

**ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 5-8, 2023 - Anchorage, AK**

C3 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

Motion:

The AP has reviewed the 2023 Ecosystem Report for the EBS and AI. The AP greatly appreciates the work put into this detailed report each year.

The AP recommends the Council approve the 2023 BSAI Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.

The AP recommends the Council approve the final 2024 and 2025 BSAI groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1. The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod TACs have been adjusted for the State Water cod fisheries. Additionally, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands TACs for sablefish has been reduced in the BSAI(combined) by 5% to accommodate the State Water GHL fishery.

The AP recommends the Council approve no reduction from maxABC for the 2024 and 2025 ABC Flatfish Reserves. (NO TABLE Associated)

The AP recommends the Council approve the 2024 and 2025 PSC limits and apportionments as assigned to their respective target fisheries as provided in Tables 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 (below) with adjustments to Tables 15, 16, 17.

The AP recommends the Council approve the halibut discard mortality rates for 2024 and 2025 as shown in Table 19 (below).

Amendment 1: add an additional TAC column to Table 1

The AP proposes to add an additional TAC column in Table 1 for the Council to consider that would reflect the changes below.

- a. **BS Pollock** – change from 1,300,000 MT to **1,320,000 MT**, an increase of 20,000 MT
- b. **Yellowfin Sole** – change from 195,000 MT to **180,000 MT**, a reduction of 15,000 MT
- c. **Arrowtooth Flounder** – change from 14,000 MT to **13,500 MT**, a reduction of 500 MT
- d. **Flathead Sole** – change from 35,500 MT to **35,000 MT**, a reduction of 500 MT
- e. **Alaska Plaice** – change from 21,000 MT to **19,000 MT** a reduction of 2,000 MT
- f. **Northern Rockfish** – change from 16,000 MT to **14,000 MT**, a reduction of 2,000 MT

Amendment passed: 15/1

Amendment 2: The AP proposes the following adjustment to the TAC columns in Table 1

Bering Sea Sablefish - change from 9500 MT to **7996 MT**

Amendment passed: 9/7

Amendment 3:

The AP recommends to increase Plaice by 752 MT and increase Northern Rockfish by 752 MT into both TAC columns to bring the total to 2,000,000

Amendment passed: 16/0

Amended Main Motion passed: 16/0

Rationale in Favor of Amendment 1:

- *Given that this is a science driven process, the science says we can support a higher pollock TAC. If there are people who can harvest and sell the fish and it is at sustainable levels they should have that opportunity.*
- *The 2018 year-class of Bering Sea Pollock is still a large portion of the fishery but will be ageing out in the next several years due to natural mortality. Not increasing the Bering Sea pollock TAC and leaving those fish in the water does not result in a clear conservation benefit to the pollock stock.*
- *Each pollock sector has a different product mix, markets, and operations, and thus differential desire for particular Bering Sea pollock TAC levels. This amendment is consistent with public testimony by the catcher processor sector, which appears to prosecute nearly 50 % of the fishery through sector and CDQ allocations.*
- *Putting forth both scenarios is responsive to public comment. It retains the 1,300,000 MT that some would like to see and it includes the 1,320,000 MT that other stakeholders would like to see. Both are supported by the data and presented with balanced TAC sheets.*
- *The best scientific information available does not support the assertion that a reduction in the pollock TAC would measurably increase salmon escapement to Western Alaska. Pollock catches have remained relatively consistent from year to year since 2011, while Chinook and chum bycatch has varied widely without a clear correlation. Reducing or increasing the pollock TAC year to year may not measurably change in-river harvest opportunities. This may be due in part to strict Chinook bycatch limits and Incentive Plan Agreement tools that reduce salmon bycatch at all levels of pollock allocation.*
- *The suggested TAC changes in this amendment, which differs from the original motion in Bering Sea pollock and in several species utilized primarily by the Amendment 80 sector, is consistent with public testimony from that sector which stated there was flexibility in the TAC for several of the species associated with their operations.*

Rationale in Opposition to Amendment 1:

- *An AP member felt there are BSAI ecosystem wide concerns with 1.32MMT given the mixed productivity in the pelagic and benthic zones of the EBS and the thinness of pollock that has been observed in past years.*
- *Setting the BSAI Pollock TAC at 1.3 MMT will provide stability for the fleets, crew, and the coastal economies.*

