

Overview of State Pacific Cod Management and Board of Fisheries Proposals

**Joint Protocol Committee
of the
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
and the
Alaska Board of Fisheries**

**October 13, 2022
Anchorage, Alaska**



Jurisdiction

- **Federal Waters** = Waters from 3-200 nmi offshore under federal management jurisdiction

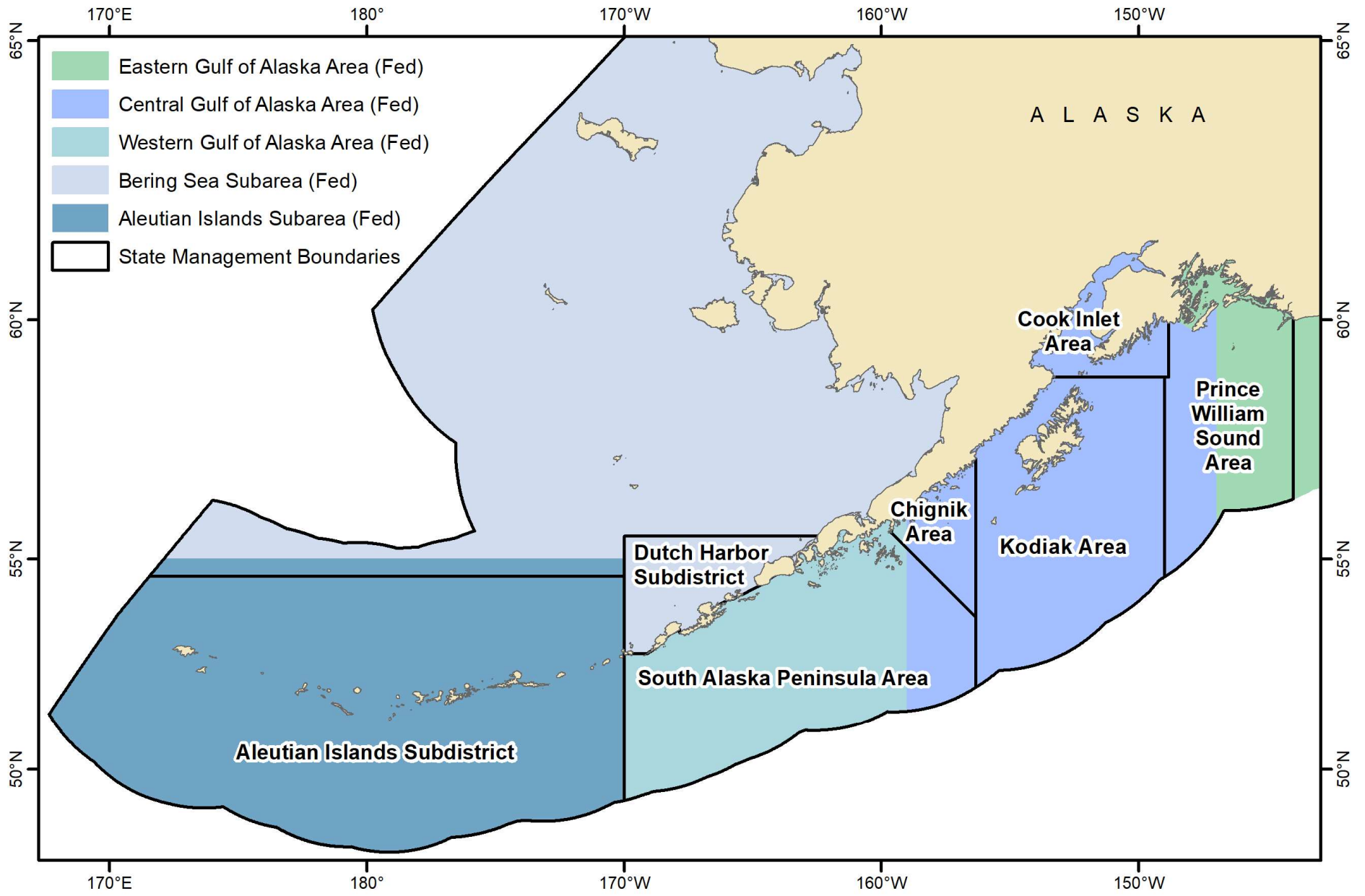
Federal Groundfish Management Areas (5)

- EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska
- CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska
- WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska
- BS = Bering Sea
- AI = Aleutian Islands

- **State Waters** = Waters from 0-3 nmi offshore under state management jurisdiction

State Groundfish Management Areas (8)

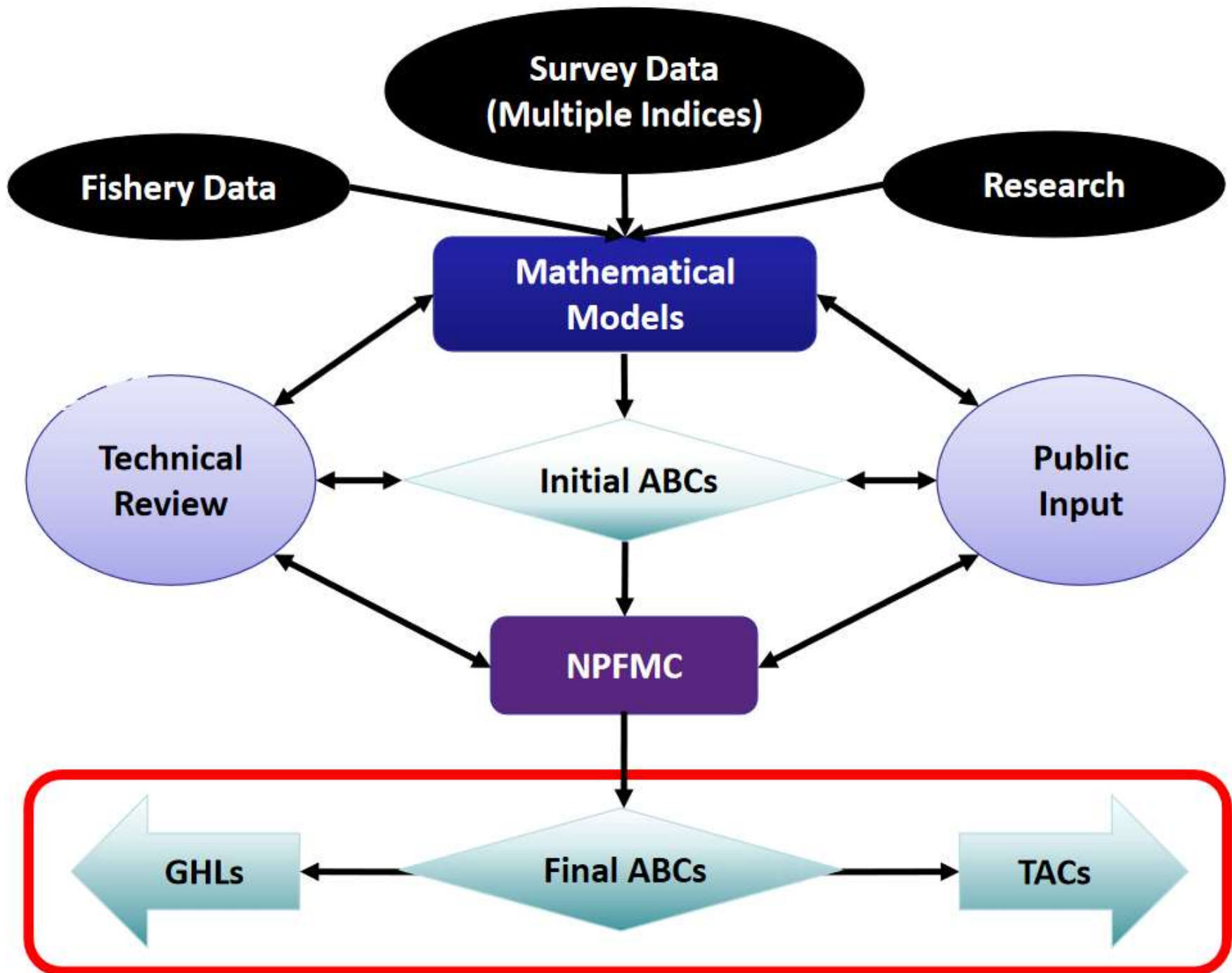
- Eastern Gulf of Alaska (Southeast Alaska)
- Prince William Sound
- Cook Inlet
- Kodiak
- Chignik
- South Alaska Peninsula
- Dutch Harbor Subdistrict
- Aleutian Islands Subdistrict



