



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 2025**

Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon troll fishery: The summer troll fishery opened July 1, 2025. The summer fishery targets the annual Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook salmon catch limit 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 5AAC 29.150. Chinook salmon harvest during the summer troll fishery was 55,717 fish and 54,328 of those fish are estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon (Figure 1).

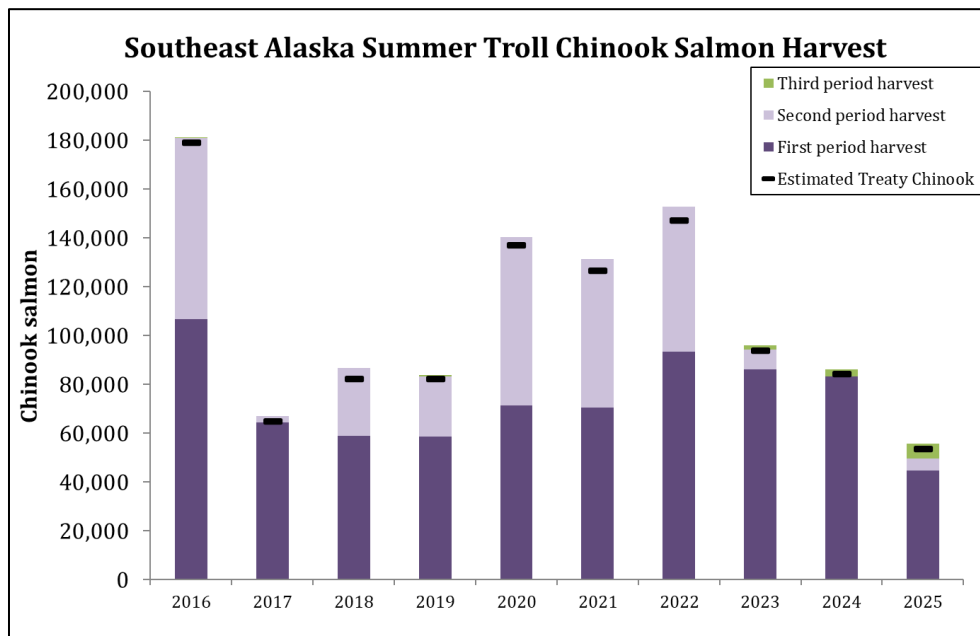


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon summer troll harvest by harvest period, 2016-2025.

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands crab fisheries: The overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) are set by the Council and ADF&G sets the total allowable catch (TAC) or guideline harvest level (GHL) so that total removals do not exceed the ABC.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab: The 2025/26 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on August 1, 2025, for the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ), and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. All fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2026.

The 2025/26 season Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is 4.19 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude (Figure 2). The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.32 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 0.87 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 across both areas, total harvest is 3.0 million pounds by four vessels and one vessel remains active in the fishery.

