



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

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report includes those for crab and Pacific cod.

**Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab.** During the 2017/18 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Western Bering Sea tanner crab, and Eastern Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab. Fisheries for Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab and Bering Sea snow crab are ongoing. The Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery has concluded, and the Western Bering Sea tanner crab has closed (3/31/2018).

### Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2017 and will remain open through May 15, 2018 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2018 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2017/18 snow crab TAC is 18.96 Mlbs. Sixty-three vessels have harvested a total of 17.74 Mlbs (97% of TAC), there are currently six vessels registered. Catch rates are highly variable across fishing locations; the average CPUE is 127 (with high CPUEs ~300+) crabs per pot.

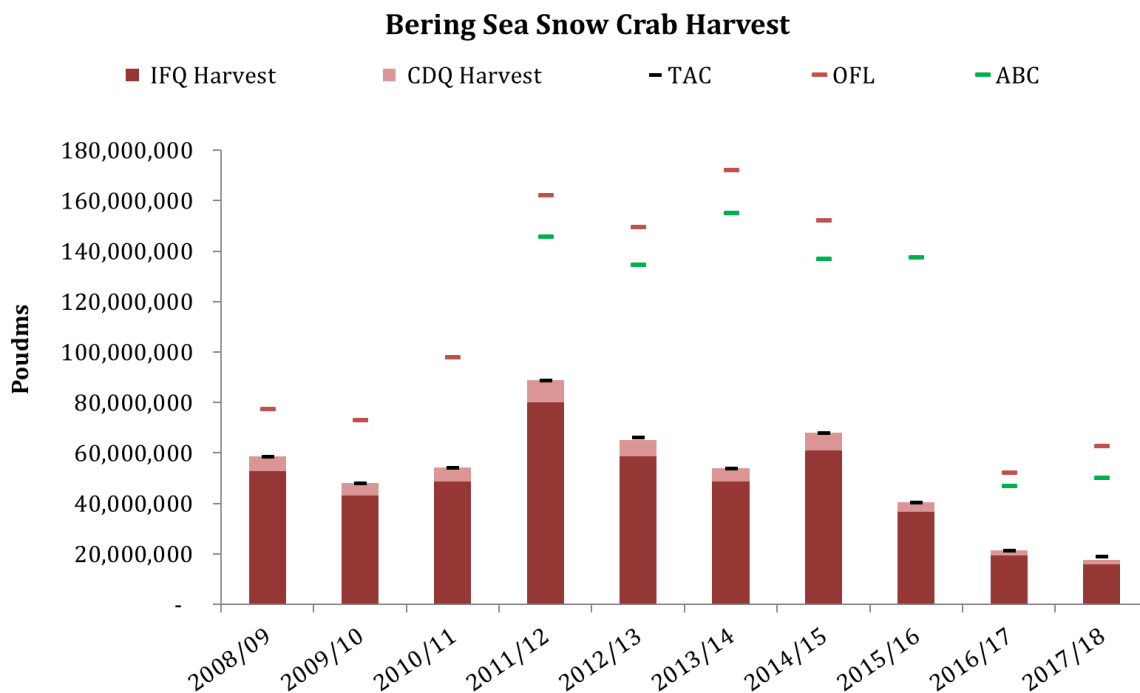


Figure 1. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

## Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2017/18 Area O (Aleutian Islands) golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2017. The total TAC is set at 5.545 Mlb by regulation and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.31 Mlbs and the western TAC is 2.235 Mlbs. One vessel is still fishing in the eastern area, and the fishery in the western area has concluded. Three vessels have already harvested 3.25 Mlbs, or about 98% of the TAC in the eastern area. In the western area, three vessels harvested 2.235 Mlbs (100% of the TAC). Catch rates were higher in the eastern area, at 30 crabs per pot compared to 17 crabs per pot in the western area.