Rationale in Favor of Amendment 2:

- *The Council has tasked the sablefish stock assessment authors with exploring alternative harvest objectives and strategies, including maximizing value instead of volume and treating fully mature year classes differently than partially mature year classes in the model. That work has just begun and this additional science will possibly help when looking at TAC adjustments for socio-economic factors. In the absence of this data it is important to take a conservative approach in TAC setting.*
- *The SSC also recognized the lack of socio-economic data for the sablefish fishery, but acknowledged that there are socio economic factors at play affecting the directed fishery. Without alternative harvest control rules or another framework for making adjustments, there is no alternative “science” available to make any changes at this time. While the Council awaits this framework it is prudent to be conservative in the TAC setting process.*
- *The stock assessment notes a number of concerning factors in the stock: the evenness of the age distribution of sablefish has dropped rapidly as has the diversity in the ages contributing to the overall SSB; the model projects that the 2014 – 2020 year classes comprise over 75% of total SSB in 2024, despite none of these cohorts being fully mature; they expressed concern at the lack of sablefish greater than 10 years of age, which is the age when sablefish are greater than 90% mature.*
- *The continued increase of pressure on immature, non spawning sablefish in the BS and AI has been detrimental to the economics of the directed fishery. Since 2016, the sablefish TAC has been quadrupled yet captains and crew in the directed IFQ fishery are reporting an over 60% decrease in ex-vessel value. They are catching more fish yet barely able to make a profit. A lot of IFQ sablefish was stranded this season when processors stopped buying sablefish due to saturated markets. Processors have expressed concern about not buying sablefish at the beginning of next season and/or putting vessels on trip limits and delivery schedules. This could drive the directed fishery back to derby days where delivery on a schedule could force a vessel to fish in weather that is unsafe for their vessel. National standard 10, safety of life at sea, was a driving factor in the creation of the sablefish IFQ program.*
- *Many IFQ sablefish quota holders paid high premiums for their quota and have large annual loan payments. Those payments persist regardless of the ability to prosecute the fishery. If processors further decrease ex-vessel prices and/or do not buy sablefish, many vessels will remain tied to the dock and potentially bankrupt. Capital required to prosecute alternative fisheries will not be available and for many who are diversified, such as in salmon, the weak markets for other fish species may not help make up the difference.*

- *There have been large increases in the TAC for the BS and AI in recent seasons to accommodate the influx of sablefish and the increased interaction in the trawl fisheries. As these TAC's have been increased, the trawl fisheries have had less occurrences of discards and this season have not reached their full sablefish allocation in the BS or AI. According to the survey data, the biomass for the BS is down 8% as are the RPW and RPN. As the recent large recruitment classes grow up and move from the BS to the GOA, there is potential for less sablefish interaction in the BS.*
- *There were numerous market concerns over sablefish in many parts of Alaska expressed in public comment and discussed at the AP. Overall, leaving the TAC flat from 2023 could send a signal to the market that there will not be an increase in available sablefish in 2024 and could help stabilize the current prices and market. The directed fishery does not expect a miracle nor a large market rebound, but hope to just be able to fish next season and have an ex-vessel price that is not much worse than the lows reached in 2023.*
- *Sablefish is a coastwide stock and activities in the BS affect the fishery throughout Alaska. Sablefish is a long lived, slow maturing and bankable species. Staff comments in regards to setting preferred pollock TAC indicated that lower TAC setting for pollock incorporates social and economic elements, and the AP heard socio-economic concerns in multiple public testimonies regarding sablefish.*

Rationale in Opposition to Amendment 2:

- *The GPT report noted a reduction in BS sablefish RPN but an overall increase in the coastwide ABC. Risk table indicators are low. The current ABC allocation scheme then dictated an increase in the BS ABC. Despite this seemingly contradictory information, the GPT and SSC did not then suggest an additional buffer below the BS ABC, indicating that the calculated ABC was acceptable.*
- *There was a 43% increase in BS sablefish ABC from 2023 to 2024 but only 19% increase in the proposed 2024 TAC provided in the main motion. The proposed BS TAC in the main motion does reflect an increase over 2023, but one that is considerably lower than the BS ABC approved by the SSC.*
- *Market concerns appeared to be a driving factor for the amendment proposer, but markets vary for companies and are driven by many factors. Holding TACs low to restrain trade for specific participants may not help specific harvesters.*
- *AP members expressed concern that a perception of "oversupply" can be solved by not increasing TAC by a small amount. There is a 300% increase in West Coast sablefish TAC which could further impact the market and it seems unlikely that a decision by the Council will impact a global market. The market knows there are a lot of sablefish.; there are better ways to work on improving market conditions than adding constraints to other fisheries that are not supported by science.*
- *There was very little input from BS fixed gear sablefish fishermen on this issue. A better understanding of whether others may have supported a stable or decreased TAC may have made supporting the amendment easier.*

