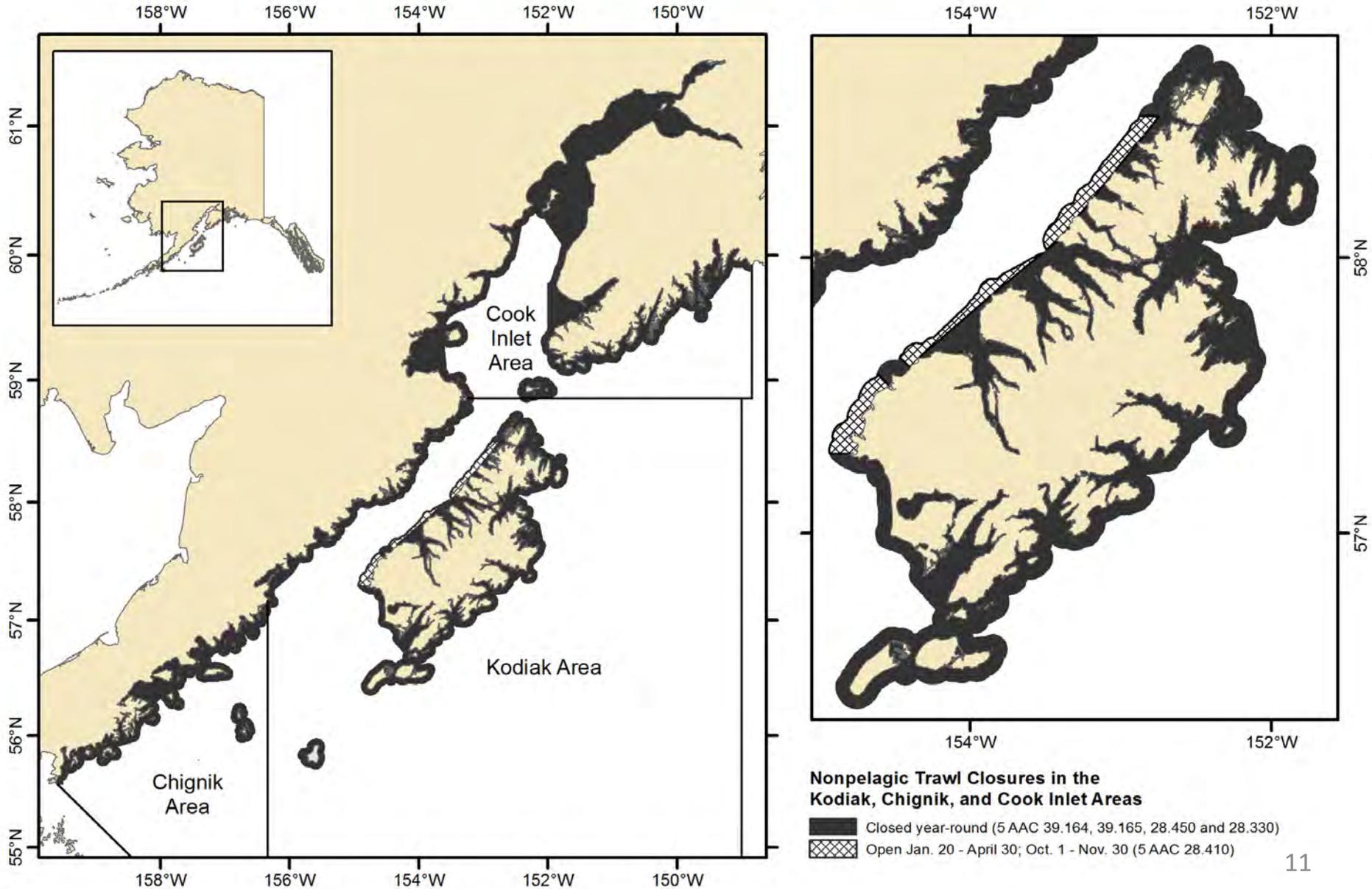
Proposal 43 - PSC Limits

- Establish prohibited species catch (PSC) limits:
 - King and Tanner Crab
 - King Salmon
 - Halibut
- PSC limits undefined in proposal
- Federal/parallel groundfish fisheries
 - King and Tanner Crab: Total PSC not capped
 - King Salmon: Total PSC capped and apportioned by area and target fishery
 - Halibut: Total PSC capped and apportioned by area/gear type/target fishery/season