State Pacific Cod Fisheries

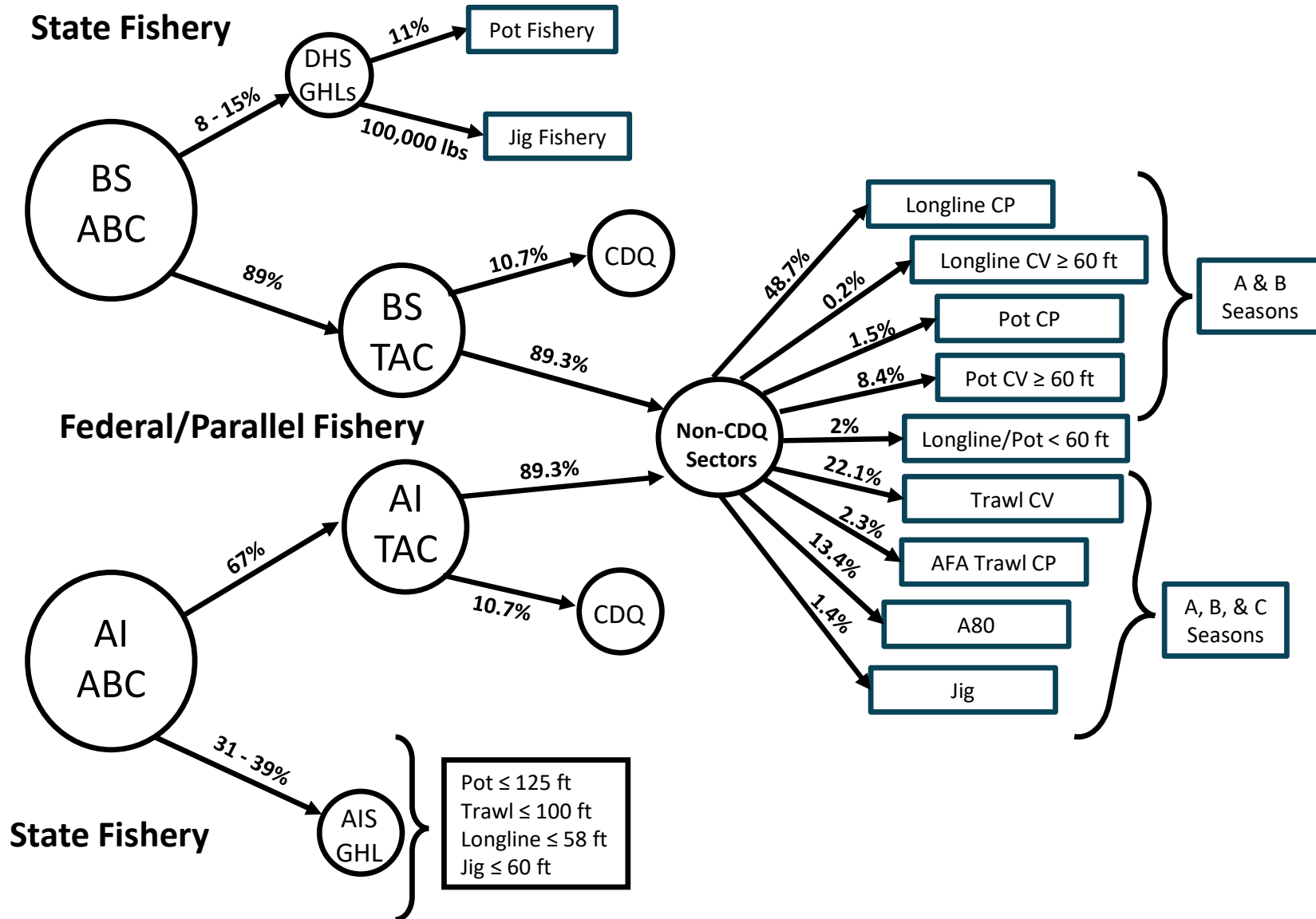
- **Parallel:** State waters (0-3 nmi) concurrent with adjacent federal fishery and generally adopt federal regulations and management measures as guided by the board process. Harvest deducted from federal TAC.
- **State-waters (GHL):** State waters (0-3 nmi) guided by the board process. Harvest deducted from state GHL.