- *There was a recommendation from the GPT to continue looking at how to incorporate socioeconomics into the Sablefish stock assessment, in light of recent coast-wide market conditions, and it is important for the Council to support that. But at this stage, A BS sablefish TAC at too low a level could result in discards in pollock and Amendment 80 directed fisheries, while a higher TAC may allow retention and sale in those fisheries.*
- *There was hope that a multiple scenario option would have been brought forward to show both the increase recommended by the available science and the static number asked for in public comment. Presenting the change as an up or down vote made the amendment unpalatable.*
- *The best available science indicates that significant reductions in TAC relative to ABC are unnecessary. Some AP members noted concern about the precedent of setting TACs based on perceptions of how science, fisheries, and market conditions interplay. Once that precedent is set, it becomes more complicated for the Council to decide how to set future TACs.*

Rationale in Favor of Amendment 3:

- *Industry members supported splitting the amount that was reduced from the Bering Sea Sablefish TAC (1,504 MT, subsequent to Amendment 2) by increasing the Alaska Plaice TAC by 752 MT and the Northern Rockfish TAC by 752MT.*
- *Due to increased overall ABC in the BSAI, it's appropriate to balance the TAC Table back up to 2.0 MMT after the reduction from Sablefish passed in Amendment 2.*

Rationale in Favor of Amended Main Motion:

- *Flatfish TACs for directed and bycatch species are similar to last year, but in some cases have been adjusted down to accommodate pollock, cod and several other fisheries (e.g., Atka mackerel and skates).*
- *The POP TAC recommendations are set to ABC, but consistent with past years and industry's recommendation, the WAI POP TAC has been set below the ABC as a means to reduce blackspotted/rougheye catch in the western Aleutians.*
- *Atka mackerel TAC recommendations are up slightly in the BS/541 and down slightly in 542 and 543 as a result of ABC reductions. Consistent with Steller Sea Lion regulations, the WAI Atka mackerel TAC has been decreased by 35% for Steller Sea Lion Measures.*
- *The skate TAC (11%) has been adjusted up slightly for 2024 to account for the increase in BS Pacific Cod TAC (15%) where most of the skate incidental catch occurs.*
- *The adjustments to Tables 15, 16, and 17 reflect slightly adjusted herring and halibut PSC apportionments made in collaboration by the industry to not exceed the total PSC limit. On Table 15, 20MT of herring PSC was moved from the Yellowfin sole fishery category to the Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish fishery category. On Table 16 and 17, 15MT of Halibut mortality was moved from Yellowfin sole fishery to Total Pacific cod fisheries.*
- *The majority (all but one sector) of the industry voiced their support for the column of TACs with 1.3MMT of pollock and collaborated to balance Table 1 2024 TACs among all groundfish species and sectors. Collaboration of the groundfish industries is key to this process, especially when some of the sectors and associations have members in multiple fisheries. The collaboration includes harvesters, motherships, and processors.*

Table 1–SSC recommended 2024-2025 Overfishing Level (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), with AP recommended Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

[Amounts are in metric tons]

