



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

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last state report to the Council include those for crab and groundfish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2024/25 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2024, for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2024, for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. All fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2025. The overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) are set by the Council and ADF&G sets the total allowable catch (TAC) so that total removals do not exceed the ABC. For the 2024/25 fishing year, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is 4.88 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude. The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.76 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 1.12 million pounds. Ten percent of the EAG TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the WAG TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. Individual area harvest is confidential but 4.5 million pounds, 93% of the combined TAC, has been harvested (Figure 1).

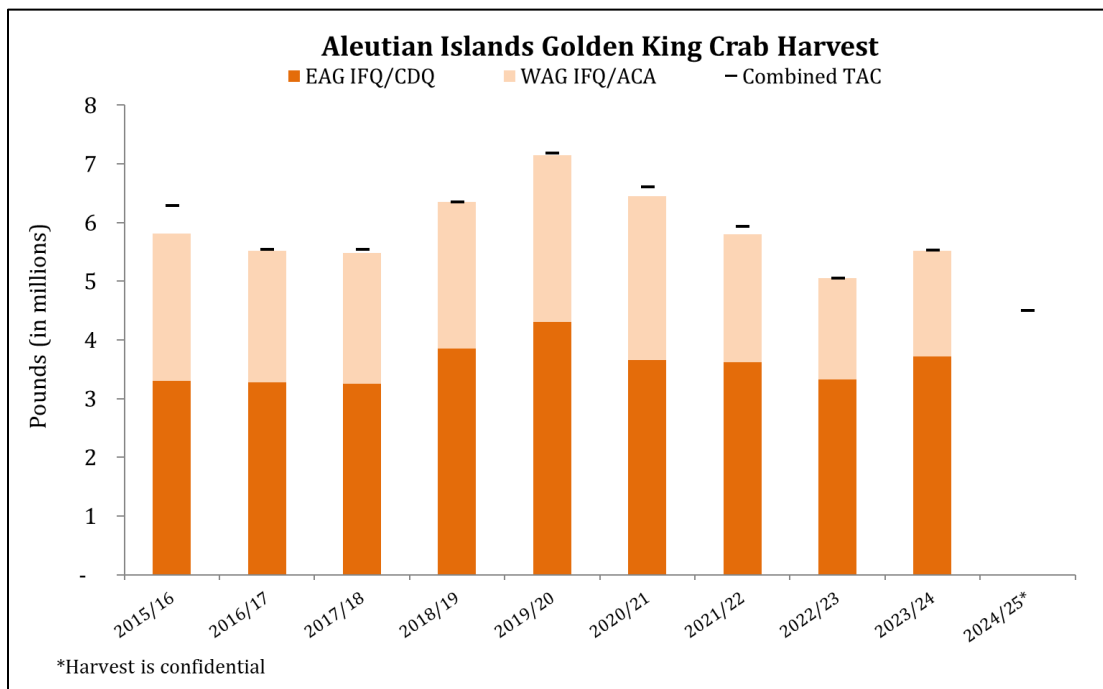


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2015/16 – 2024/25 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2024/25 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in both the western area (west of 166° west longitude) and eastern area (between 166° west longitude and 163° west longitude) on October 15, 2024, and closed by regulation on March 31, 2025. The TAC in the western area is set at 4.50 million pounds and the TAC in the eastern area is 1.77 million pounds; 10% of the TAC in each area is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Through March 24, 2025, 3.6 million pounds, 80% of the TAC, has been harvested in the western area and 1.70 million pounds, 96% of the TAC, has been harvested in the eastern area (Figure 2).