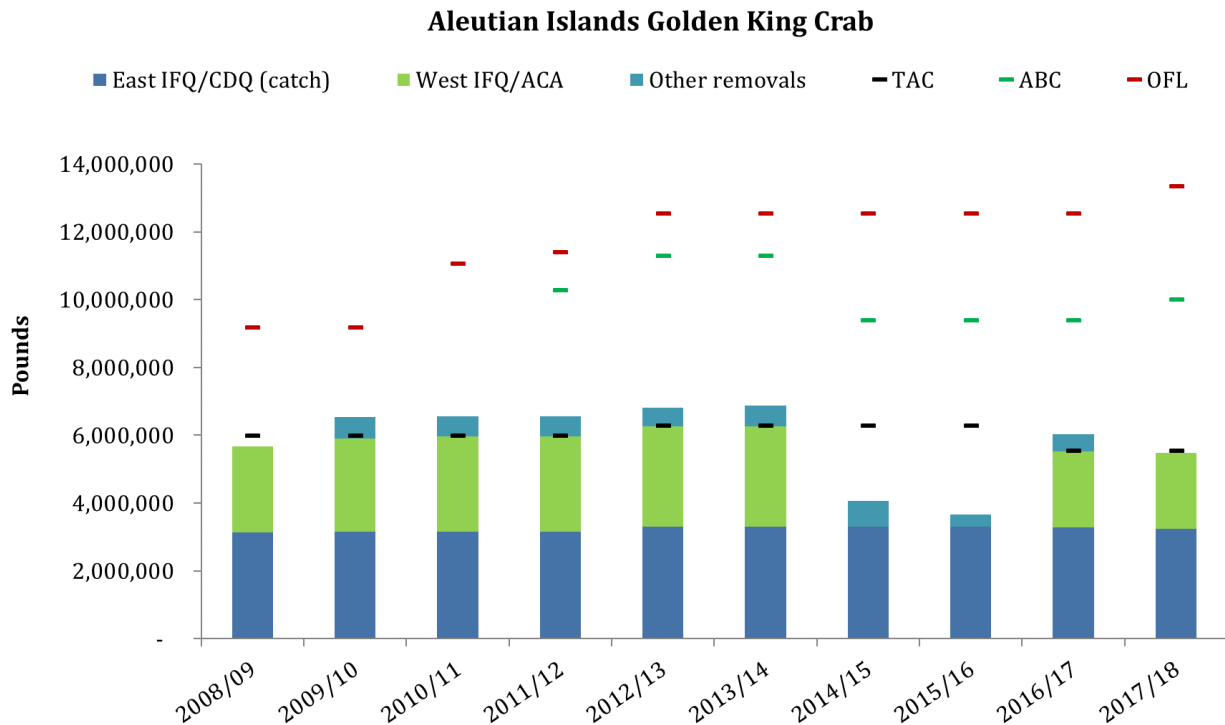


Figure 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

## Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2017/18 Western Bering Sea tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2017 and closed by regulation on March 31, 2018. A total of 34 vessels have harvested 2.40 Mlbs of the 2.5 Mlbs TAC (96% of the TAC). There are currently three vessels registered. The average CPUE is 64 crabs per pot. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery.