Species	Area	2023				2024				2025		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 11/25/23	OFL	ABC	TAC alt. 1	TAC alt. 2	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock ⁴	BS	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,300,000	1,310,189	3,162,000	2,313,000	1,300,000	1,320,000	3,449,000	2,401,000	1,325,000
	AI	52,383	43,413	19,000	3,706	51,516	42,654	19,000	19,000	53,030	43,863	19,000
	Bogoslof	115,146	86,360	300	118	115,146	86,360	250	250	115,146	86,360	250
Pacific cod ⁵	BS	172,495	144,834	127,409	124,413	200,995	167,952	147,753	147,753	180,798	150,876	132,726
	AI	18,416	13,812	8,425	3,299	18,416	12,431	8,080	8,080	18,416	12,431	8,080
Sablefish ⁶	Alaska-wide	47,390	40,502	n/a	n/a	55,084	47,146	n/a	n/a	55,317	47,350	n/a
	BS	n/a	8,417	7,996	5,392	n/a	11,450	7,996	7,996	n/a	11,499	9,500
	AI	n/a	8,884	8,440	2,384	n/a	13,100	8,440	8,440	n/a	13,156	8,440
Yellowfin sole ⁷	BSAI	404,882	378,499	230,000	111,638	305,298	265,913	195,000	180,000	317,932	276,917	195,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	4,645	3,960	3,960	1,274	3,705	3,188	3,188	3,188	3,185	2,740	2,740
	BS	n/a	3,338	3,338	795	n/a	2,687	2,687	2,687	n/a	2,310	2,310
	AI	n/a	622	622	479	n/a	501	501	501	n/a	430	430
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	98,787	83,852	15,000	7,217	103,280	87,690	14,000	13,500	104,270	88,548	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,946	7,579	7,579	6,946	8,850	7,498	7,498	7,498	8,687	7,360	7,360
Rock sole ⁷	BSAI	166,034	121,719	66,000	27,129	197,828	122,091	66,000	66,000	264,789	122,535	66,000
Flathead sole ⁸	BSAI	79,256	65,344	35,500	8,946	81,605	67,289	35,500	35,000	82,699	68,203	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	40,823	33,946	17,500	15,228	42,695	35,494	21,752	19,752	45,182	37,560	20,000
Other flatfish ⁹	BSAI	22,919	17,189	4,500	3,019	22,919	17,189	4,500	4,500	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	50,133	42,038	37,703	35,007	49,010	41,096	37,626	37,626	48,139	40,366	37,181
	BS	n/a	11,903	11,903	10,196	n/a	11,636	11,636	11,636	n/a	11,430	11,430
	EAI	n/a	8,152	8,152	7,544	n/a	7,969	7,969	7,969	n/a	7,828	7,828
	CAI	n/a	5,648	5,648	5,460	n/a	5,521	5,521	5,521	n/a	5,423	5,423
	WAI	n/a	16,335	12,000	11,807	n/a	15,970	12,500	12,500	n/a	15,685	12,500
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,776	18,687	11,000	10,322	23,556	19,274	16,752	14,752	22,838	18,685	15,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish ¹⁰	BSAI	703	525	525	529	761	569	569	569	813	607	607
	BS/EAI	n/a	359	359	213	n/a	388	388	388	n/a	412	412
	CAI/WAI	n/a	166	166	316	n/a	181	181	181	n/a	195	195
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	706	530	530	243	706	530	530	530	706	530	530
Other rockfish ¹¹	BSAI	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,188	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	880	880	624	n/a	880	880	880	n/a	880	880
	AI	n/a	380	380	564	n/a	380	380	380	n/a	380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	118,787	98,588	69,282	65,961	111,684	95,358	72,987	72,987	99,723	84,676	66,165
	EAI/BS	n/a	43,281	27,260	24,210	n/a	41,723	32,260	32,260	n/a	37,049	30,000
	CAI	n/a	17,351	17,351	17,210	n/a	16,754	16,754	16,754	n/a	14,877	14,877
	WAI	n/a	37,956	24,671	24,541	n/a	36,882	23,973	23,973	n/a	32,750	21,288
Skates	BSAI	46,220	38,605	27,441	25,183	45,574	37,808	30,519	30,519	44,203	36,625	30,361
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	250	321	689	450	400	400	689	450	400
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	151	6,080	4,560	400	400	6,080	4,560	400
TOTAL		4,859,585	3,155,268	2,000,000	1,769,803	4,609,077	3,454,204	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,946,241	3,527,996	2,000,000

Note: Regulatory areas and districts are defined at § 679.2 (BSAI=Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands)