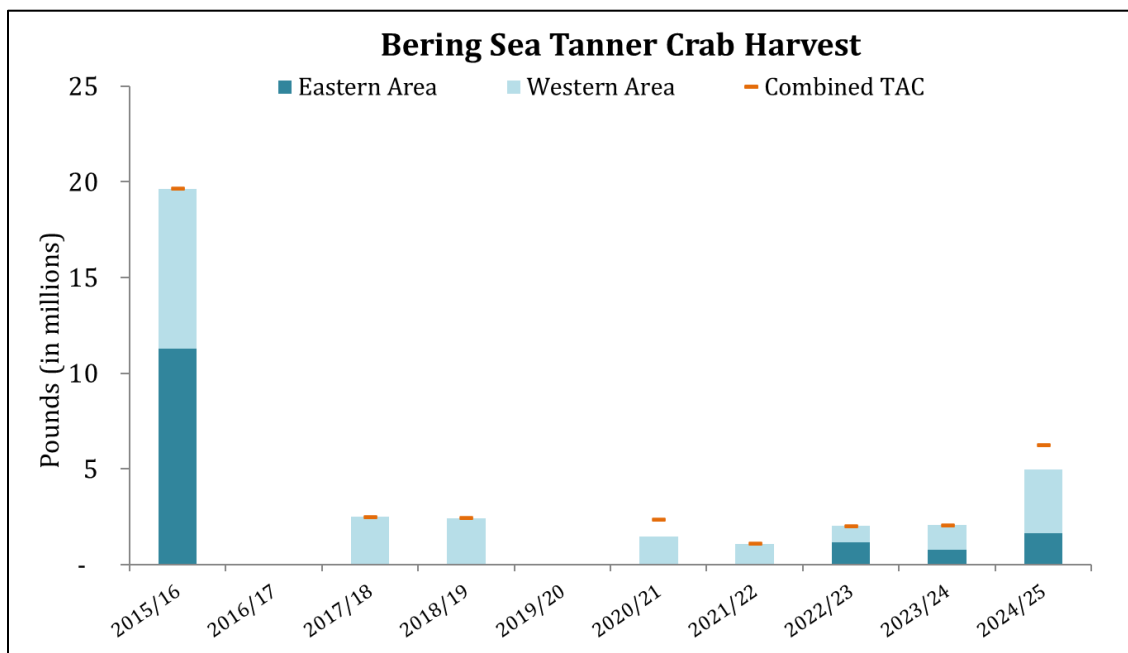


Figure 2. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2015/16 – 2024/25 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Eastern Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2024, and will remain open through May 15, 2025, in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and through May 31, 2025, in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2024/25 snow crab TAC is 4.72 million pounds and 10% of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Through March 24, 26 vessels have harvested 4.3 million pounds, 92% of the TAC (Figure 3).

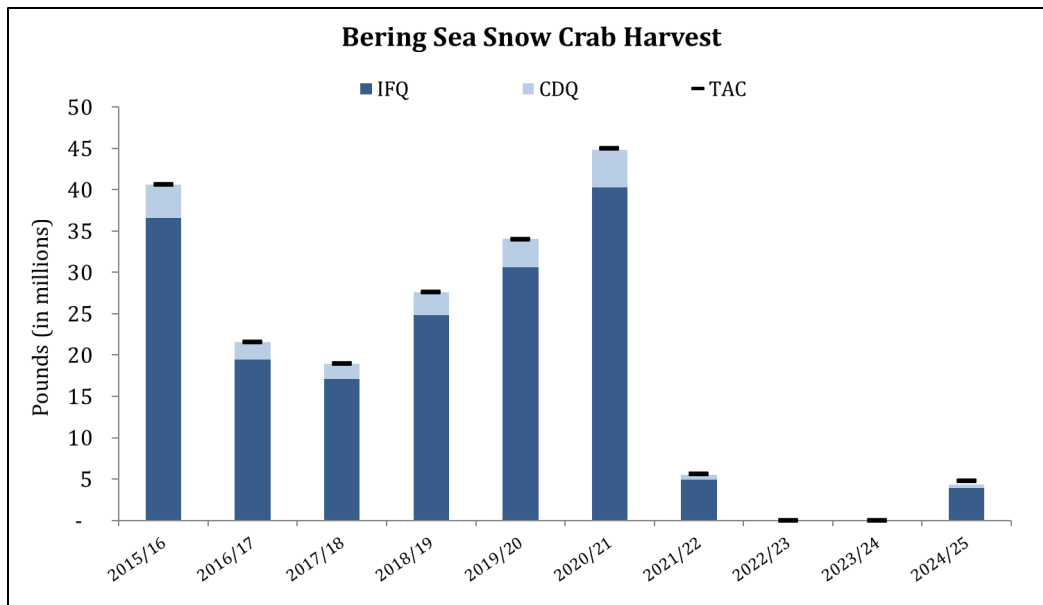


Figure 3. Eastern Bering Sea snow crab harvest, 2015/16 – 2024/25 seasons.