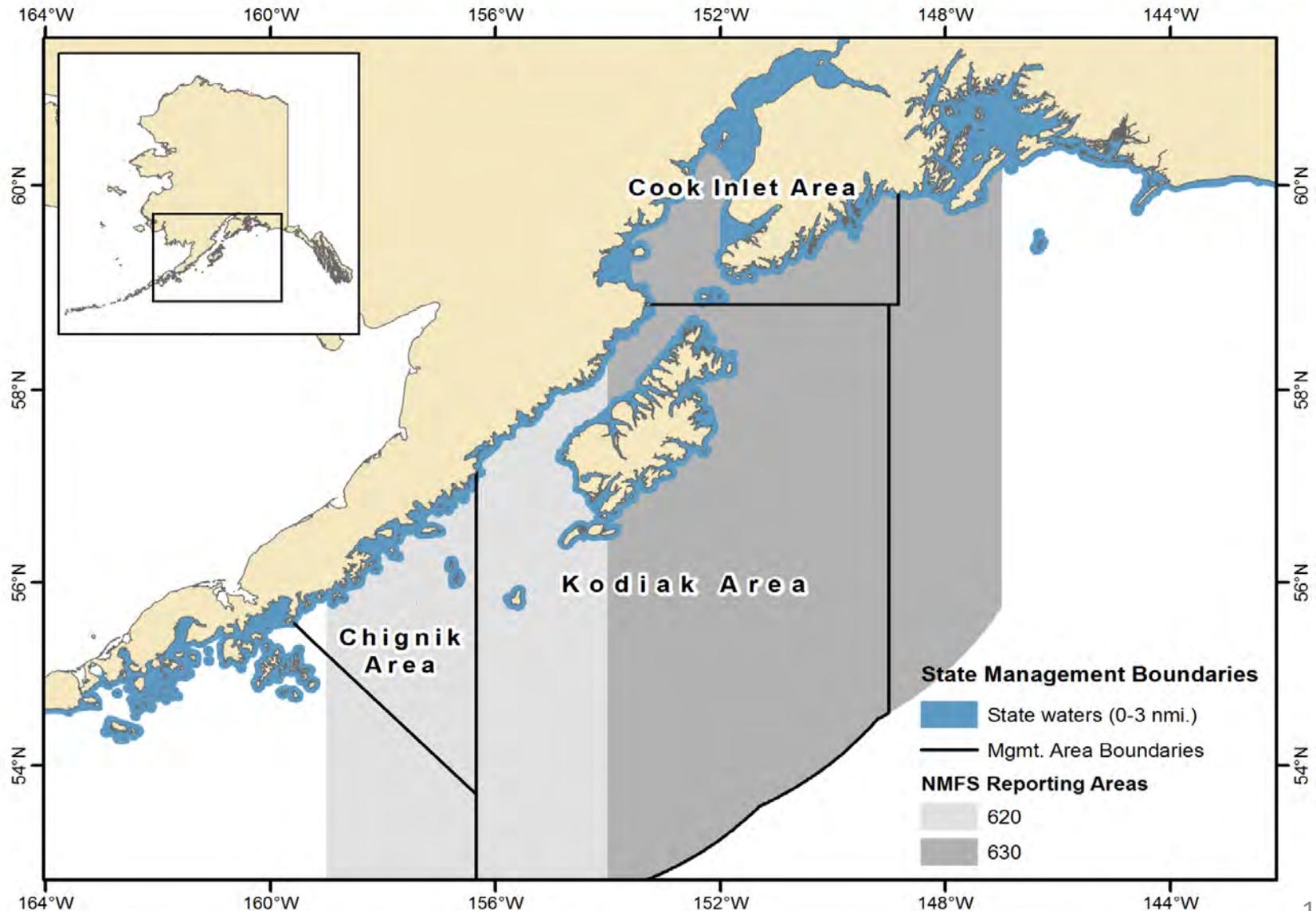
Proposal 43 - Observer Coverage

- 100% onboard observer coverage funded by vessel
- No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
 - Significant program development, funding, and coordination
- Federally permitted vessels subject to federal observer requirements during existing federal/parallel fisheries
 - **Full coverage (100%)**: Most catcher-processors
 - **Partial coverage (less than 100%)**: Most trawl and fixed gear catcher-vessels
 - Funded through fees on retained catch

Proposal 43 - Closed Waters



Proposal 44 – Create state-waters walleye pollock fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas



Proposal 44 – State-waters pollock

Proposal Elements

- GHUs based on Area 620 and 630 pollock ABCs
- Require 100% observer coverage
- Limit vessels to maximum of 58 feet in length
- Legal gear: pelagic trawl, nonpelagic trawl, seine, and jig
- Establish season dates and landing limits



Proposal 44 – Pollock GHLs

- Proposed GHL based on 25% of federal areas 620 and 630 pollock ABCs

Pollock ABCs (2008-2012)

Area 620: 31-101 million pounds

Area 630: 24-58 million pounds

Proposed GHLs (25%)

Area 620: 8-25 million pounds

Area 630: 6-15 million pounds

- State-waters GHLs: 14-40 million pounds (avg. 25 million)
- Increase pollock harvest inside state-waters
 - Reduce federal pollock quotas
 - SSL critical habitat

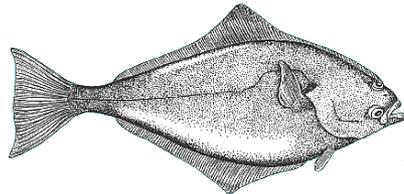
Proposal 44 - Observer Coverage

- 100% onboard observer coverage funded by vessel
- No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
- Federally permitted trawl vessels subject to federal observer requirements for existing federal/parallel fisheries
- No proposed PSC caps (king salmon)
 - Observer program objectives



Proposal 45 - Require 100% observer coverage for all trawl vessels targeting groundfish inside state waters

- Improve halibut, salmon, and Tanner crab bycatch estimation
- Parallel trawl fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Cook Inlet areas
 - Most state waters closed to nonpelagic trawl gear
 - Most state waters open to pelagic trawl gear (pollock)
- No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
 - Significant program development, funding, and coordination
- No State of Alaska prohibited species catch (PSC) caps for trawl gear



Proposal Considerations

- Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries complex
 - ABC allocation
 - Prohibited species catch
 - Observer programs
 - Endangered species considerations (SSL)
 - Closed waters
- Require development and coordination
- Staff available to provide additional information