- ¹ These amounts apply to the entire BSAI management area unless otherwise specified. With
- ² Except for pollock, the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to hook-and-line and pot gear,
- ³ For the Amendment 80 species (Atka mackerel, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, Pacific
- ⁴ Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A), the annual BS pollock TAC, after subtracting first for the CDQ
- ⁵ The BS Pacific cod TAC is set to account for the 12 percent, plus 45 mt, of the BS ABC for
- ⁶ The sablefish OFL and ABC are Alaska-wide and include the Gulf of Alaska. The Alaska-
- ⁷ “Rock sole” includes *Lepidopsetta polyxystra* (Northern rock sole) and *Lepidopsetta bilineata*
- ⁸ “Flathead sole” includes *Hippoglossoides elassodon* (flathead sole) and *Hippoglossoides*
- ⁹ “Other flatfish” includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska
- ¹⁰ “Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish” includes *Sebastes melanostictus* (blackspotted) and
- ¹¹ “Other rockfish” includes all *Sebastes* and *Sebastes* species except for dark rockfish,

TABLE 14—PROPOSED 2024 AND 2025 APPORTIONMENT OF PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES TO NON-TRAWL GEAR, THE CDQ PROGRAM, AMENDMENT 80, AND THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTORS

PSC species and area and zone ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ^{3,4}	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated to Amendment 80 ³
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,166	710	315	n/a	1,396	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,535	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

³ The Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program (PCTC) reduced the Pacific cod PCTC PSC limit for halibut by 12.5 percent in 2024 and 25 percent in 2025. The Amendment 80 Program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

⁴ Under Amendment 123 and its implementing regulations, the BSAI halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector would be determined annually based on the most recent halibut abundance estimates from the IPHC setline survey index and the NMFS AFSC Eastern Bering Sea shelf trawl survey index (87 FR 75570, December 9, 2022).

TABLE 15-PROPOSED 2024 AND 2025 HERRING AND RED KING CRAB SAVINGS SUBAREA PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH ALLOWANCES FOR ALL TRAWL SECTORS

Fishery categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	127	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	94	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder	8	n/a
Rockfish	8	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,256	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	30	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,535	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴In December 2024, the Council recommended and NMFS approves that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 16—PROPOSED 2024 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	250	23,337	1,192,179	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	315	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific Cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific Cod, A and B season	257	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Program, C season	15	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	37	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	5,028	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	1,248,494	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits will be split between AFA CPs, PCTC Program A and B-season, and trawl CV open access C-season. The PCTC crab PSC limit will be reduced by 35 percent beginning in 2024. In the first year of the PCTC Program, NMFS will apply a 12.5 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment in the annual harvest specifications after the Council recommends and NMFS approves the BSAI trawl limited access sector's PSC limit apportionments to fishery categories. In the second year of the PCTC Program and every year thereafter, NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment. Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV C-season. Because the annual halibut PSC limit for the PCTC Program is not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, is determined annually through the harvest specification process, NMFS must apply the reduction to the A and B season apportionment of the trawl CV sector apportionment to implement the overall PSC reductions under the PCTC Program.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 17—PROPOSED 2025 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
				Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	250	23,337	1,192,179	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	315	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific Cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific Cod, A and B season	220	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Program, C season	15	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	73	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	5,028	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	1,248,494	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

³ With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits will be split between AFA CPs, PCTC Program A and B-season, and trawl CV open access C-season. The PCTC crab PSC limit will be reduced by 35 percent beginning in 2024. In the first year of the PCTC Program, NMFS will apply a 12.5 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment in the annual harvest specifications after the Council recommends and NMFS approves the BSAI trawl limited access sector's PSC limit apportionments to fishery categories. In the second year of the PCTC Program and every year thereafter, NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment. Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV C-season. Because the annual halibut PSC limit for the PCTC Program is not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, is determined annually through the harvest specification process, NMFS must apply the reduction to the A and B season apportionment of the trawl CV sector apportionment to implement the overall PSC reductions under the PCTC Program.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses

Note: Species apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 18—Final 2024 And 2025 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Total Pacific cod	648	13	661
	January 1-June 10	388	9	n/a
	June 10-August 15	162	2	n/a
	August 15-December 31	98	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl- Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	49
Groundfish pot and jig	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Sablefish hook-and-line	n/a	n/a	n/a	Exempt
Total for all non-trawl PSC	n/a	n/a	n/a	710

Note: Seasonal or sector allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 19–2024 and 2025 Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMR) for the BSAI

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	All	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/pro	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	63
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	7
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	7
Pot	All	26