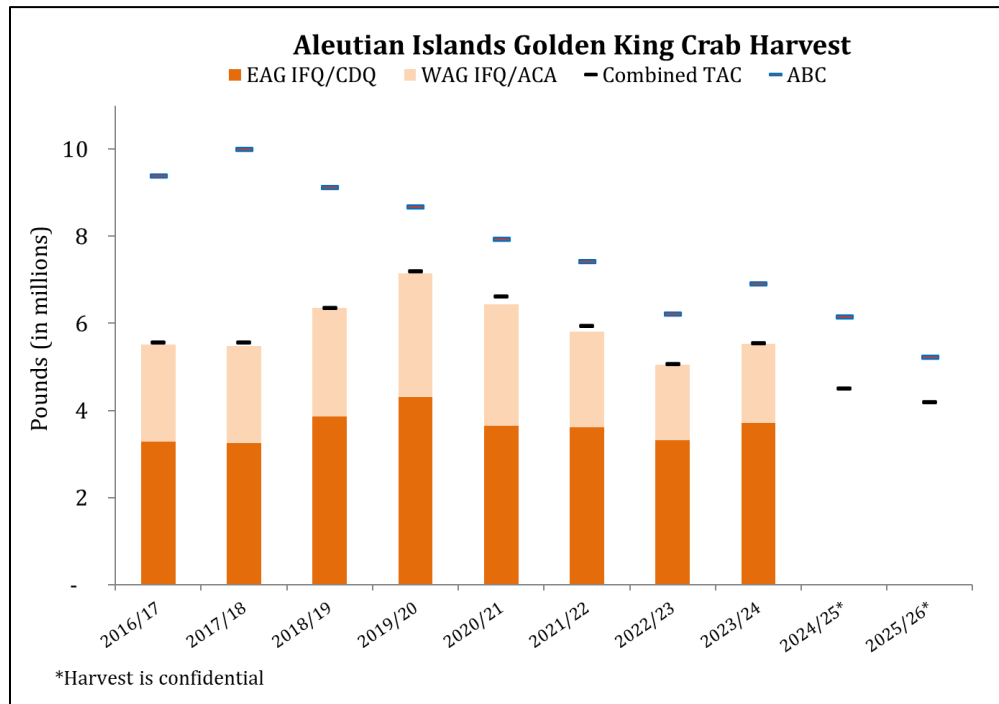


Figure 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

New regulations adopted at the March 2025 Board of Fisheries meeting established an open-access commercial fishery for golden king crab in state waters east of 169 W long. The GHL for the state-waters fishery is 50,000 pounds and the season opened on September 1, 2025. Pot vessels must be 58 feet or less in overall length to participate in the fishery. The fishery has a maximum pot limit of 400 pots and based on the number of vessels registered for the fishery, each vessel may use no more than 90 pots. No harvest has occurred, and one vessel is currently registered for the fishery.

Norton Sound Red King Crab: The Norton Sound red king crab 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 or 30,750 pounds, with 50% allocated to Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) and 50% allocated to Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA).

The 2025 winter commercial fishery opened February 1 and closed by regulation on April 30 with a total harvest of 8,207 pounds, 25% of the winter GHL, by seven permit holders. The remaining winter GHL was rolled over to the summer season for a total summer GHL of 371,043 pounds. The summer fishery opened on June 15 and closed on June 26. The initial harvest from the summer fishery was below the GHL and the summer fishery re-opened for 24-hrs on July 11 to target the remaining 53,000 pounds. Total summer fishery harvest was 343,372 pounds or 93% of the GHL by 31 vessels (Figure 3). The CDQ fishery opened June 15, and four CDQ-registered crabbers harvested NSEDC’s total allocation of 15,375 pounds. The YDFDA allocation was not harvested.

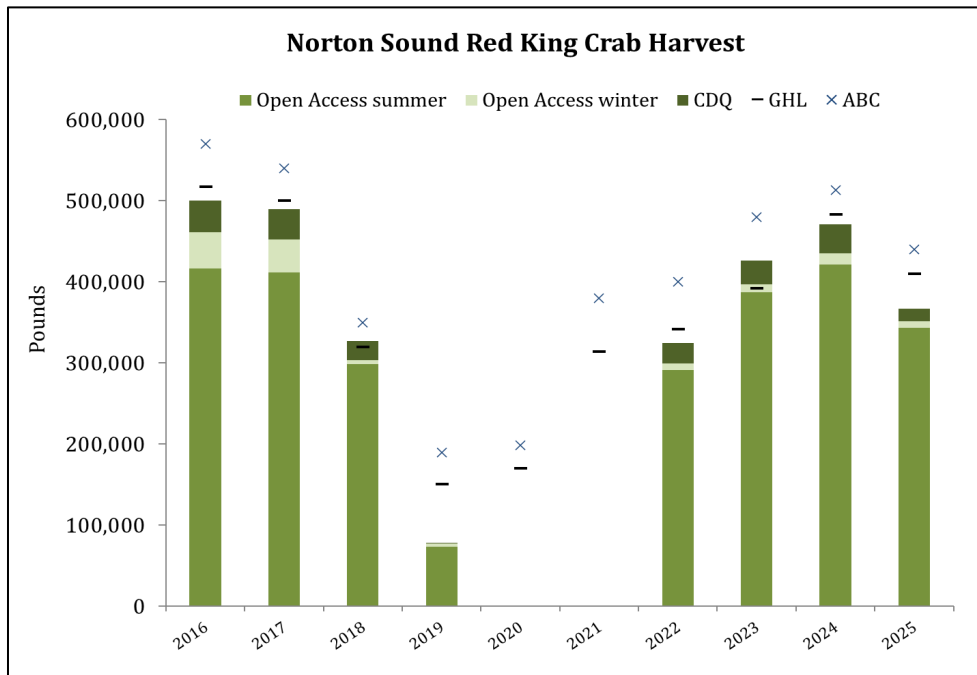


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab harvest by fishery, 2016-2025 seasons.