Pacific Cod Stock Assessment Process



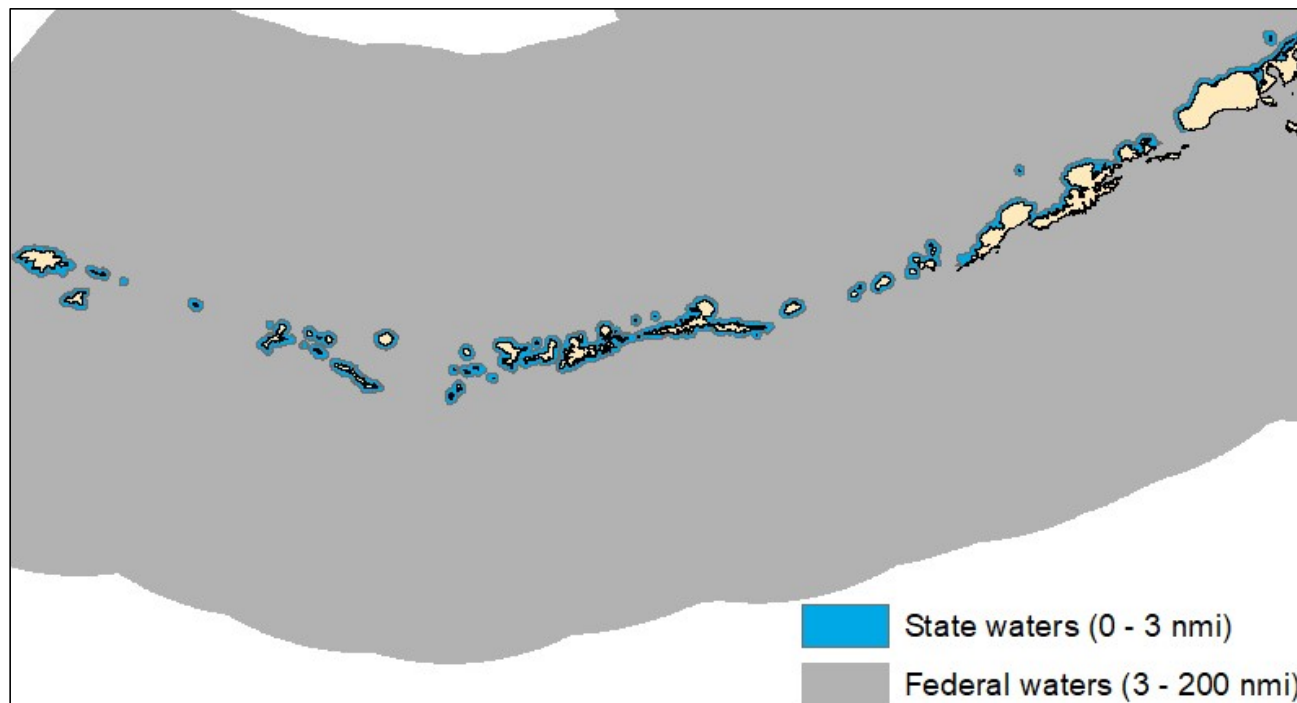
BSAI Catch Allocation

- ABC – Acceptable Biological Catch (Federal: EGOA, CGOA, WGOA, BS, AI)
- TAC – Total Allowable Catch (Federal/Parallel Fisheries)
- GHL – Guideline Harvest Level (State-Waters Fisheries)



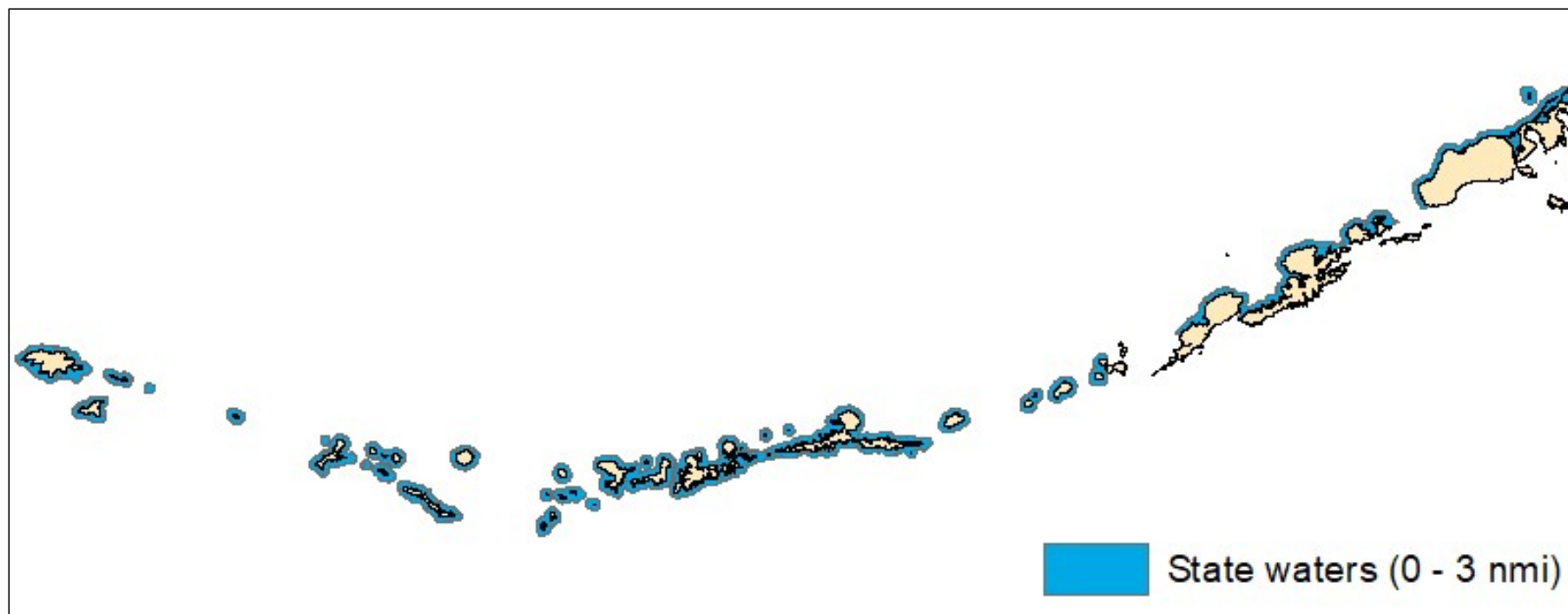
BSAI Area Parallel Pacific Cod Fisheries

- State waters 0 – 3 nmi
- Opened concurrent to federal fishery by state EO
- Shared TAC with federal fishery
- Gear sectors: trawl, longline, pot, and jig gear (bottom trawl restrictions and longline gear limited to 58 feet)
- No gear limits
- Open access (FFP and LLP not required)
- Most SSL protections measure adopted (vessel length limited to <60 ft between 175° and 178° W long)
- Observer requirements only for federally permitted vessels



BSAI Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Fisheries

- State waters 0 - 3 nmi
- Harvest limits (GHL) based on a percentage of federal Pacific cod ABCs
- Most seasons open after federal/parallel fisheries close
- Gear varies by fishery
- Open access – exclusive registration (nonexclusive for DHS jig)
- Follow some SSL protection measures
- No observer requirements



2022 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod Meeting Proposals (11)

- Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Fishery Pacific cod – 4 proposals
 - **Proposal 1:** ADF&G regulation update
 - **Proposal 2:** Repeal management plan and readopt plan for pot/jig fishery only
 - **Proposals 3 & 4:** Amend season dates for large trawl vessels
- Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod Fishery – 2 proposals
 - **Proposal 5:** Vessel size restrictions near Unalaska Bay
 - **Proposal 6:** 4-tier GHL calculation
- Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands General Regulations – 1 proposal
 - **Proposal 7:** ADF&G regulation update
- South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod Fishery – 1 proposal
 - **Proposal 8:** Weather delay provision
- Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Jig Gear Registration and Season Dates – 1 proposal
 - **Proposal 9:** Remove vessel registration exclusivity for state-waters jig gear fisheries and open state-waters Pacific cod seasons for jig gear on January 1
- Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery – 1 proposal
 - **Proposal 10:** Define GHL calculation
- Policy – 1 proposal
 - **Proposal 161:** Create and establish BOF policy regarding the management of groundfish fishery resources in water of Alaska

Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS)

