



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

September/October 2011

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

Salmon Troll Fishery

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2011. The summer fishery targets the majority of the annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in two open periods during the July 1 – 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, excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150.

Total catch from the first retention period was 120,516 Chinook salmon and 117,183 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon. Harvest from the second retention period was 29,686 Chinook salmon and 28,761 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

Fish ticket reports indicate that 13% of the summer Chinook salmon harvest and 2% of the summer Coho salmon harvest occurred in the EEZ.

Scallops

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2011. The Kamishak District of Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound opened in mid-August. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2011/12 season is 493,400 pounds of shucked meats, a 6% decrease from the 2010/11 cumulative GHL.

Total harvest to date is just over 343,000 pounds. Fishing is now closed in the Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor areas. Fishing continues in Yakutat, Cook Inlet, and the Bering Sea. Further information is available on the department's website at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us>

Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
		Tanner Crab	King Crab
YAKUTAT			
Area D	160,000	N/A	N/A
District 16	25,000	N/A	N/A
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND			
(East Kayak)	8,400	1,643	N/A
COOK INLET	10,000	3,200	30
KODIAK			
Northeast District	70,000	147,956	8
Shelikof District	135,000	27,636	134
Southwest District ¹	25,000	12,000	50
Semidi District	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
ALASKA PENINSULA			
<i>Closed for the 2011/12 season</i>			
DUTCH HARBOR	10,000	10,000	10
BERING SEA	50,000	65,000	500
		300,000	<i>C. bairdi</i> <i>C. opilio and hybrids</i>
¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in the SW District			

Norton Sound Red King Crab

The Norton Sound red king crab summer fishery opened on June 28, 2011 with a total quota of 358,000 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent or 26,850 pounds and the remaining 331,150 pounds was allocated to the open access fishery. The Norton Sound season lasted 33 days, closing on July 30, 2011, and was the shortest season since the fishery was designated as super-exclusive in 1994. Twenty-four permit holders harvested nearly 401,000 pounds of red king crab, which exceeded the GHL by ~12% and equated to a 10.1% exploitation rate on legal males.

The ex-vessel value was estimated at just over two million dollars and prices paid to fishermen ranged from \$5.04 to \$5.35 per pound.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2011/12 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2011. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.835 million pounds. Through September 24, 2011, approximately 1.38 million pounds have been harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Catch for this fishery is confidential given the number of participants. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2012.

Central Region Pacific Cod

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 3.49

million pounds (1,583 mt). The jig fishery remained open through September 1, 2011; total jig harvest to date is 494,305 pounds (224 mt) or 44% of the jig allocation. Unharvested jig allocation can be released to all legal gear types on September 1, although the state-fishery is currently closed so that state-waters can be open to the parallel fishery. 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%.

Westward Region Pacific cod

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). Through August 8, 2011, the jig fleet harvested 20% of their 1,038,134-pound (471 mt) Pacific cod GHL. On August 15, the Chignik Area re-opened to pot gear as per the state-waters management plan.

The department closed the state-waters Pacific cod season closed on September 1, 2011 and immediately reopened state-waters to the Pacific cod federal B-season.

Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod

The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod A season opened in late March with a GHL of just over 10.8 million pounds (4,900 mt). Two vessels participated in the short A-season, so the harvest remains confidential.

The state-waters B-season opened on June 10, 2011 and the maximum allowable amount was rolled over from the A-season which resulted in a B-season GHL of 10.8 million pounds. Three vessels (all longline) participated in the B season and harvested approximately 52,000 pounds (23.6mt) of Pacific cod. Although only one processor participated, this information is not confidential, as they signed an agreement allowing us to report harvest. The department closed the state-waters Pacific cod fishery on September 1, 2011 and immediately reopened state-waters to the parallel fishery.

In accordance with recent Board of Fisheries actions, during a parallel season, state-waters between 175° W longitude and 178° W longitude are open to trawl, pot, jig, and hand troll gear by vessels that are no more than 60 feet in overall length, and to fishing with longline gear by vessels that are no more than 58 feet in length. In this area, the Steller sea lion protection measures in place prior to 2011 are in effect during the parallel season.