Bristol Bay red king crab: The 2025/26 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, with a TAC of 2.68 million pounds (Figure 4). Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Thirty-seven vessels participated this season, up from 21 in 2024/25. Through November 21, the fleet harvested 100% of the CDQ allocation and 99% of the IFQ allocation.

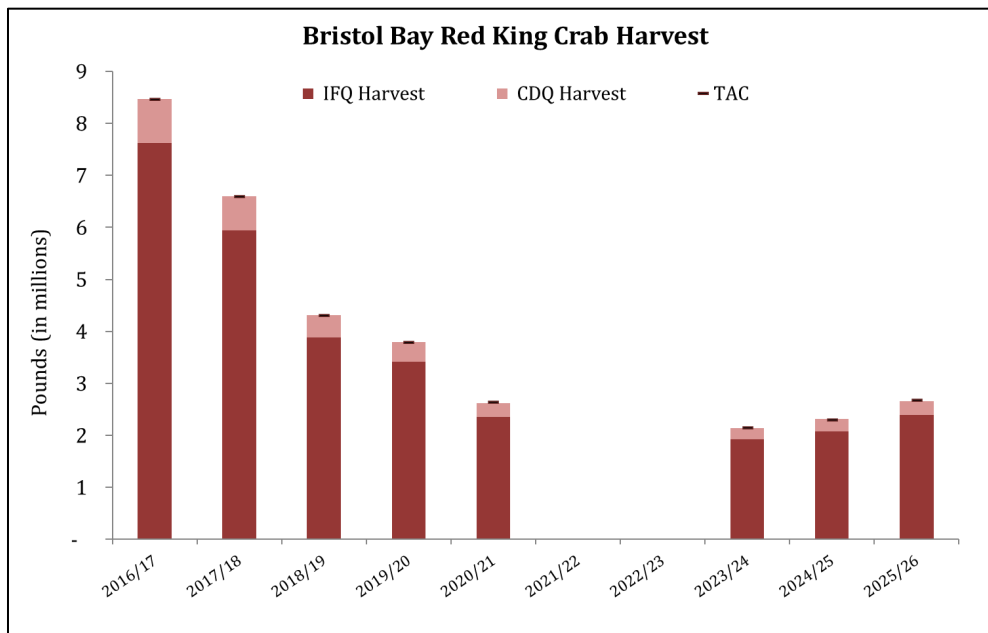


Figure 4. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Bering Sea Tanner crab: The 2025/26 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. The TAC in the western area is 10.12 million pounds and the TAC in the eastern area is 1.13 million pounds; 10% of the TAC in each area is allocated to the CDQ fishery.

Through November 21, vessels have harvested 47% of the eastern TAC and 5% of the western TAC (Figure 5).

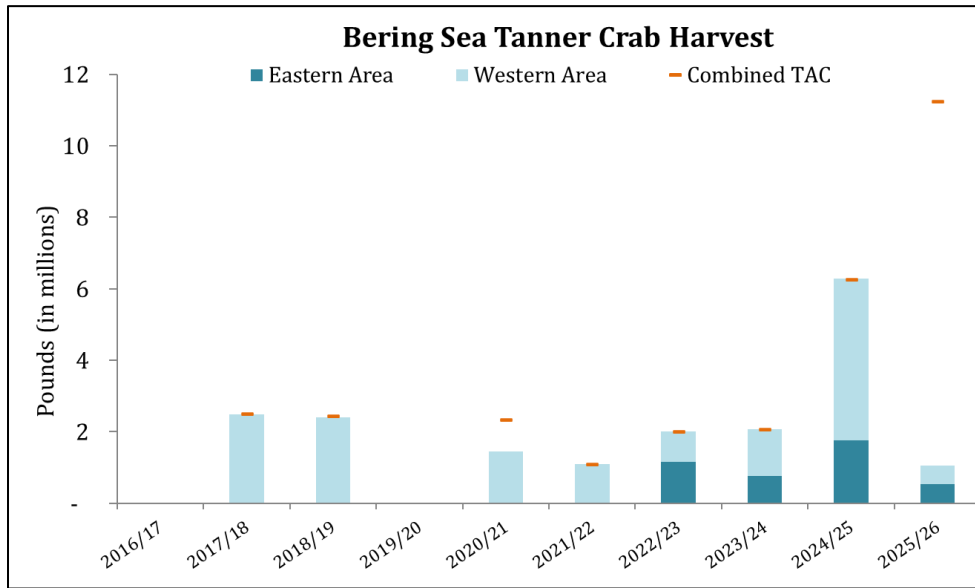


Figure 5. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea snow crab: The 2025/26 Eastern Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15 with a TAC of 9.3 million pounds (Figure 6). Currently no vessels are registered for the fishery and limited harvest has occurred incidentally to the directed Tanner crab fishery in the western area.