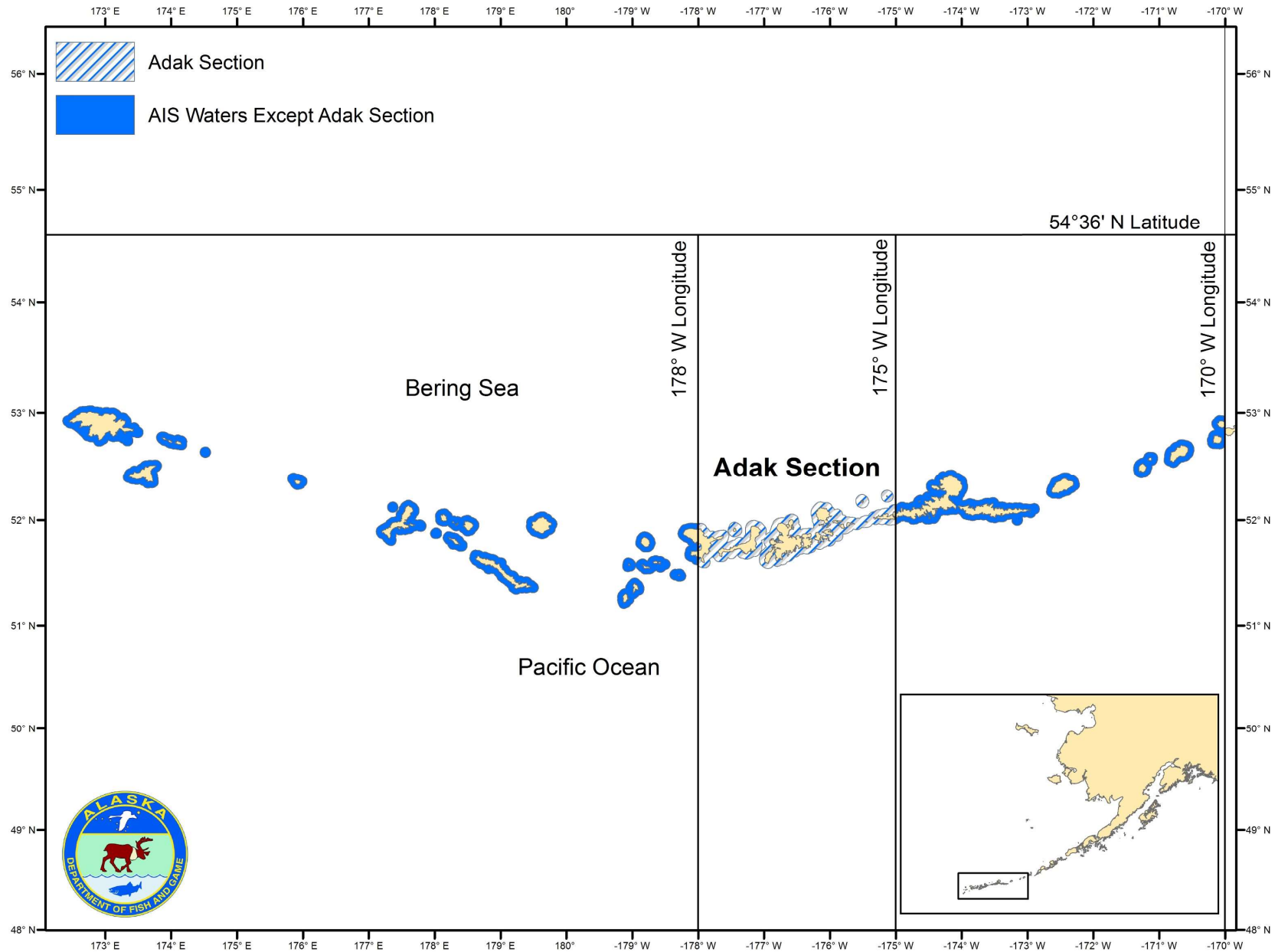
- Promote opportunity for <60 ft vessels that deliver to local shore-based processors
- Acknowledge historical fishery participants and reduce likelihood of stranding GHL/ABC

- Fishery began 2006
- GHL = up to 39% federal AI ABC
 - Increases 4% each year if previous GHL achieved (max 39%)
 - If GHL is not achieved in two consecutive years GHL decreases 4% to a min of 15%
 - 15 million lb GHL limit
 - Not allocated between gear types
- Exclusive registration area
- Legal gear
 - Pots, trawl, jig, longline, hand trawl
- 150,000 lb daily and trip limit



Photo: E. Nichols

Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS)



Summary of AIS State-Waters Pacific Cod Seasons

Pacific Cod Season Opening Dates	Pot Gear ≤60 Feet OAL	Pot Gear ≤100 Feet OAL	Pot Gear ≤125 Feet OAL	Jig Gear ≤60 Feet OAL	Longline Gear ≤58 Feet OAL	Trawl Gear ≤60 Feet OAL	Trawl Gear ≤100 Feet OAL
Adak Section (state waters between 175° W long and 178° W long)	January 1	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time	January 1	January 1	January 1	March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time
All state waters west of 170° W long	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery	March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time

Proposal 2

Transition AIS to pot/jig fishery

Current

- Jan 1 opening – Adak Section
 - ≤ 60 ft trawl, pot, jig
 - ≤ 58 ft longline
- 4 days after federal >60 pot closure opening – all waters
 - ≤ 100 ft pot
 - ≤ 60 ft trawl, jig
 - ≤ 58 ft longline
- March 15 at noon opening – all waters
 - ≤ 125 ft pot
 - ≤ 100 ft trawl
- 150,000 lb daily and delivery limit
- GHL not allocated by gear type or size

