

**C3 BSAI Specs
Council Motion
October 7, 2023**

The Council adopts the proposed 2024 and 2025 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and sets the TACs as shown in the attached BSAI Table 1 with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2024 final specifications from the 2023/2024 harvest specifications approved in December 2022. The TACs for both Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the state waters GHF fishery. The Bering Sea sablefish TAC has been adjusted to account for the state waters GHF fishery.

The Council adopts the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2024 and 2025 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as proposed in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2024 and 2025 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass estimates.

The Council adopts the proposed 2024 and 2025 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Table 1. Council recommended OFLs, ABCs and Council recommended TACs for Groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2024-2025

Species	Area	2022				2023				SSC recommended		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2022	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/13/2023	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,105,677	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,300,000	1,250,856	4,639,000	2,275,000	1,302,000
	AI	61,264	50,752	19,000	3,058	52,383	43,413	19,000	2,694	52,043	43,092	19,000
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	259	115,146	86,360	300	117	115,146	86,360	300
Pacific cod	BS	183,012	153,383	136,466	120,448	172,495	144,834	127,409	82,262	166,814	140,159	123,295
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	6,450	18,416	13,812	8,425	2,763	18,416	13,812	8,425
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	40,432	34,521	n/a		47,390	40,502			48,561	41,539	
	BS	n/a	5,264	5,264	5,514	n/a	8,417	7,996	4,796	n/a	10,185	9,676
	AI	n/a	6,463	6,463	2,230	n/a	8,884	8,440	1,919	n/a	10,308	9,793
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	377,071	354,014	250,000	154,253	404,882	378,499	230,000	71,967	495,155	462,890	230,656
Greenland turbot	BSAI	7,687	6,572	6,572	1,478	4,645	3,960	3,960	1,248	3,947	3,364	3,364
	BS	n/a	5,540	5,540	1,038	n/a	3,338	3,338	771	n/a	2,836	2,836
	AI	n/a	1,032	1,032	440	n/a	622	622	477	n/a	528	528
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	94,445	80,389	20,000	7,857	98,787	83,852	15,000	5,910	103,070	87,511	15,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,903	9,214	9,214	8,369	8,946	7,579	7,579	6,753	8,776	7,435	7,435
Northern rock sole	BSAI	214,084	206,896	66,000	18,399	166,034	121,719	66,000	22,833	196,011	119,969	66,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	77,967	64,288	35,500	14,690	79,256	65,344	35,500	7,522	81,167	66,927	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	39,305	32,697	29,221	11,253	40,823	33,946	17,500	9,489	43,328	36,021	18,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	10,000	2,559	22,919	17,189	4,500	2,874	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	42,605	35,688	35,385	34,782	50,133	42,038	37,703	29,580	49,279	41,322	38,264
	BS	n/a	10,352	10,352	10,066	n/a	11,903	11,903	8,078	n/a	11,700	11,700
	EAI	n/a	8,083	8,083	7,996	n/a	8,152	8,152	5,494	n/a	8,013	8,013
	CAI	n/a	5,950	5,950	5,837	n/a	5,648	5,648	4,792	n/a	5,551	5,551
	WAI	n/a	11,303	11,000	10,882	n/a	16,335	12,000	11,216	n/a	16,058	13,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	23,420	19,217	17,000	7,898	22,776	18,687	11,000	9,867	22,105	18,135	11,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	598	503	503	455	703	525	525	489	763	570	570
	EBS/EAI	n/a	326	326	204		359	359	190	n/a	388	388
	CAI/WAI	n/a	177	177	250		166	166	299	n/a	182	182
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	541	284	706	530	530	199	706	530	530
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	1,144	1,308	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,034	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	919	750	651		880	880	576	n/a	880	880
	AI	n/a	394	394	657		380	380	458	n/a	380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	91,870	78,510	66,481	58,107	118,787	98,588	69,282	55,903	101,188	86,464	66,855
	EAI/BS	n/a	27,260	27,260	19,138	n/a	43,281	27,260	15,369	n/a	37,958	30,000
	CAI	n/a	16,880	16,880	16,761	n/a	17,351	17,351	16,601	n/a	15,218	15,218
	WAI	n/a	34,370	22,341	22,208	n/a	37,956	24,671	23,932	n/a	33,288	21,637
Skates	BSAI	47,790	39,958	30,000	29,236	46,220	38,605	27,441	20,205	44,168	36,837	27,927
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	500	127	689	450	250	307	689	450	250
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	251	4,769	3,576	400	119	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	2,953,182	2,383,653	1,871,000	1,594,941	4,859,585	3,155,268	2,000,000	1,591,707	6,219,700	3,590,412	2,000,000

Sources: 2022 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2023 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2021 and December 2022 respectively; 2022 catches through December 31, and 2023 catches through September 13, 2023 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 7–Proposed 2024 and 2025 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, Community Development Quota (CDQ) ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves in the BSAI for Flathead Sole, Rock Sole, and Yellowfin Sole

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	66,927	119,969	462,890
TAC	35,500	66,000	230,656
ABC surplus	31,427	53,969	232,234
ABC reserve	31,427	53,969	232,234
CDQ ABC reserve	3,363	5,775	24,849
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	28,064	48,194	207,385

Table 8–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 ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,444	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 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.

Table 9-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	200	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	99	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	10	n/a
Rockfish	10	n/a
Pacific cod	18	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,066	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	41	n/a
2024 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	3,444	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 turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

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

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

⁴The 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.

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)).

Table 10–Proposed 2024 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program

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	265	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 ⁴	300	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific cod, January 20-June 10	244	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Pacific cod, June 10-November 1	15	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	35	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	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,

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

⁴ The Pacific cod fishery is further apportioned between the PCTC Program, the trawl catcher vessel limited access C season, and AFA catcher/processors as established at § 679.131(c) and (d).

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

Table 11–Proposed 2025 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program

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	265	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 ⁴	300	2,955	50,281	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific cod	6	278	4,726	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific cod, January 20-June	209	1,653	28,130	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Pacific cod, June 10-November 1	15	134	2,278	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	70	890	15,147	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	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

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

Table 12–Proposed 2024 and 2025 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries

Non-trawl fisheries	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI			
	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual 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

Table 13–Proposed 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/processor	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	63
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	7
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	7
Pot	All	26