Norton Sound Red King Crab

The Norton Sound red king crab Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for 2025 is 410,000 pounds with 92% allocated to the summer season and 8% allocated to the winter season. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5% of the total GHL, 30,750 pounds, which can be harvested during the winter or summer seasons. The 2025 winter season opened February 1 and closes on April 30, 2025. To date there has been no harvest in the winter fishery. After the winter season closes, any remaining GHL from the winter season can be rolled over to the summer season.

Pollock

The state-waters directed pollock fishery occurs in Prince William Sound and opened on January 20, 2025, with a GHL of 9.1 million pounds. The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Port Bainbridge. In December 2024, the Alaska Board of Fisheries repealed the 60% pollock section cap to prevent moving the fleet when bycatch rates are low. The 60% section cap is still in effect for rockfish and salmon. Total bycatch is limited to 5% of the directed walleye pollock weight and is apportioned into three species groups: salmon (0.04%); rockfish (0.5%); and sharks, squid, and other species (4.46%). The fishery closed on February 15, 2025, with a total harvest of 9.1 million pounds (Figure 4).

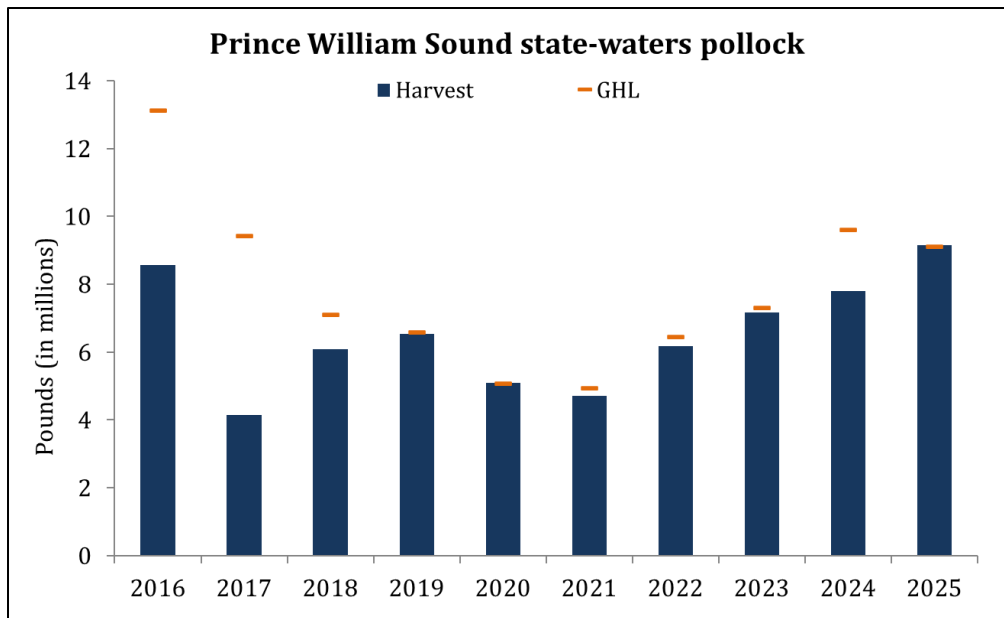


Figure 4. Prince William Sound pollock harvest and GHL, 2016-2025.