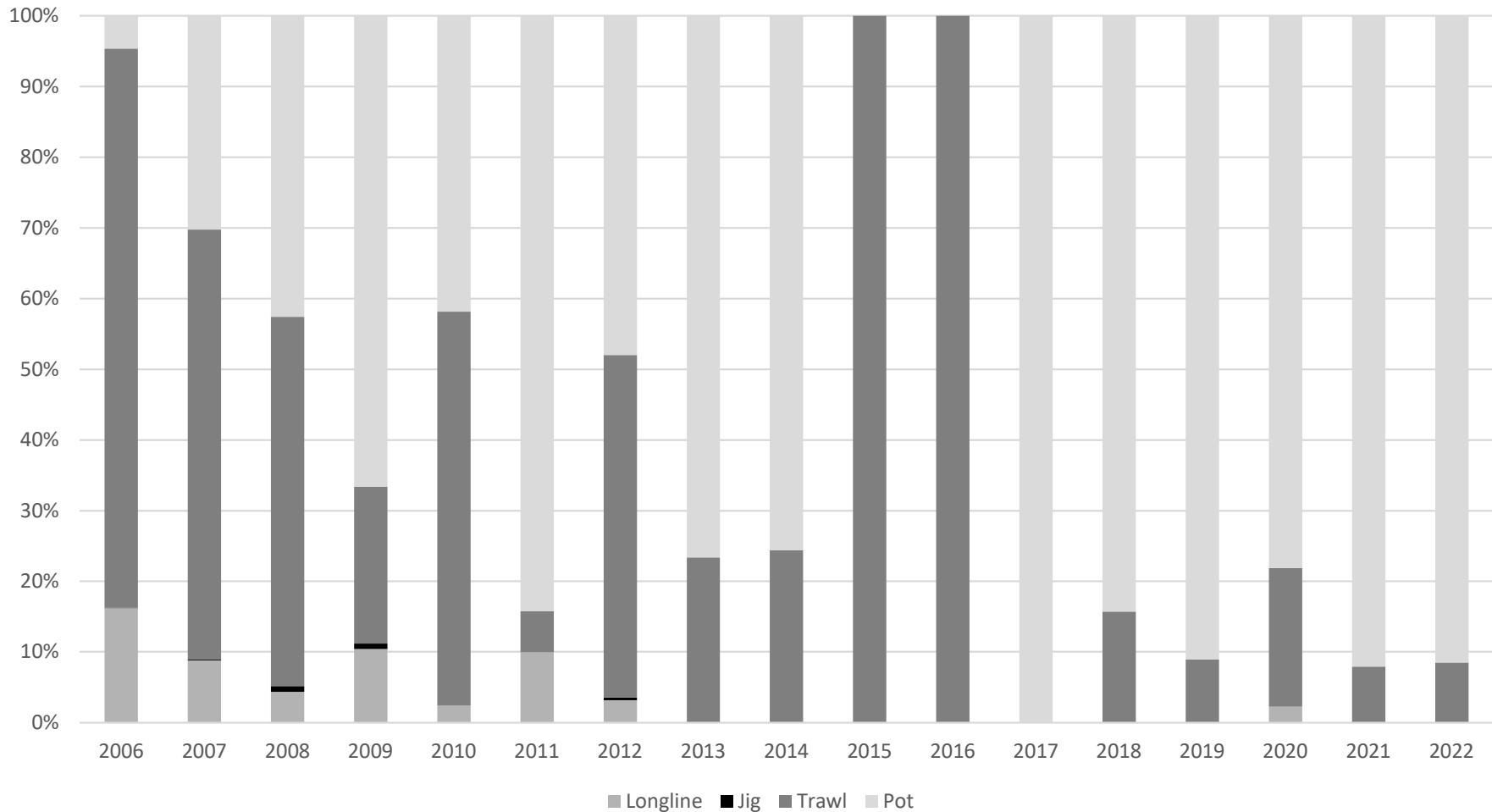
Proposed

- All waters open January 1
- Only pot vessels ≤ 100 ft and jig gear ≤ 58 ft legal gear types
- Single lined pots
 - 120 pots max per vessel
- Limit pot vessels ≥ 59 from harvesting more than 25% of GHL



Proposal 2

Transition AIS to pot/jig fishery



Proportion of total harvest by gear type in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery, 2006–2022.

Proposals 3 and 4

Adjust season start date from March 15 to March 1 for >60 trawl vessels

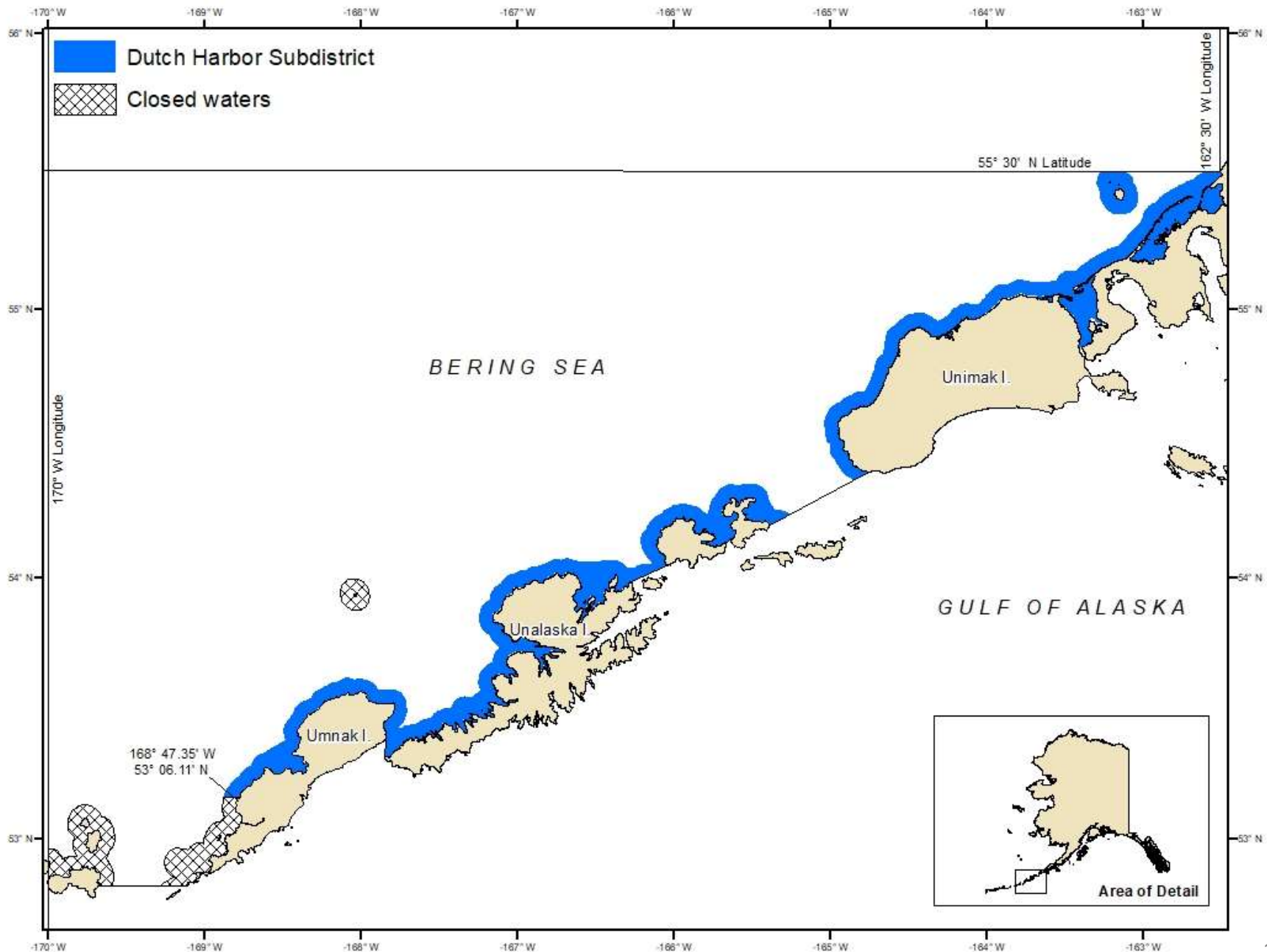
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict season length
and dates for trawl vessels over 60 feet

Year	Season Dates		Season Duration
	Opened	Closed	
2016	March-13	December-31	294
2017	February-27	December-31	308
2018	March-8	March-23	16
2019	March-15	March-17	3
2020 ^a	March-15	March-23	17
2021	March-15	April-9	26
2022	March-15	Still Open	N/A

Note: Season duration is in number of days

^a New regulations became effective mid season. Fishery was also open for large trawl vessels from February 20 to February 28.

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)



Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)

Pot Gear Fishery:

- Fishery began in 2014
- GHL = 8-15% federal BS ABC
 - Increases 1% each year following achievement of GHL
 - 2022 GHL = 11%
- Opens access
- Opens after federal < 60 HAL/Pot A-season
- Pot vessels ≤ 58 ft OAL
- 60 pot limit

Jig Gear Fishery:

- Fishery began in 2019
- GHL = 100,000 lbs
- Nonexclusive registration area
- Opens May 1
- Vessels ≤ 58 ft OAL
- 5 jig machine limit



Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod effort, guideline harvest level (GHL), harvest, and exvessel value for pot gear, by year, 2014–2022.