The state-waters B season will reopen after the federal pot fishery closes.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

**Pacific cod for Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas
October 6 – 10, 2011, Anchorage**

Gulf of Alaska

- 1 Review licensing and reporting requirements for parallel Pacific cod fisheries for coordination with federal Pacific cod fisheries (R. Hubbard).
- 2 Require federal LLP license and observer when participating in a parallel Pacific cod fishery (B. Laukitis).

Kodiak

- 3 Develop regulations to coordinate state and federal Pacific cod fisheries (ADF&G).

Chignik

- 9 Develop regulations to coordinate state and federal Pacific cod fisheries (ADF&G).
- 14 Establish 14-day stand-down period for vessels using pot gear in a Pacific cod fishery prior to registering for the Chignik state-waters Pacific cod season (D. Bumpus and A. Anderson).

Chignik and South Alaska Peninsula

- 18 Implement 7-day stand-down for vessels that fished Pacific cod in the BS-AI Area before registering for the Chignik or South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fisheries (K. Mack).

South Alaska Peninsula

- 19 Develop regulations to coordinate state and federal Pacific cod fisheries (ADF&G).

Prince William Sound

- 36 Allow only vessels without a federal Pacific cod endorsement to participate in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery (R. Smith).
- 37 Require that Pacific cod from other areas be landed before a vessel participates in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery (ADF&G).
- 39 Develop regulations governing the state-waters Pacific cod fishery (ADF&G).

Cook Inlet

- 42 Develop regulations governing the state-waters Pacific cod fishery (ADF&G).

Southeast and Yakutat Finfish

February 24 – March 4, 2012, Ketchikan

Rockfish

- 212 Increase the sport allocation of demersal shelf rockfish to 25 percent (SE AK Guides).

Statewide Dungeness crab, shrimp, & miscellaneous shellfish

March 20 – 23, 2012, Anchorage

Statewide scallop

- 350 Allow scallop harvest from multiple registration areas when an observer is aboard (AK Scallop Association).

Prince William Sound scallop

- 351 Establish new management district subsections for scallop in PWS (ADF&G).

Westward scallop

- 352 Open specified waters currently closed in Registration Area M to scallop fishing (AK Scallop Association).
- 353 Open specified waters currently closed in Registration Area M to scallop fishing (AK Scallop Association).
- 354 Amend regulatory description for Registration Area J in description of the area, fishing seasons and closed waters (ADF&G).

Agenda Change Requests: to be considered and scheduled at the BOF work session
 October 4-5, 2011, Anchorage

ACR 6 Amend the maximum allowable harvest in Norton Sound red king crab fishery to align with revised harvest rates based on recent population model (C. Lean).

ACR 9 Increase total allowable catch in the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery due to lack of adoption of new stock assessment model by crab plan team (L. Kozak).