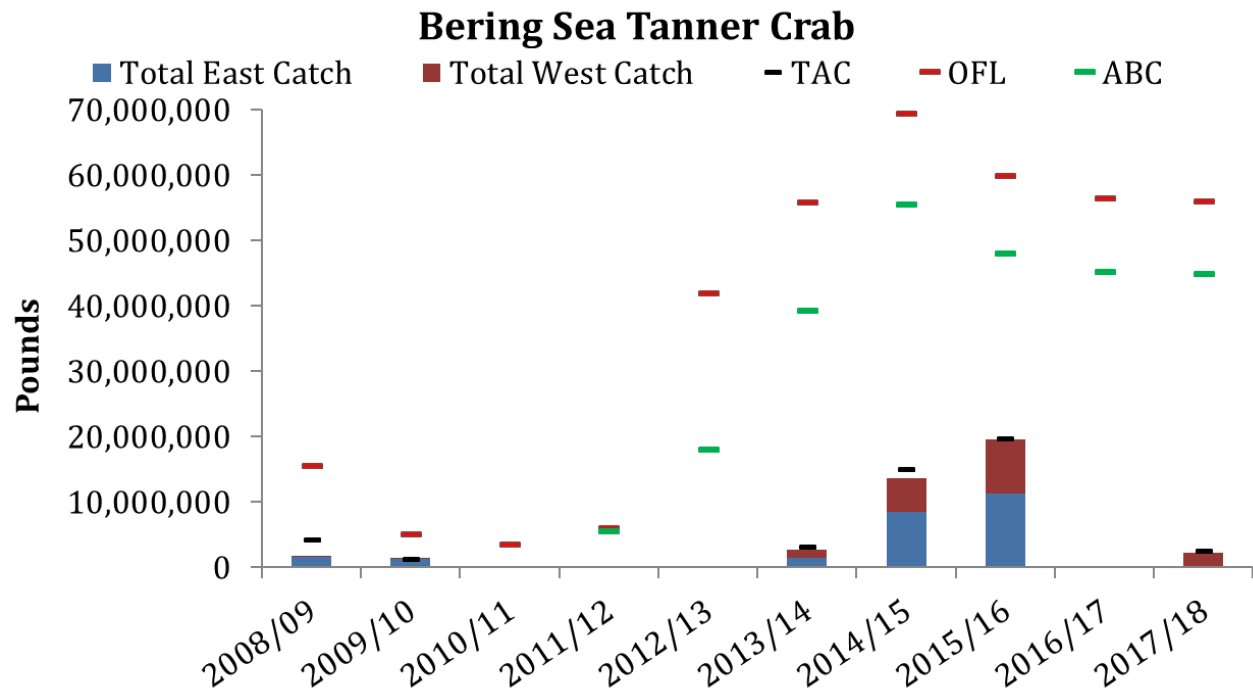


Figure 3. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

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

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC		2018 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%		450
Chignik	CGOA	25%	8.75%	710
Kodiak			12.5%	1,015
Cook Inlet			3.75%	304
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%		2,425
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	6.4%		12,864
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	AI	27%		5,805

### **Central Region Pacific Cod**

**Prince William Sound:** The state-waters pot season opened on February 15, 2018, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery and remains open. No vessels have registered to fish with pot gear. The state-waters longline season opened March 24, seven days after closure

of the federal less than 50-foot hook and line sector. The state-waters jig season opens 24 hours after the initial federal jig season closes.

**Cook Inlet:** The state-waters pot season opened at noon on February 15, 24-hours after the closure of the CGOA A-season pot fishery. A total of 8 vessels have harvested 555,706 lbs (83% of the GHL) and the season remains open. The state-waters jig season in Cook Inlet opens 24 hours after the initial federal jig season closes.