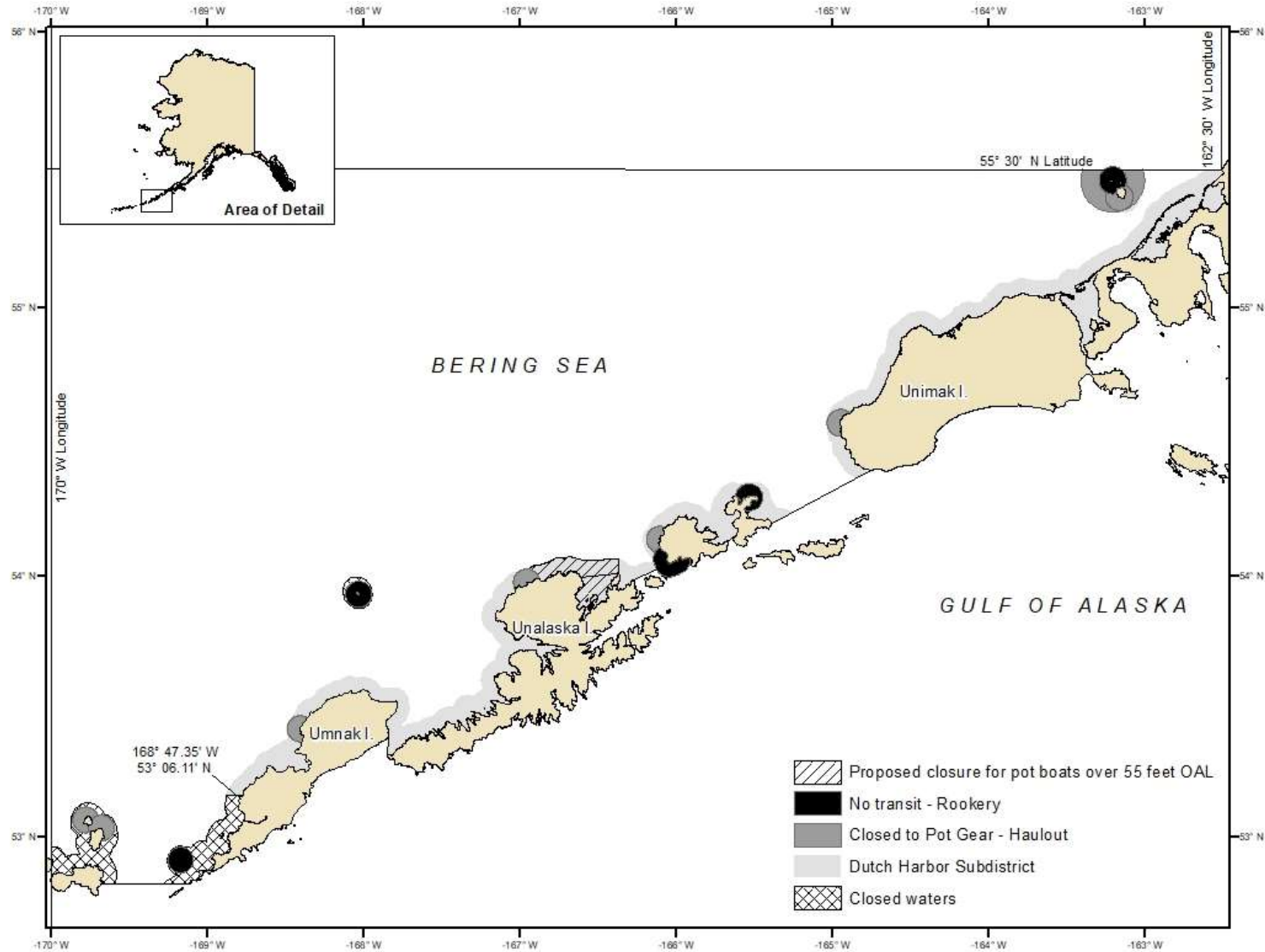
Year	Vessels	Landings	GHL (pounds)	Harvest (pounds)	Price per pound	Exvessel value
2014	16	205	17,863,874	17,666,510	\$0.28	\$5,006,797
2015	14	183	18,029,404	17,636,103	\$0.27	\$4,763,751
2016	24	421	35,979,072	35,519,920	\$0.28	\$9,846,051
2017	24	349	33,721,562	33,247,414	\$0.30	\$10,067,240
2018	32	286	28,360,000	29,055,603	\$0.41	\$11,817,047
2019	37	431	31,922,600	32,345,033	\$0.45	\$14,182,650
2020	40	569	30,927,000	30,928,649	\$0.43	\$13,068,227
2021	29	412	27,292,000	27,585,848	\$0.39	\$10,328,249
2022 ^a	29	543	37,196,000	34,864,687	\$0.47	\$16,079,482
Avg.	27	378	29,032,390	28,761,085	\$0.36	\$10,573,277

Source: ADF&G fish ticket database.

^a The 2022 DHS season is ongoing. Data as of 7/6/2022.

Proposal 5

Limit pot vessels fishing around Unalaska Bay to 55 feet or less during the DHS fisheries



Proposal 5

Limit pot vessels fishing around Unalaska Bay to 55 feet or less during the DHS fisheries

Number of pot vessels by size fishing around Unalaska Bay

Year	Less than 56 ft	56 to 58 ft	Total vessels	Proportion of harvest in 665335 & 665403
2014	1	3	4	31%
2015	1	3	4	8%
2016	0	4	4	2%
2017	0	3	3	2%
2018	0	1	1	CF
2019	0	2	2	CF
2020	0	5	5	4%
2021	1	2	3	3%
2022	0	3	3	3%

Proposal 6

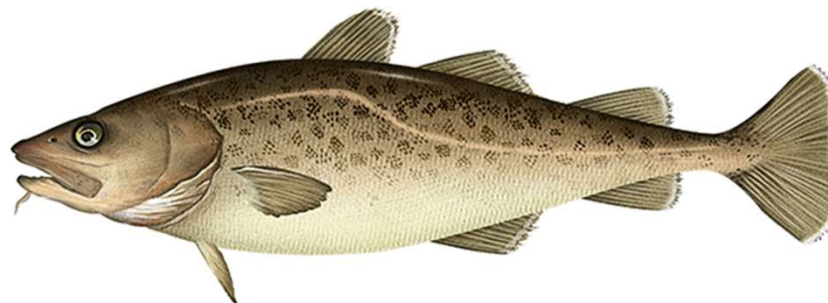
Use ABC abundance-based tier approach to set DHS GHL

Tier	Federal Bering Sea Pcod ABC (metric tons)	Federal Bering Sea Pcod ABC Biomass (millions of pounds)	Maximum Proportion Allocated to DHS state-waters GHL
1	< 100,000 mt	< 220.5	10%
2	100,000–124,999	220.5–275.6	11%
3	125,000–149,999	275.6–330.7	12%
4	150,000–153,845	330.7–339.2	13%
5	≥ 153,846	≥ 339.2	44,092,400-pound cap