Pacific Cod

State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in Prince William Sound (PWS), Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. The GHLs are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs and 2025 GHLs are as follows:

State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2025 GHL (pounds)	2025 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	806,065	366
			Longline	806,065	366
Chignik	CGOA - 25%	8.75%	Jig	395,566	179
			Pot	3,560,093	1,615
Kodiak		12.50%	Jig	2,825,470	1,281
			Pot	2,825,470	1,281
Cook Inlet		3.75%	Jig	254,295	115
			Pot	1,441,005	654
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	864,093	392
			Pot	4,896,527	2,221
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 13%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	44,026,724	19,970
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 35%		All	10,321,149	4,682

Prince William Sound

The 2025 GHL for PWS (Eastern Gulf of Alaska) is 1.612 million pounds and is allocated 50% to longline gear and 50% to pot and jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on February 8 and closed on March 11. The fishery opened to vessels fishing with longline gear on March 20. Harvest in both fisheries is confidential.

Chignik

The 2025 GHL for the Chignik Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 3.956 million pounds and is allocated 90% to pot gear and 10% to jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on March 1 and to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15. Through March 24, 5.028 million pounds have been harvested with pot gear and there has been no effort with jig gear (Figure 5).

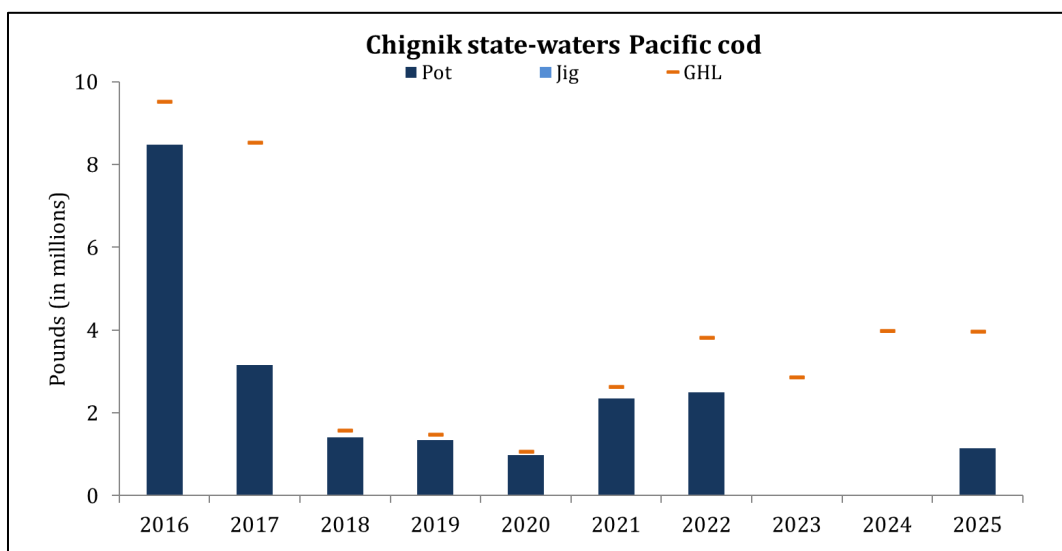


Figure 5. Chignik Pacific cod harvest by gear and GH L, 2016-2025.

Kodiak

The 2025 GH L for the Kodiak Area (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 5.651 million pounds and is allocated 50% to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50% to pot gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels using pot gear on February 14 and closed to vessels greater than 58 feet in length on February 26 and closed to all vessels using pot gear on April 1 when the GH L was achieved (Figure 6). The jig fishery opened on January 1 and remains open with a total of 1.954 million pounds harvested through the end of March.