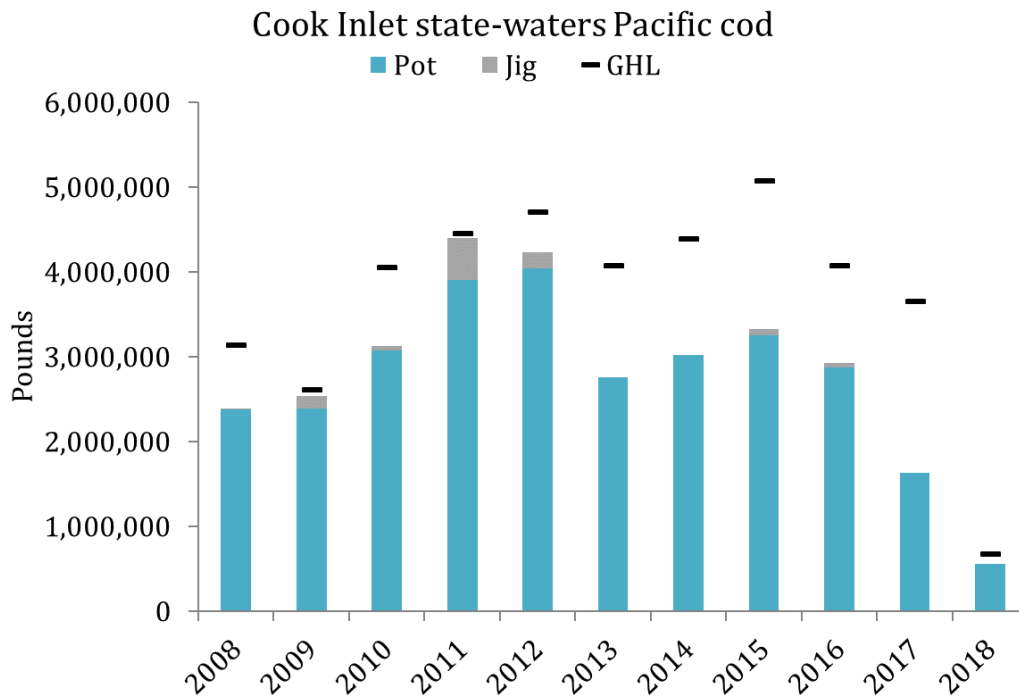


Figure 4. Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2008 – 2018.

### **Westward Region Pacific Cod**

**Kodiak:** The 2018 state-waters GHL (2.23 Mlbs) for the Kodiak Area is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 1.11 Mlbs each. The state-waters pot fishery opened on February 21, 2018, seven days after the CGOA federal A-season pot fishery closure, and closed March 23, 2018. Total harvest by ten pot vessels was 1.137 Mlb (51% of the GHL). Harvest by pot vessels greater than 58 feet in length is restricted to 50 percent of the overall pot allocation, or 0.56 Mlbs. This limit was achieved on March 3. The state-waters jig fishery opened on January 1, 2018 by regulation. A total of 2 vessels have participated and harvest is confidential.

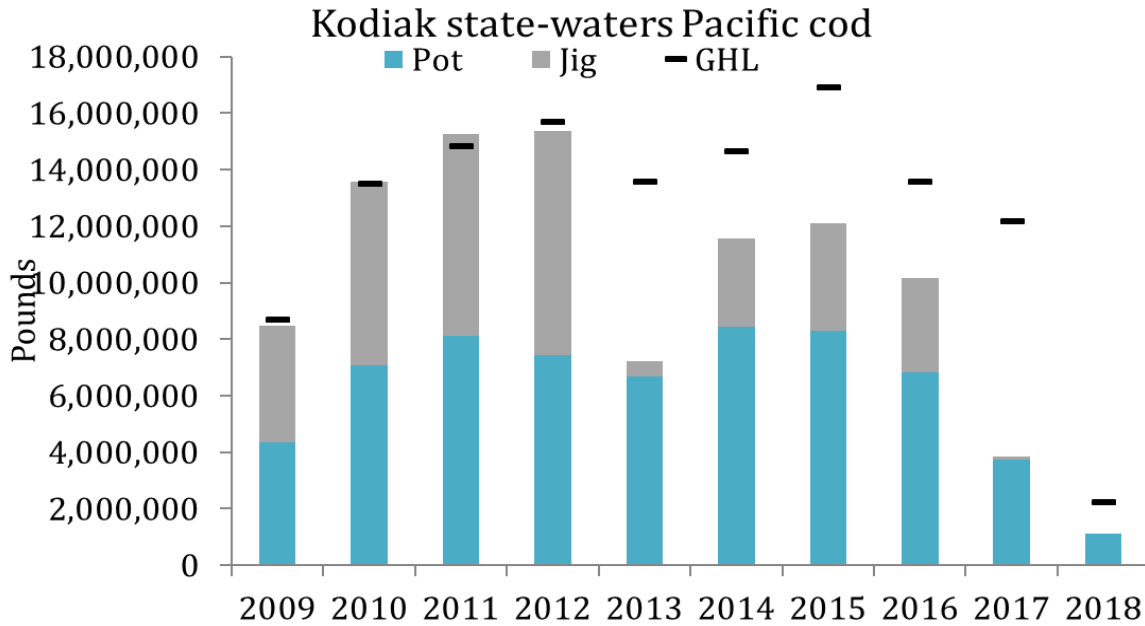


Figure 5. Kodiak state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2009 – 2018.