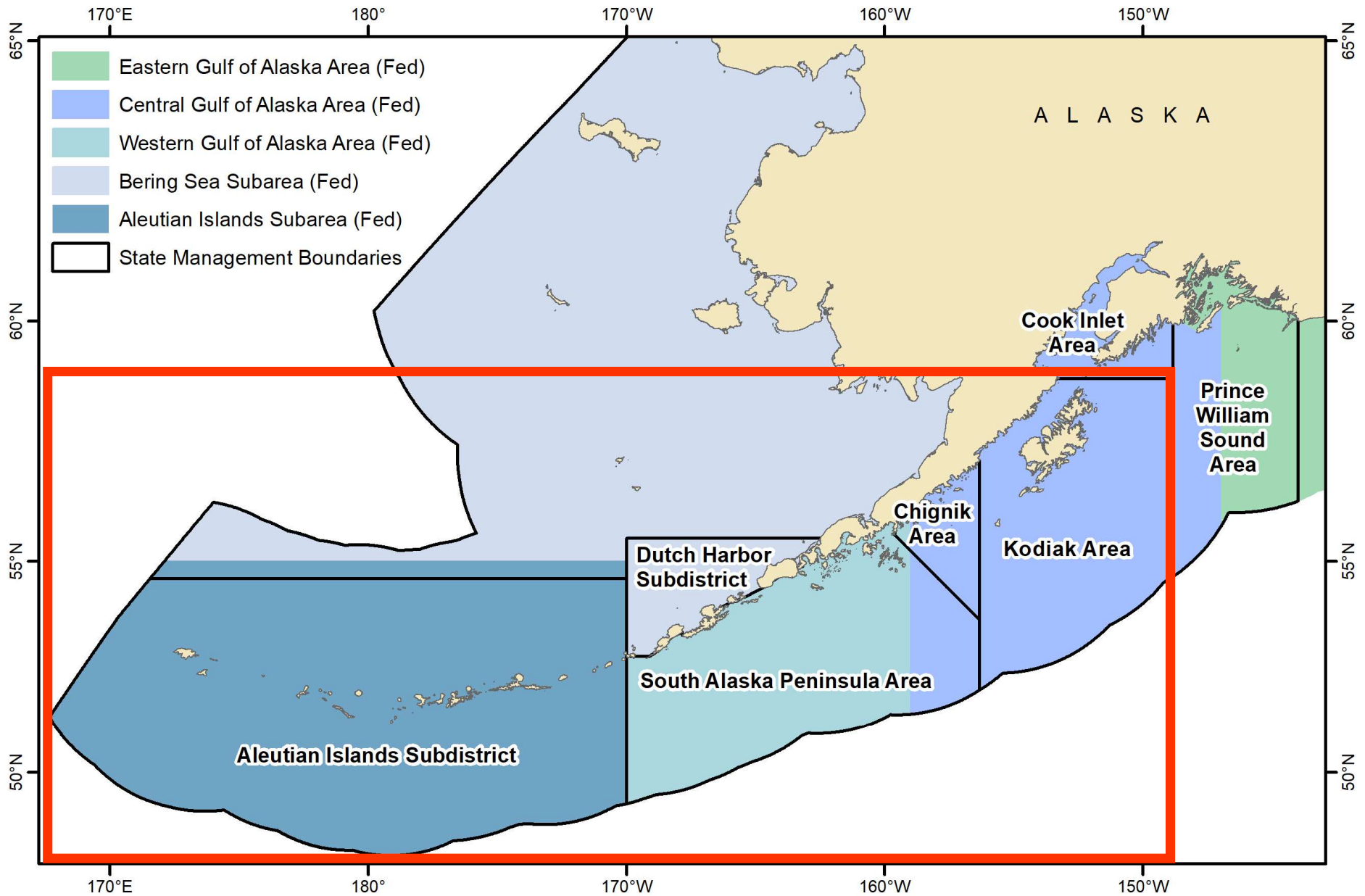
ABC Tier Level Change	GHL Achieved	GHL Allocation Modifiers (step-downs)
↑	Yes	Increase according to tier to a maximum of 13% or 44,092,400 pounds, whichever is less
↑	No	No increase according to tier; Decrease 1% based on fishery performance to a minimum of 10%
↓	Yes	Decrease according to tier
↓	No	Decrease according to tier
–	Yes	No change from previous season(s)
–	No	If abundance increases within a tier: Decrease 1% based on fishery performance to a minimum of 10% If abundance decreases within a tier: No change from previous season(s)

Proposal 6 – DHS GHL

Year	Bering Sea		State-waters (GHL) under current regulations		State-waters (GHL) under proposed 4-tier system		
	ABC (pounds)	ABC (metric tons)	Percent of ABC	GHL (pounds)	Percent of ABC	Calculated GHL (pounds)	Actual GHL (pounds)
2014	562,173,000	255,000	3%	17,863,874	13%	73,082,490	44,092,400
2015	562,173,000	255,000	3%	18,029,404	13%	73,082,490	44,092,400
2016	562,173,000	255,000	6.40%	35,979,072	13%	73,082,490	44,092,400
2017	526,899,400	239,000	6.40%	33,721,562	13%	68,496,922	44,092,400
2018	443,124,600	201,000	6.40%	28,360,000	13%	57,606,198	44,092,400
2019	399,032,600	181,000	8%	31,922,600	13%	51,874,238	44,092,400
2020	343,637,616	155,873	9%	30,927,000	13%	44,672,890	44,092,400
2021	272,940,503	123,805	10%	27,292,000	11%	30,023,455	30,023,455
2022	338,148,162	153,383	11%	37,196,000	13%	43,959,261	43,959,261
Average	445,589,098	202,118	7%	29,032,390	13%	57,320,048	42,514,391