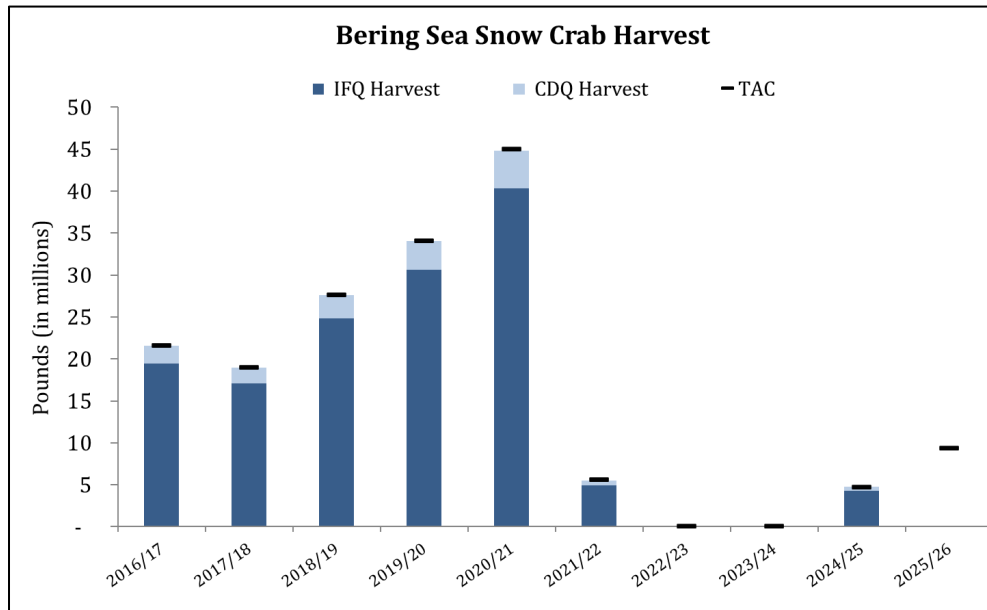


Figure 6. Eastern Bering sea snow crab harvest, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Statewide Weathervane Scallops: Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bering Sea Registration Areas opened on July 1, 2025. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2025/26 season is 374,700 pounds of shucked meats (Table 1). The Bering Sea waters of the Dutch Harbor Area closed on July 10, the Unimak Bight waters of the Alaska Peninsula Area closed on July 18, the Yakutat area closed on September 13, the Northeast District of the Kodiak Area closed on September 22, and the Shelikof

District of the Kodiak Area closed on October 16, 2025. Through November 25, total harvest is 316,450 pounds (Figure 7).

Table 1. Alaska Weathervane scallop GHLs for 2025/26 season and crab bycatch limits.

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</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	7,200	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	40,000	24,000	25
	Shelikof District	100,000	60,000	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	4,500	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>C. opilio & hybrids</i>	
			11,250	