**Chignik:** Ninety percent of the GHL in the Chignik Area is allocated to pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 1, 2018. Total harvest by three vessels is 1.4 Mlbs (90% of the GHL). The pot fishery closed March 24, 2018. The state-waters jig fishery opened by regulation on March 15; however, no vessels have participated in the fishery.

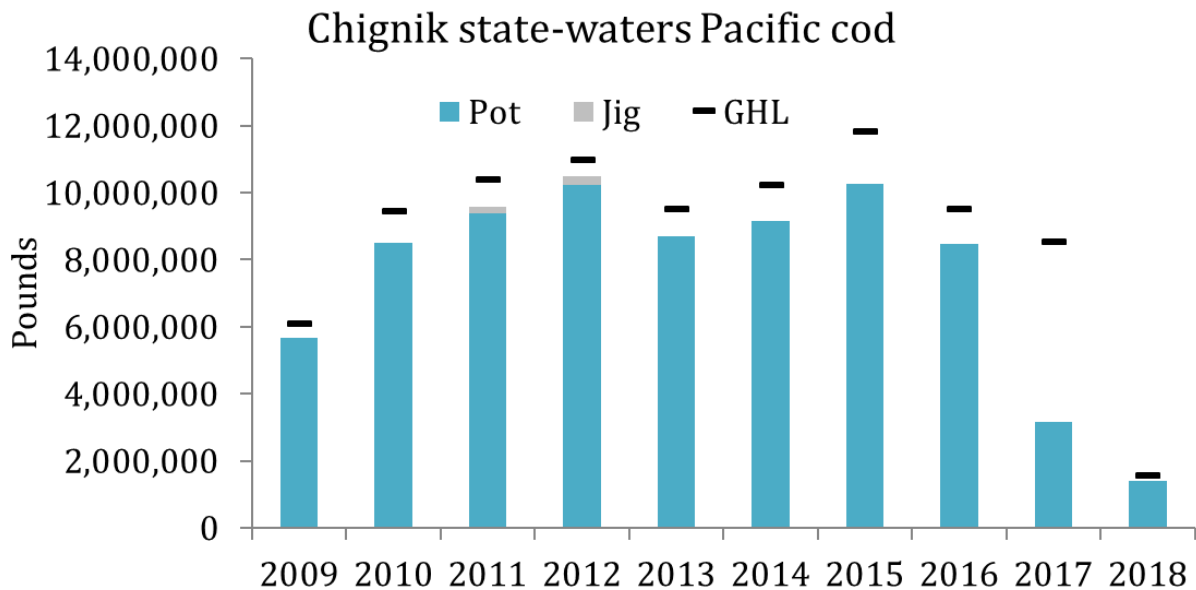


Figure 6. Chignik state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2009 – 2018.

**South Alaska Peninsula:** Eighty-five percent of the GHL in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Area is allocated to pot gear and vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. The state-waters pot season opened by regulation on March 10, 2018 with a GHL of 4.54 Mlbs. A total of 25 vessels have harvested 4.9 Mlbs (92% of the GHL), and the fishery closed March 17, 2018. The SAP state-waters jig fishery opened on March 16, 2018. Total jig harvest by five vessels is 54,006 lbs (1% of the GHL).