Proposal 9 - Westward Region Jig Fisheries



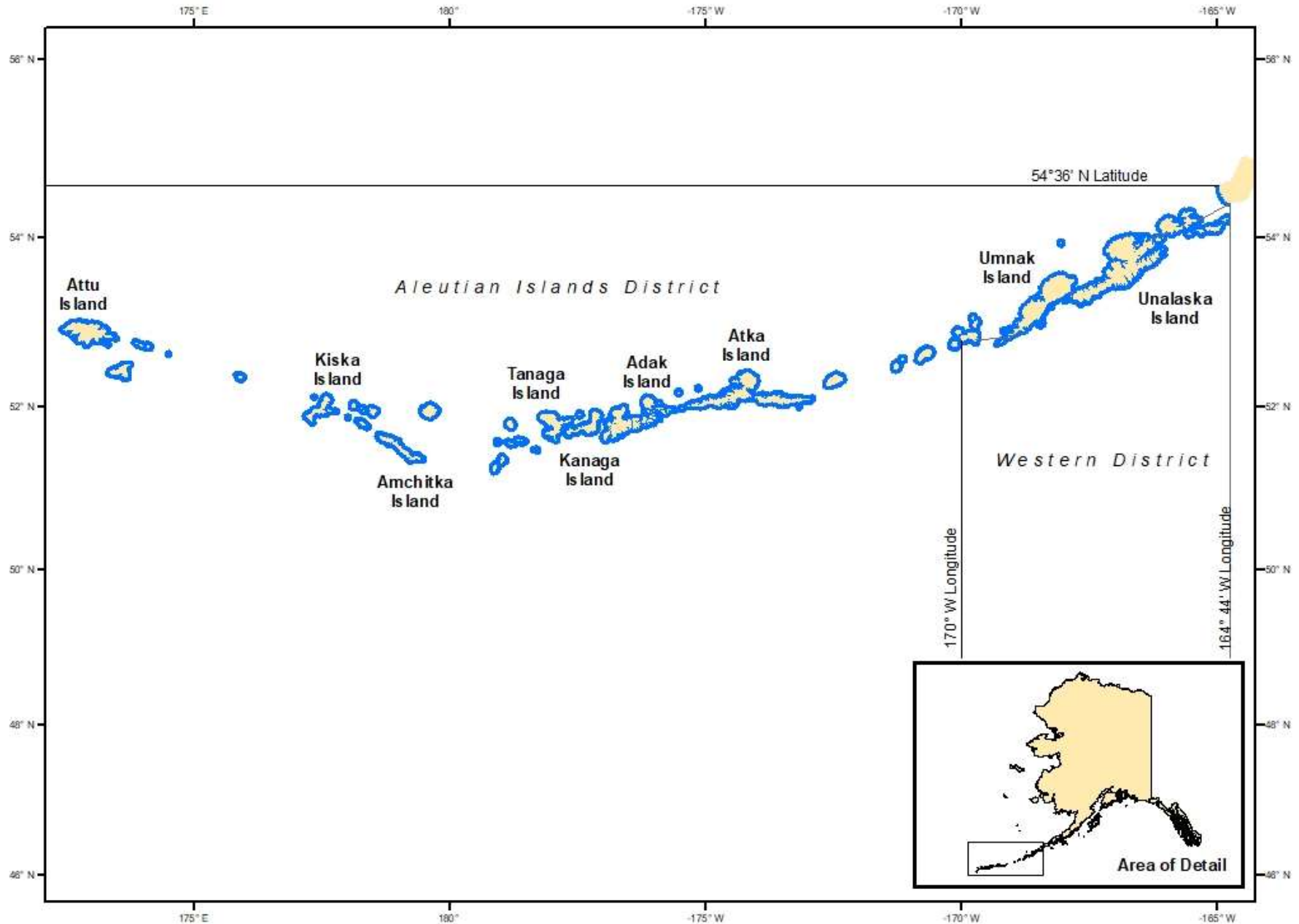
Proposal 9

Establish black rockfish and Pacific cod jig fisheries as nonexclusive and open all state-waters Pacific cod fisheries on January 1

Area	Vessel count	Number of landings	Jig GHl allocation	Jig GHl allocation (lb)	Harvest (lb)	Percent of jig GHl allocation harvested
Kodiak	28	118	50%	2,180,315	585,915	26.9%
Chignik	<1	1	10%	305,244	CF	CF
South Alaska Peninsula	16	82	15%	1,254,062	363,344	29.0%
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	1	4	Fixed	100,000	CF	CF
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	0	0	None	NA	0	0.0%

Area	Registration type	Season opening date	GHl rollover	Exclusivity registration rollover
Kodiak	Exclusive	January 1	April 1 and after CGOA pot B	June 10
Chignik	Superexclusive	March 15	August 15	None
South Alaska Peninsula	Exclusive	After WGOA jig A or March 15	After WGOA pot B	October 30
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Nonexclusive	May 1	None	NA
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Exclusive	January 1	NA	After DHS pot

Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery

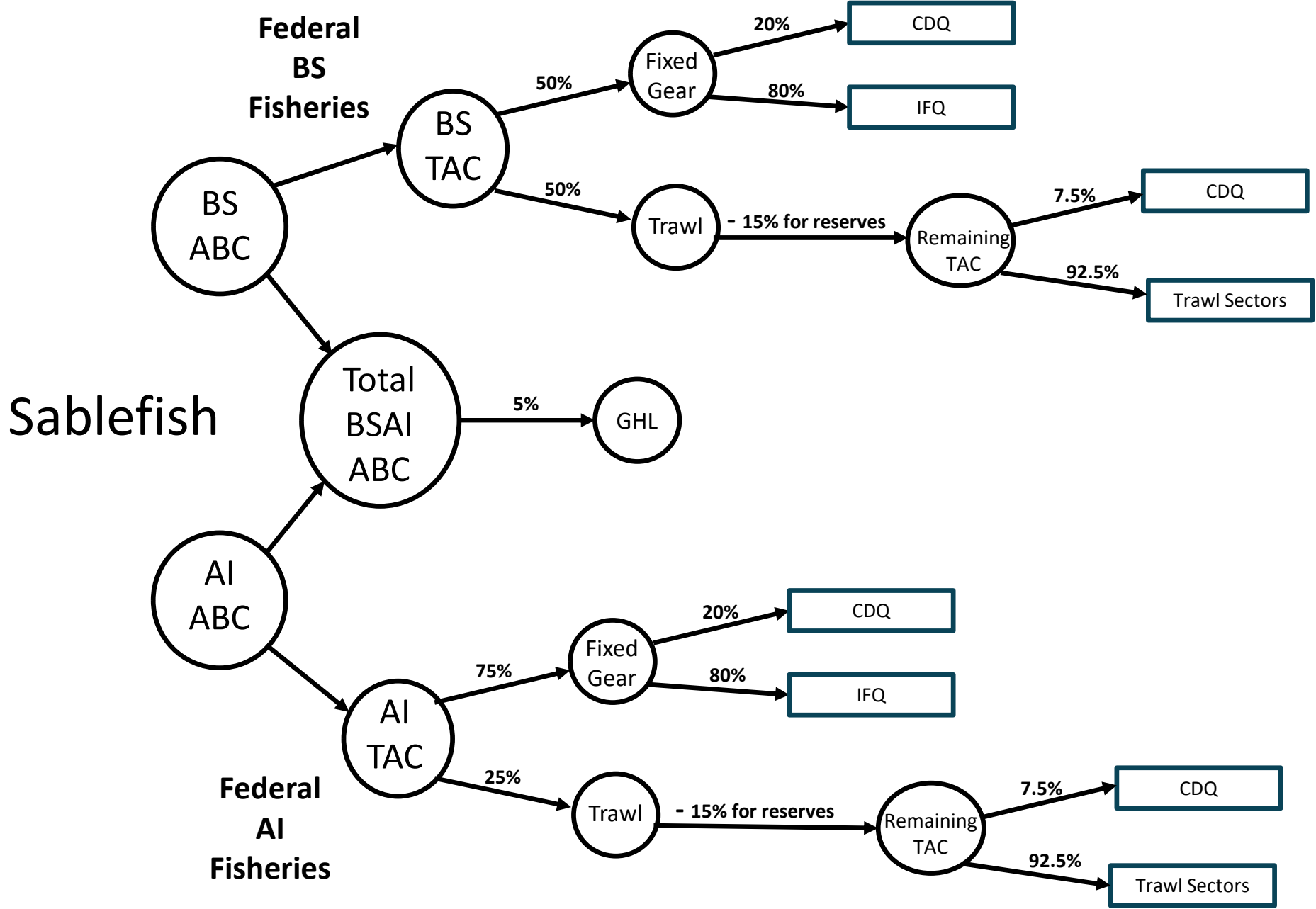


Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery



Photo: Alaska Fisheries Science Center/NOAA Fisheries

- Fishery began 1995
- GHL = ~5% of combined federal BSAI ABC
 - Not allocated between gear types
 - GHL achieved from 1996 to 2002 and then was not achieved again until 2022 season
- Legal gear
 - Pots, jig, longline, hand trawl
- Open concurrently with federal IFQ season
- All vessels fishing within 3 nmi, including those with IFQ/CDQ, must register for the state-waters fishery



Proposal 10

Define how the Aleutian Islands sablefish GHL is calculated each season

- Set GHL at 5% of the combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands sablefish ABCs



Questions?