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

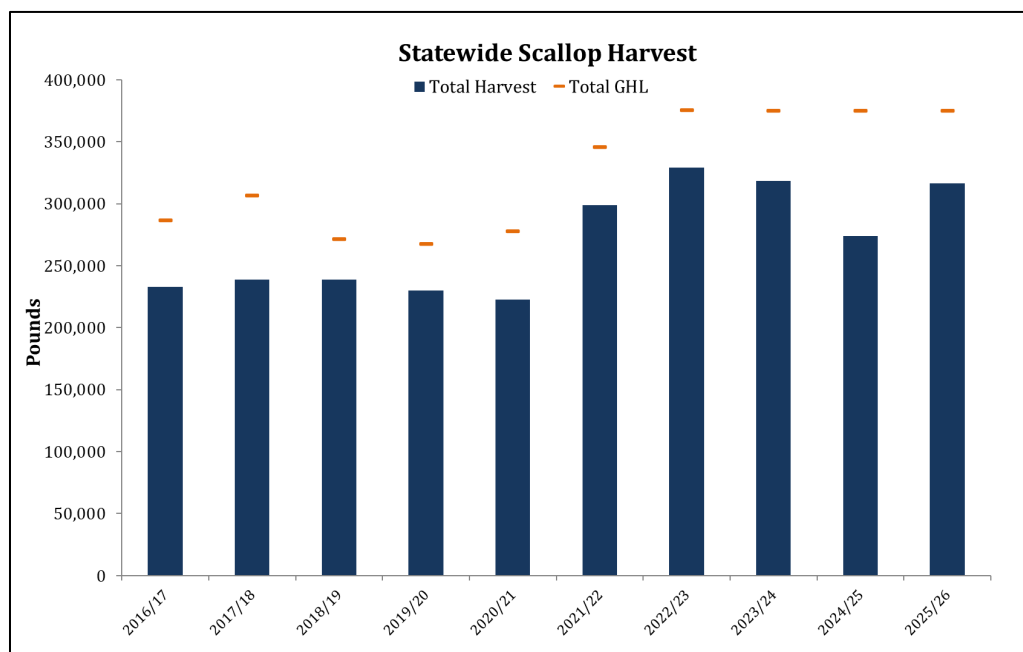


Figure 7. Statewide scallop harvest, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands 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. State regulations establish the GHGs as a percentage of the Pacific cod area ABCs (Table 2).

Table 2. Guideline harvest levels for the state-water Pacific cod fisheries by gear and area, 2025.

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
Kodiak			Pot	3,560,093	1,615
		Cook Inlet	3.75%	Jig	2,825,470
Pot				2,825,470	1,281
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	254,295	115
			Pot	1,441,005	654
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 13%		Jig	864,093	392
			Pot	4,896,527	2,221
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 35%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	44,026,724	19,970
			All	10,321,149	4,682

Figure 8 shows 2025 harvest in the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries by management area. In Prince William Sound, vessels harvested 83% of the GHL in 2025 and the longline fishery remains open. In Cook Inlet, vessels harvested 89% of the GHL and the fishery remains open to vessels fishing with jig gear. The Kodiak state-water Pacific cod GHL was fully harvested in 2025. In the Chignik management area, vessels harvested 54% of the GHL and the fishery remains open to vessels fishing with pot or jig gear. In the South Alaska Peninsula vessels harvested 91% of the GHL and the fishery remains open to jig vessels. In October 2025, the Board of Fisheries adopted a regulatory change to increase the South Alaska Peninsula GHL from 30% to 35% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC until 2029, when the GHL will be set at 32.5% of the ABC. Vessels in the Dutch Harbor subdistrict harvested 95% of the GHL and the jig fishery remains open. There was limited effort in the Aleutian Islands subdistrict in 2025 and harvest is confidential. The Aleutian Islands subdistrict GHL will be reduced to 31% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC in 2026 because less than 90% of the GHL was achieved in 2024 and 2025.