Figure 2

Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

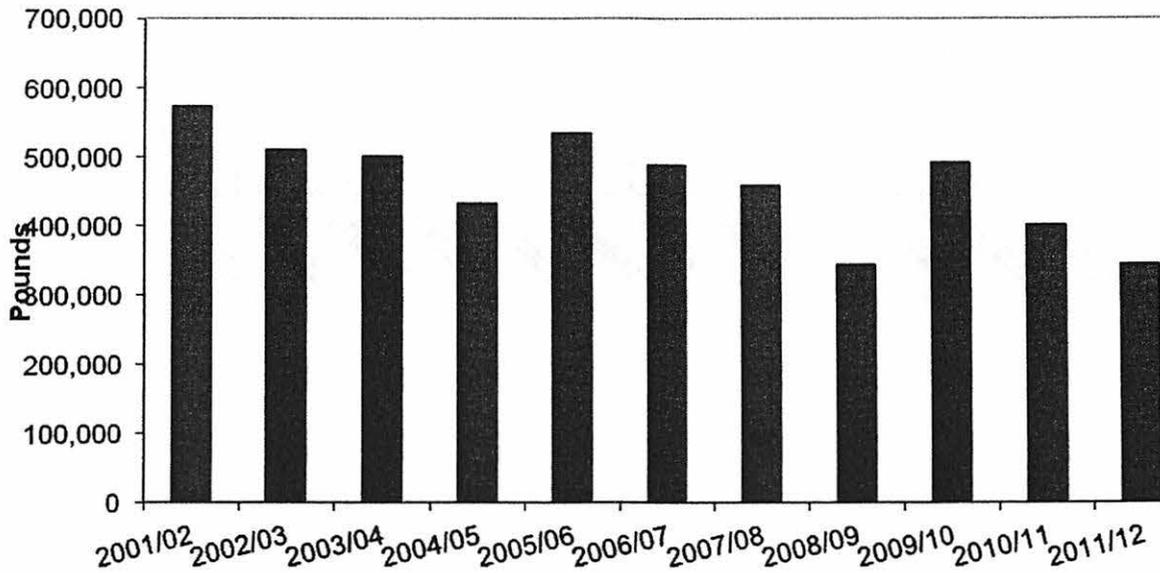


Figure 3

Norton Sound open access summer fishery