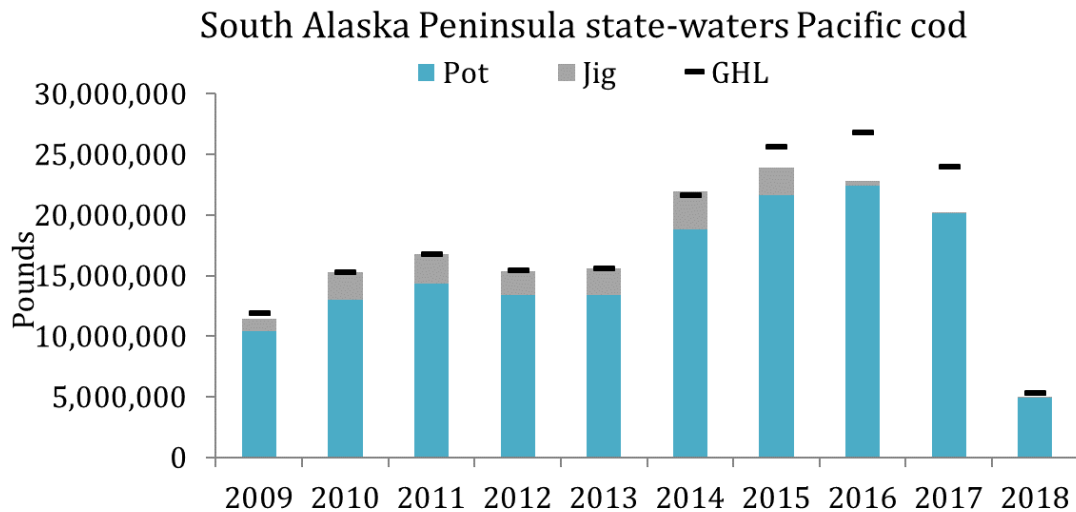


Figure 7. South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2008 – 2018.

**Dutch Harbor Subdistrict:** The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict opened on January 30, 2018, seven days after the initial federal Pacific cod season for the BSAI <60' hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel sector fishery closed. The fishery is only open to vessels ≤58' using pot gear (60 pot limit). A total 31 vessels harvested 29.1 Mlbs (102% of the GHL). The fishery closed March 1, 2018.

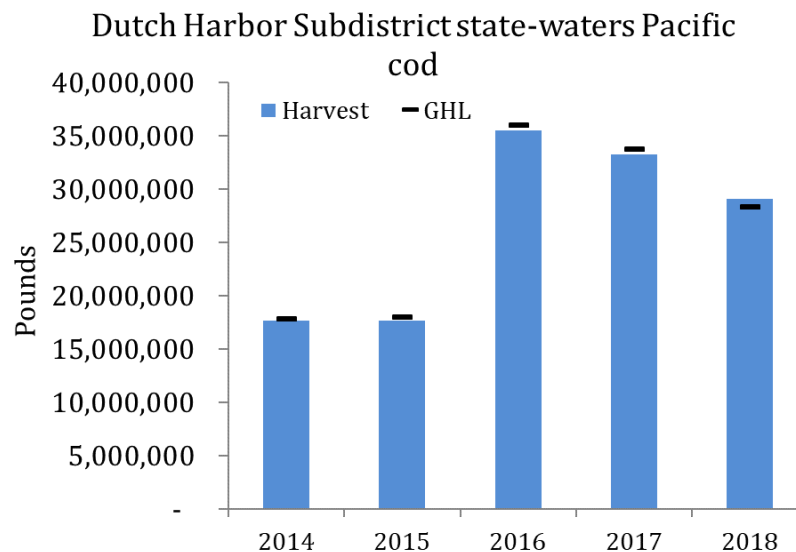


Figure 8. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod harvest and Guideline Harvest Level, 2014 – 2018.

**Aleutian Islands:** The 2018 Aleutian Islands District GHL is 12.79 Mlbs. The season initially opened January 1, 2018 in the Adak Section (between 175° W long. and 178° W long.) to vessels 60-feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58-feet OAL or less using longline gear. Beginning noon March 8, 2018, the state-waters season was expanded to include all state waters west of 170° W longitude and opened to vessels 125-feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100-feet OAL or less using trawl gear, and vessels 58-feet or less OAL using longline and jig gear. Thirteen vessels participated in the fishery. While the overall harvest is confidential the fishery closed on March 23, 2018 due to the GHL being achieved.

Regulations calculating the state-waters season GHL, increase the percentage of the federal ABC the GHL is based on if the GHL is achieved in any given year. Due to the 2018 GHL being achieved, current regulations will increase the percentage of Aleutian Islands ABC the 2019 GHL is based on from 27% to 31%.

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Board is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands-Bering Sea-Chignik, and Statewide finfish management areas. **The proposal deadline is Tuesday, April 10, 2018.**