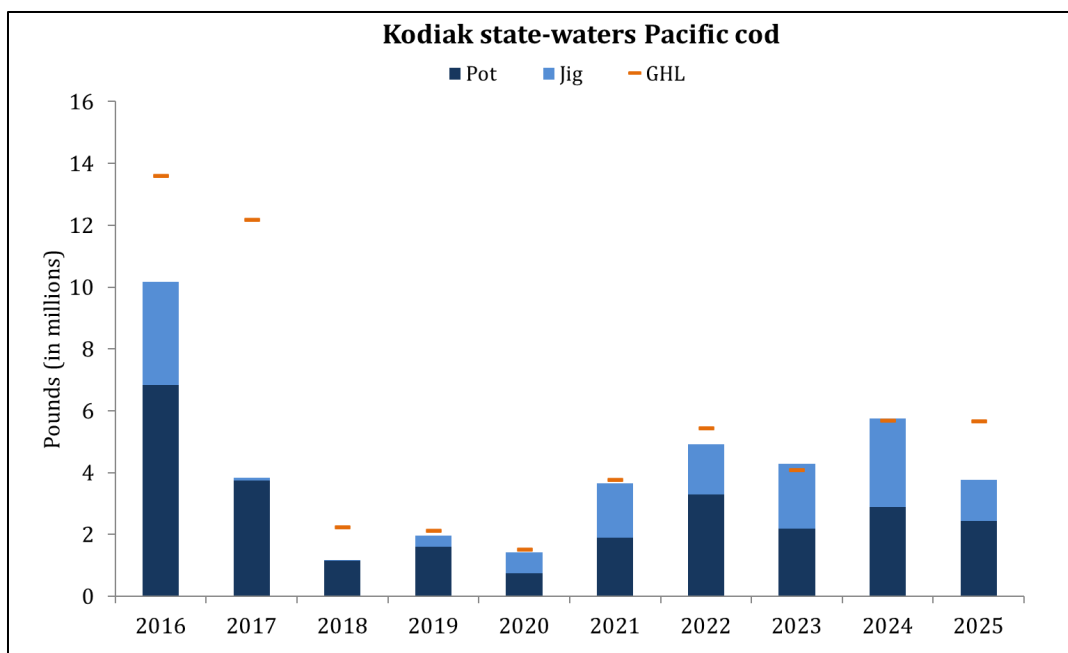


Figure 6. Kodiak Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

Cook Inlet

The 2025 GHL for Cook Inlet (Central Gulf of Alaska) is 1.695 million pounds with 85% allocated to pot gear and 15% allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 8 and closed on March 19, with a total harvest of 1.440 million pounds (Figure 7). The jig fishery will open following the closure of the federal jig gear fishery in the Central Gulf of Alaska.

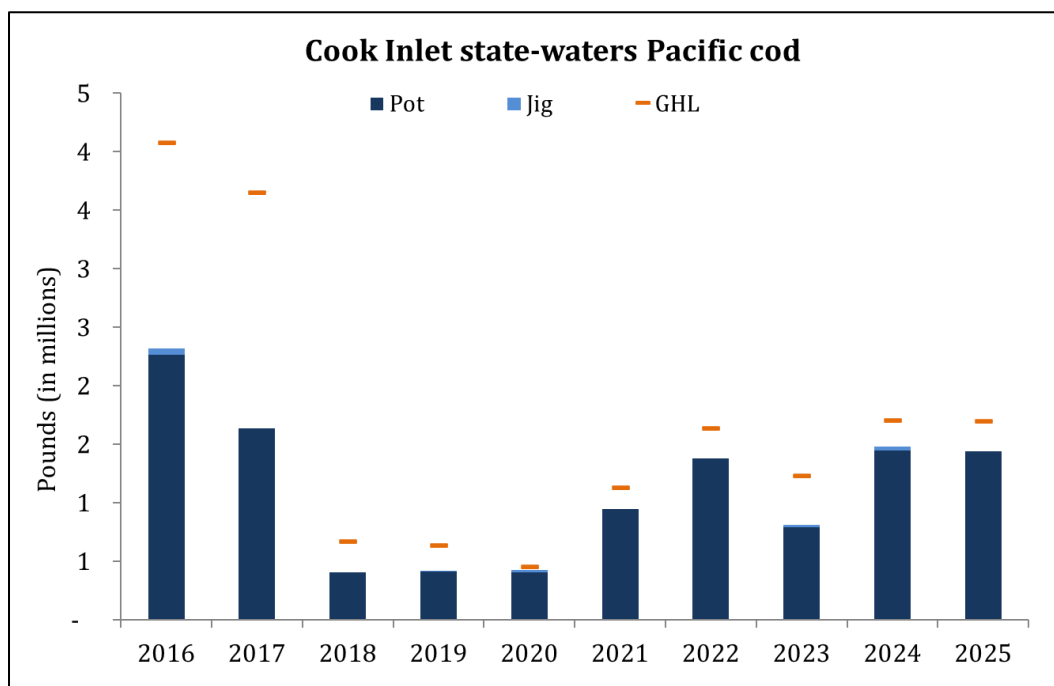


Figure 7. Cook Inlet Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

South Alaska Peninsula

The 2025 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula (Western Gulf of Alaska) is 5.760 million pounds and is allocated 85% to pot gear and 15% to jig gear. The state-waters fishery opened to vessels fishing with pot gear on March 7 and closed on March 18. Vessels using pot gear harvested 5.028 million pounds (Figure 8). The fishery opened to vessels fishing with jig gear on March 15 and there has been no effort in the jig fishery.