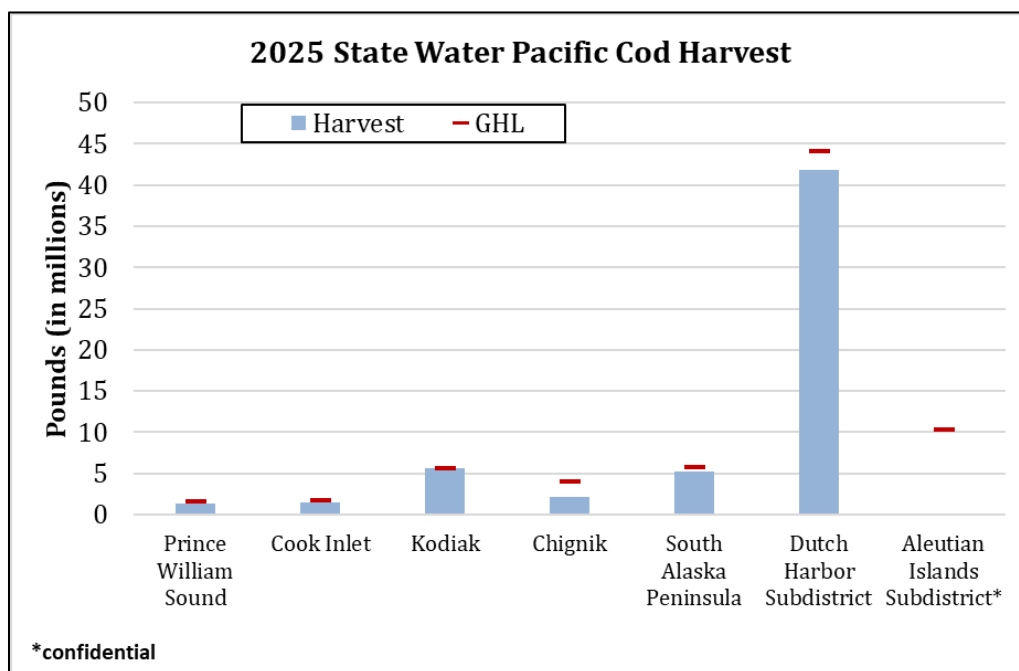


Figure 8. State water Pacific cod harvest by area, 2025.

Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Work Session, October 28-29, 2025, Anchorage. No regulatory actions are taken at this meeting, but the Board may adopt Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) for out-of-cycle items to be taken up at future meetings. The Board welcomed new member, Olivia Hennayee Irwin and re-elected Märit Carlson-Van Dort as chair and Tom Carpenter as vice-chair. Members of the Joint Protocol Committee include Tom Carpenter (chair), Märit Carlson-Van Dort, and Mike Wood.

The Board accepted ACR 5 and ACR 8 and scheduled them for consideration at the March 2026 Statewide finfish and supplemental issues meeting; ACR 5 seeks to reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area.

The department made several recommendations for salmon stocks of concern based on criteria established in 5 AAC 39.222 *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries*. There are three levels for stocks of concern: yield, management, or conservation concern. A yield concern arises from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs; a yield concern is less severe than a management concern, which is less severe than a conservation concern.

- Maintain Norton Sound Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik) and Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet) Chinook salmon as stock of yield concern.
- Revise designation of Yukon River Chinook salmon from a stock of yield concern to a stock of management concern.
- Designate Yukon River fall chum salmon as a stock of management concern.
- Maintain Nushagak River Chinook salmon as a stock of management concern.
- Maintain Chignik River Chinook salmon as a stock of management concern.

Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific cod meeting, October 2025.

The Board adopted a proposal to increase the state-waters GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula from 30% to 35% of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC until 2029 when it will be set at 32.5% of the ABC.¹

The Board heard testimony on proposal 11 which seeks to close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear in the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W. longitude. The Board will consider this proposal at the March 2026 Statewide finfish and supplemental issues meeting.

Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim finfish meeting, November 2025. The Board took several actions to conserve Chinook and chum salmon including closing the sport fishery for Chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of and including the Holitna River from July 26 through April 30. The Board also approved amendments to 5 AAC 01.249 *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan* to include traditional knowledge among the best available data used to assess the run size and added new provisions that apply when the stock is designed as a stock of management concern.

The board voted to designate Kwiniuk River Chinook salmon as a stock of management concern and will consider an Action Plan at the March 2026 Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues meeting.

The Board generated a proposal from record copy [\(RC\) 26](#) to increase the GHL for the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery. The Board will receive public comments on this new proposal at both the January 2026 Bristol Bay finfish meeting and the February 2026 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik finfish meeting and will deliberate the proposal at the later meeting.

¹ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2025-2026/pcod/rcs/rc017_Substitute_Language_for_Proposal_6_Member_Carpenter_.pdf

The Board approved a [draft call for proposals](#) and proposal form to implement Governor Dunleavy's Administrative Order (AO) 360 which seeks to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment. The deadline for proposals in response to AO 360 is Friday, April 10, 2026.

Bristol Bay finfish [meeting](#), January 13-18, Anchorage. The deadline for pre-meeting comments is December 29, 2025.

Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik finfish [meeting](#), February 18-24, 2026, Anchorage. Deadline for pre-meeting comments is February 3, 2026.

Statewide finfish and supplemental issues [meeting](#), March 17-20, 2026, Anchorage. The deadline for pre-meeting comments is March 2, 2026.

PROPOSAL 11: Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W longitude.

PROPOSAL 163: Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis.

PROPOSAL 164: Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 165: Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 166: Amend statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine.

PROPOSAL 167: Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear.

PROPOSAL 168: Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery.

PROPOSAL 169: Create a definition of groundfish coil spring or 'slinky pot'.

PROPOSAL 186: Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area.