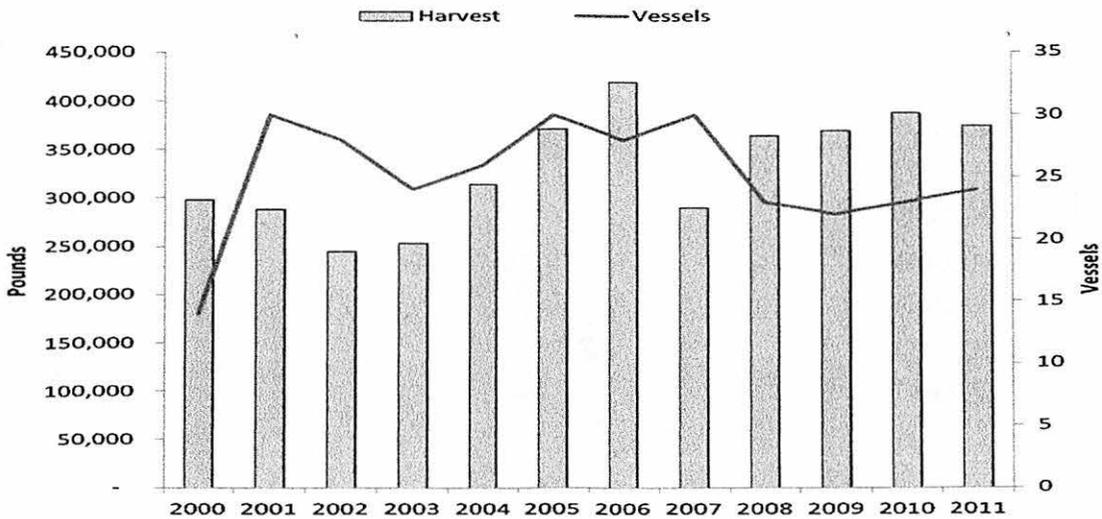


Figure 4

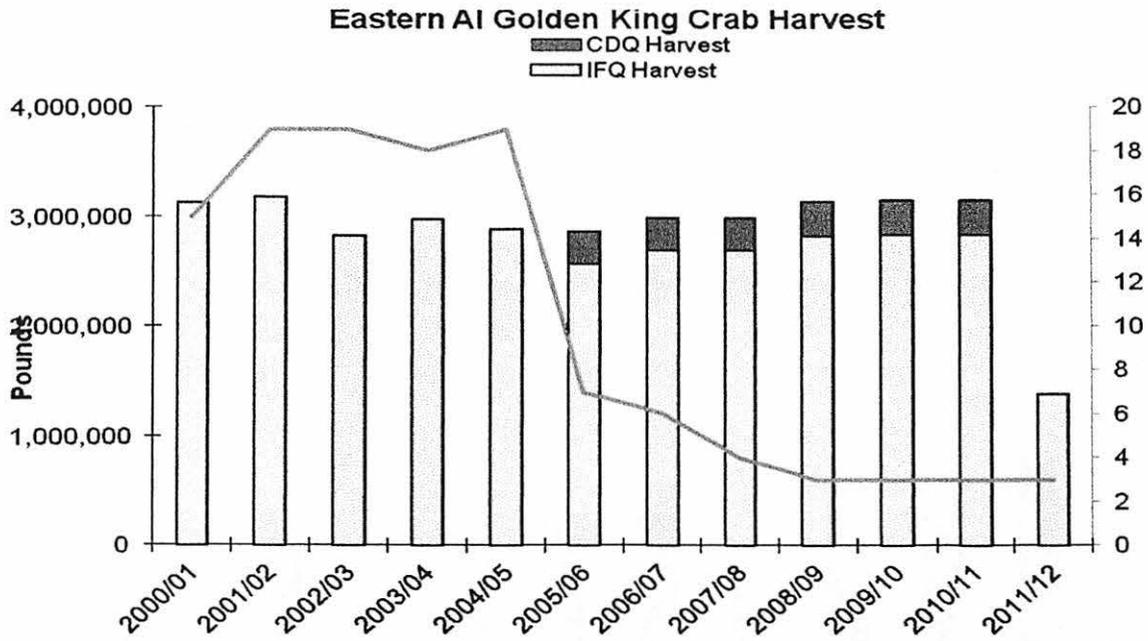


Figure 5

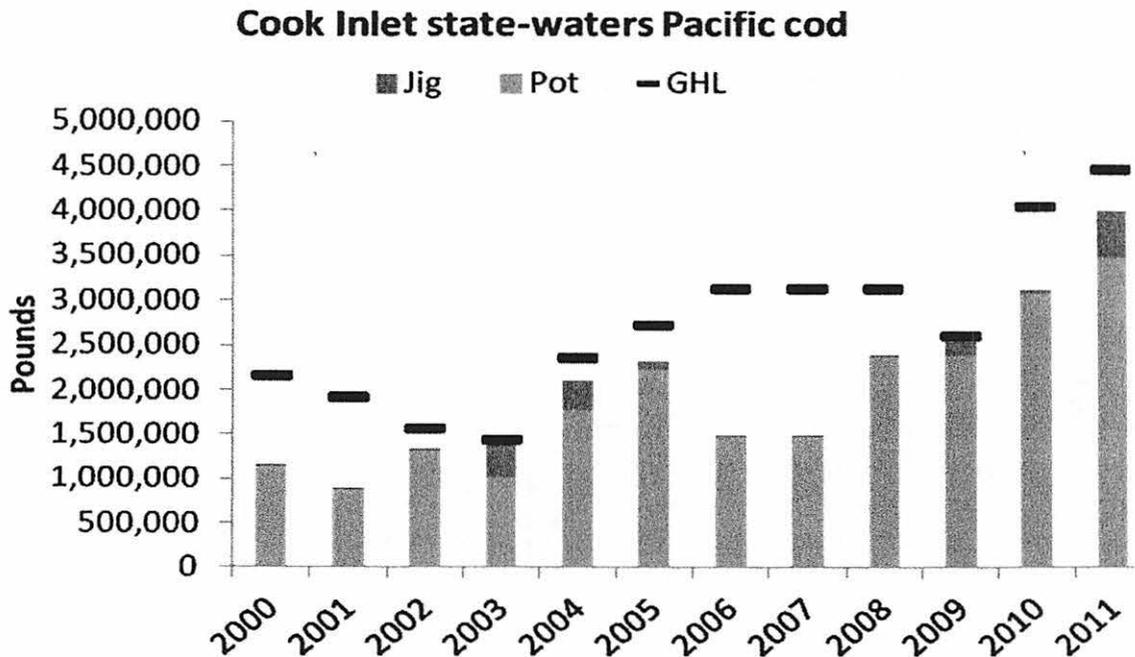


Figure 6