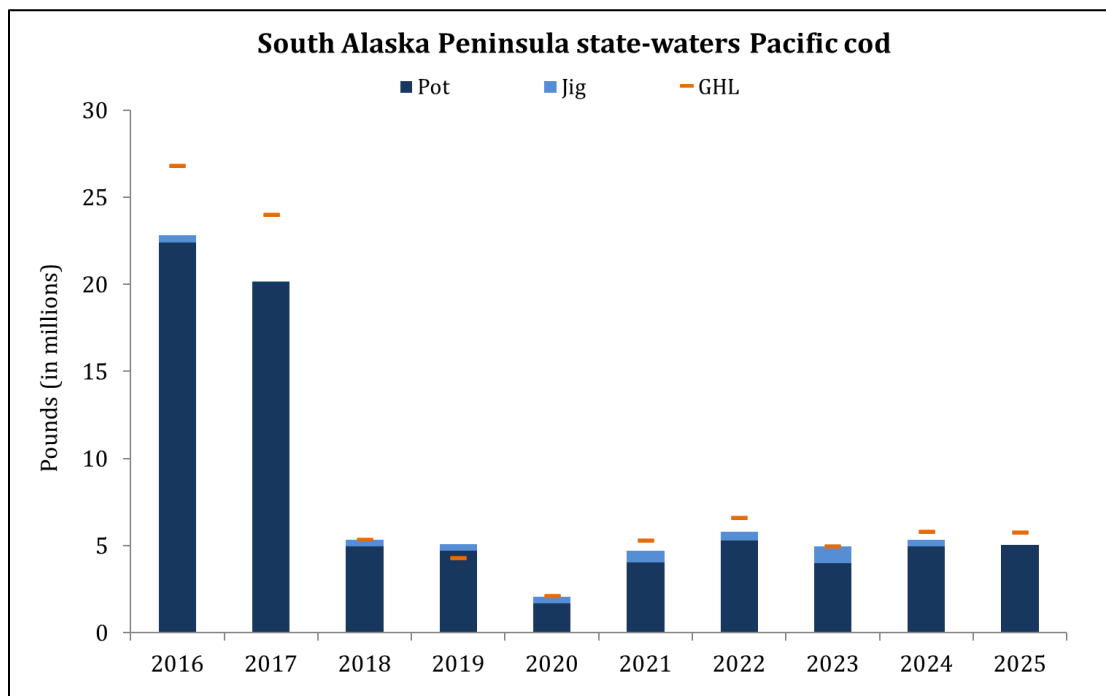


Figure 8. South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

Dutch Harbor

In 2025, the GHL in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict increased from 12% to 13% of the Bering Sea ABC because over 90% of the GHL was achieved in both 2023 and 2024. The 2025 GHL for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 44.126 million pounds, with 44.026 million pounds allocated to pot gear and 100,000 pounds allocated to jig gear. The state-waters pot fishery opened on January 28 and total harvest through March 30 is 32.911 million pounds (Figure 9).

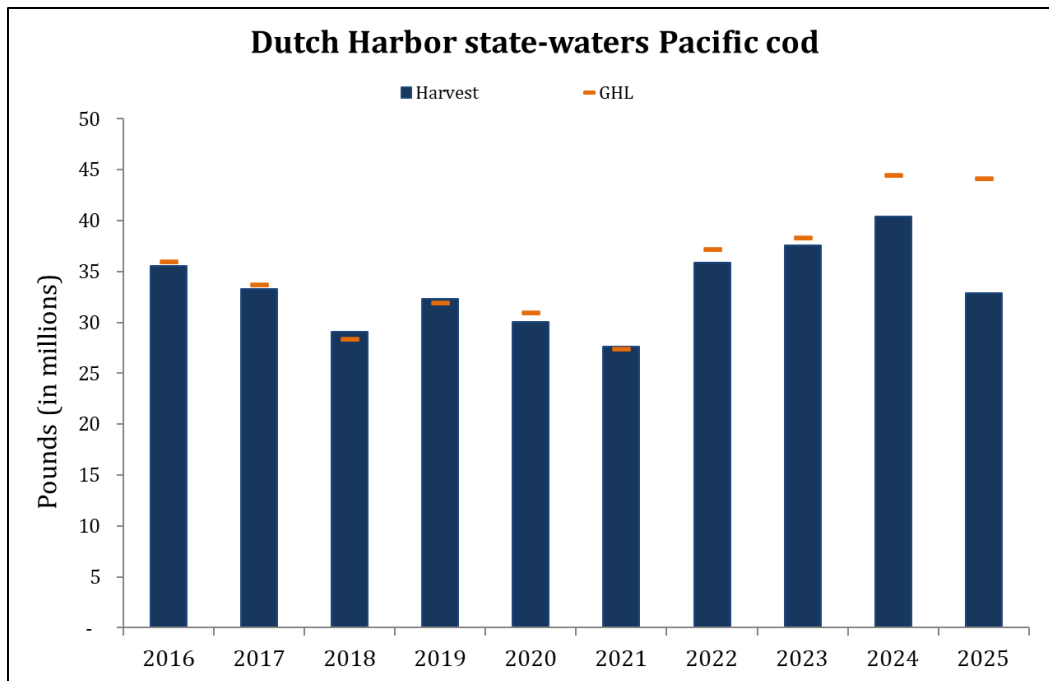


Figure 9. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod harvest by gear and GHL, 2016-2025.

Aleutian Islands

The 2025 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL is 10.321 million pounds which is 35% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The state-waters fishery in the Adak Section, between 175° west longitude and 178° west longitude, opened January 1 to vessels 60 feet or less, except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to a length of 58 feet. Following the closure of the federal fishery on February 1, all state waters of the AIS opened to vessels 100 feet or less using pot gear, vessels 60 feet or less using nonpelagic trawl or mechanical jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less using longline gear. On March 16, ADF&G determined that the GHL would not be caught before December 31 because no state-waters harvest had occurred, so the fishery opened to vessels 125 feet or less using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less using nonpelagic trawl gear, vessels 60 feet or less using jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less using longline gear. Additionally, daily harvest limits, exclusive area designation, and harvest limits for pot vessels greater than 60 feet were removed. The current harvest is confidential.

Aleutian Islands Sablefish

The Aleutian Islands state-water sablefish fishery opened on March 20, 2025, with a GHL of 2.73 million pounds. To date, 857,000 pounds have been harvested and the fishery closes by regulation on December 7 or when the GHL is achieved.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

During the 2024/25 cycle, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made the following changes to fishing regulations that may be of interest to the Council.

PWS pollock: In December 2024, the BOF repealed the 60% pollock section cap to prevent moving the fleet when bycatch rates are low. The 60% section cap is still in effect for rockfish and salmon and there is a mandatory retention requirement for all pollock, rockfish, and salmon.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab: In March 2025, the BOF adopted regulations to create a state waters AIGKC fishery east of 169° W longitude. The fishery is open to vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length and the GHLL cannot exceed 50,000 pounds. There is a total fishery pot limit of 400 pots and a vessel limit of no more than 90 pots; each pot must be individually buoyed and marked. The season is open from September 1 through April 30, unless closed earlier by emergency order and fishing gear may only be operated from 8:00 a.m. to 7:59 p.m.

The Board is currently accepting proposed changes to fishing regulations for the 2025/26 cycle which includes Bristol Bay; Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim; Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik; and Statewide finfish management areas. Proposals are due April 10, 2025, at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. Proposals may be submitted by mail, fax, or online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms>