

C-3 Proposed GOA Groundfish Specifications October 7, 2023

The Council adopts the proposed 2024 and 2025 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. Final specifications will be approved in December. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The proposed Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments for state water GHF fisheries are shown in Table 2.

The Council adopts the proposed 2024 and 2025 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the proposed 2024 and 2025 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12.

The Council recommends moving the seven demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) species which currently occur in the 'other rockfish' complex (i.e., those occurring to the west of EY/SEO) into a separate DSR complex for WG/CG/WY during the 2024 Plan Team cycle for implementation in the 2025 fisheries. This change would result in ABCs and OFLs being spatially apportioned in the following ways:

Other Rockfish: One Gulf-wide OFL with three separate ABCs for WG/CG, WY, EY/SEO.

DSR: Two stock complexes with separate OFLs and ABCs for WG/CG/WY and EY/SEO.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs and Council recommended TACs for Proposed Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2024 and 2025.

| Species | Area | 2022 | | | | 2023 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | OFL | ABC | TAC | Catch 12/31/2022 | OFL | ABC | TAC | Catch 9/14/2023 | OFL | ABC | TAC |
| Pollock | State GHL | n/a | 3,327 | n/a | | n/a | 3,723 | n/a | 3,261 | n/a | 4,027 | n/a |
| | W (610) | n/a | 23,714 | 23,714 | 23,615 | n/a | 26,958 | 26,958 | 6,033 | n/a | 29,156 | 29,156 |
| | C (620) | n/a | 69,250 | 69,250 | 69,341 | n/a | 77,005 | 77,005 | 58,327 | n/a | 83,283 | 83,283 |
| | C (630) | n/a | 30,068 | 30,068 | 30,505 | n/a | 33,729 | 33,729 | 13,052 | n/a | 36,478 | 36,478 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 6,722 | 6,722 | 6,441 | n/a | 7,523 | 7,523 | 6,888 | n/a | 8,136 | 8,136 |
| | Subtotal | 154,983 | 133,081 | 129,754 | 129,902 | 173,470 | 148,938 | 145,215 | 84,300 | 186,101 | 161,080 | 157,053 |
| | EYAK/SEO | 15,150 | 11,363 | 11,363 | - | 15,150 | 11,363 | 11,363 | 1 | 15,150 | 11,363 | 11,363 |
| | Total | 170,133 | 144,444 | 141,117 | 129,902 | 188,620 | 160,301 | 156,578 | 84,300 | 201,251 | 172,443 | 168,416 |
| Pacific Cod | W | n/a | 9,942 | 6,959 | 5,320 | n/a | 7,464 | 5,225 | 3,233 | n/a | 6,873 | 4,811 |
| | C | n/a | 19,752 | 14,814 | 13,195 | n/a | 14,830 | 11,123 | 8,501 | n/a | 13,655 | 10,241 |
| | E | n/a | 3,117 | 2,338 | 298 | n/a | 2,340 | 1,755 | 510 | n/a | 2,155 | 1,616 |
| | Total | 39,555 | 32,811 | 24,111 | 18,813 | 29,737 | 24,634 | 18,103 | 12,245 | 27,507 | 22,683 | 16,668 |
| Sablefish | W | n/a | 3,727 | 3,727 | 3,035 | n/a | 4,473 | 4,473 | 2,313 | n/a | 4,626 | 4,626 |
| | C | n/a | 9,965 | 9,965 | 8,189 | n/a | 9,921 | 9,921 | 5,456 | n/a | 8,819 | 8,819 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 3,437 | 3,437 | 2,746 | n/a | 3,205 | 3,205 | 2,043 | n/a | 2,669 | 2,669 |
| | SEO | n/a | 5,665 | 5,665 | 5,237 | n/a | 5,602 | 5,602 | 3,596 | n/a | 4,981 | 4,981 |
| | GOA Total | n/a | 22,794 | 22,794 | 19,207 | n/a | | 23,201 | 13,409 | n/a | n/a | 21,095 |
| | AK Total | 40,432 | 34,521 | n/a | | 47,390 | 40,502 | n/a | | 48,561 | 41,539 | n/a |
| Shallow-Water Flatfish | W | n/a | 21,256 | 13,250 | 33 | n/a | 22,485 | 13,250 | 33 | n/a | 23,299 | 13,250 |
| | C | n/a | 25,305 | 25,305 | 1,264 | n/a | 26,769 | 26,769 | 589 | n/a | 27,737 | 27,737 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 2,531 | 2,531 | 8 | n/a | 2,677 | 2,677 | 6 | n/a | 2,774 | 2,774 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 1,518 | 1,518 | 2 | n/a | 1,606 | 1,606 | 1 | n/a | 1,664 | 1,664 |
| | Total | 62,273 | 50,610 | 42,604 | 1,307 | 65,736 | 53,537 | 44,302 | 630 | 68,015 | 55,474 | 45,425 |
| Deep-Water Flatfish | W | n/a | 256 | 256 | 3 | n/a | 256 | 256 | 11 | n/a | 255 | 255 |
| | C | n/a | 2,139 | 2,139 | 117 | n/a | 2,105 | 2,105 | 68 | n/a | 2,068 | 2,068 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 1,431 | 1,431 | 3 | n/a | 1,407 | 1,407 | 3 | n/a | 1,383 | 1,383 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 2,082 | 2,082 | 8 | n/a | 2,048 | 2,048 | 2 | n/a | 2,013 | 2,013 |
| | Total | 7,026 | 5,908 | 5,908 | 131 | 6,918 | 5,816 | 5,816 | 84 | 6,802 | 5,719 | 5,719 |
| Rex Sole | W | n/a | 2,981 | 2,981 | 40 | n/a | 3,236 | 3,236 | 21 | n/a | 3,314 | 3,314 |
| | C | n/a | 12,076 | 12,076 | 655 | n/a | 13,110 | 13,110 | 355 | n/a | 13,425 | 13,425 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 1,361 | 1,361 | - | n/a | 1,439 | 1,439 | - | n/a | 1,453 | 1,453 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 2,723 | 2,723 | - | n/a | 2,879 | 2,879 | - | n/a | 2,905 | 2,905 |
| | Total | 23,302 | 19,141 | 19,141 | 695 | 25,135 | 20,664 | 20,664 | 376 | 25,652 | 21,097 | 21,097 |
| Arrowtooth Flounder | W | n/a | 33,658 | 14,500 | 446 | n/a | 30,469 | 14,500 | 133 | n/a | 30,093 | 14,500 |
| | C | n/a | 68,394 | 68,394 | 11,092 | n/a | 65,000 | 65,000 | 8,102 | n/a | 64,200 | 64,200 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 6,707 | 6,707 | 38 | n/a | 7,886 | 7,886 | 28 | n/a | 7,789 | 7,789 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 11,020 | 6,900 | 67 | n/a | 16,130 | 6,900 | 25 | n/a | 15,932 | 6,900 |
| | Total | 143,100 | 119,779 | 96,501 | 11,643 | 142,749 | 119,485 | 94,286 | 8,287 | 141,008 | 118,014 | 93,389 |
| Flathead Sole | W | n/a | 14,755 | 8,650 | 43 | n/a | 12,793 | 8,650 | 12 | n/a | 13,033 | 8,650 |
| | C | n/a | 22,033 | 15,400 | 521 | n/a | 21,487 | 21,487 | 364 | n/a | 21,892 | 21,892 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 1,511 | 1,511 | - | n/a | 2,320 | 2,320 | - | n/a | 2,363 | 2,363 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 1,876 | 1,876 | - | n/a | 2,880 | 2,880 | - | n/a | 2,934 | 2,934 |
| | Total | 48,928 | 40,175 | 27,437 | 564 | 48,161 | 39,480 | 35,337 | 376 | 49,073 | 40,222 | 35,839 |
| Pacific ocean perch | W | n/a | 2,602 | 2,602 | 2,506 | n/a | 2,529 | 2,529 | 2,312 | n/a | 2,461 | 2,461 |
| | C | n/a | 30,806 | 30,806 | 25,548 | n/a | 29,940 | 29,940 | 23,288 | n/a | 29,138 | 29,138 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 1,409 | 1,409 | 1,398 | n/a | 1,370 | 1,370 | 1,366 | n/a | 1,333 | 1,333 |
| | W/C/WYAK | 41,470 | 34,817 | 34,817 | 29,452 | 40,308 | 33,839 | 33,839 | 26,967 | 39,229 | 32,932 | 32,932 |
| | SEO | 4,110 | 3,451 | 3,451 | - | 3,994 | 3,354 | 3,354 | - | 3,888 | 3,264 | 3,264 |
| | Total | 45,580 | 38,268 | 38,268 | 29,452 | 44,302 | 37,193 | 37,193 | 26,967 | 43,117 | 36,196 | 36,196 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Northern Rockfish | W | n/a | 1,944 | 1,944 | 474 | n/a | 2,614 | 2,614 | 360 | n/a | 2,497 | 2,497 |
| | C | n/a | 3,202 | 3,202 | 1,424 | n/a | 2,350 | 2,350 | 934 | n/a | 2,244 | 2,244 |
| | E | n/a | - | - | - | n/a | - | - | - | n/a | - | - |
| | Total | 6,143 | 5,146 | 5,146 | 1,898 | 5,927 | 4,964 | 4,964 | 1,295 | 5,661 | 4,741 | 4,741 |
| Shortraker Rockfish | W | n/a | 51 | 51 | 7 | n/a | 51 | 51 | 6 | n/a | 51 | 51 |
| | C | n/a | 280 | 280 | 294 | n/a | 280 | 280 | 133 | n/a | 280 | 280 |
| | E | n/a | 374 | 374 | 171 | n/a | 374 | 374 | 186 | n/a | 374 | 374 |
| | Total | 940 | 705 | 705 | 472 | 940 | 705 | 705 | 325 | 940 | 705 | 705 |
| Dusky Rockfish | W | n/a | 269 | 269 | 106 | n/a | 149 | 149 | 56 | n/a | 141 | 141 |
| | C | n/a | 4,534 | 4,534 | 2,472 | n/a | 7,647 | 7,647 | 3,376 | n/a | 7,264 | 7,264 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 427 | 427 | 6 | n/a | 90 | 90 | 1 | n/a | 85 | 85 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 142 | 142 | - | n/a | 31 | 31 | - | n/a | 30 | 30 |
| | Total | 8,614 | 5,372 | 5,372 | 2,584 | 9,638 | 7,917 | 7,917 | 3,433 | 9,154 | 7,520 | 7,520 |
| Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish | W | n/a | 184 | 184 | 95 | n/a | 180 | 180 | 101 | n/a | 180 | 180 |
| | C | n/a | 235 | 235 | 185 | n/a | 232 | 232 | 133 | n/a | 231 | 231 |
| | E | n/a | 369 | 369 | 190 | n/a | 363 | 363 | 148 | n/a | 361 | 361 |
| | Total | 947 | 788 | 788 | 470 | 930 | 775 | 775 | 381 | 927 | 772 | 772 |
| Demersal shelf rockfish | Total | 579 | 365 | 365 | 166 | 376 | 283 | 283 | 197 | 376 | 283 | 283 |
| Thornyhead Rockfish | W | n/a | 352 | 352 | 110 | n/a | 314 | 314 | 49 | n/a | 314 | 314 |
| | C | n/a | 910 | 910 | 173 | n/a | 693 | 693 | 87 | n/a | 693 | 693 |
| | E | n/a | 691 | 691 | 76 | n/a | 621 | 621 | 44 | n/a | 621 | 621 |
| | Total | 2,604 | 1,953 | 1,953 | 359 | 2,170 | 1,628 | 1,628 | 179 | 2,170 | 1,628 | 1,628 |
| Other Rockfish | W/C | n/a | 940 | 940 | 1,122 | n/a | 940 | 940 | 868 | n/a | 940 | 940 |
| | WYAK | n/a | 370 | 370 | 78 | n/a | 370 | 370 | 46 | n/a | 370 | 370 |
| | EYAK/SEO | n/a | 2,744 | 300 | 50 | n/a | 2,744 | 300 | 24 | n/a | 2,744 | 300 |
| | Total | 5,320 | 4,054 | 1,610 | 1,250 | 5,320 | 4,054 | 1,610 | 938 | 5,320 | 4,054 | 1,610 |
| Atka mackerel | Total | 6,200 | 4,700 | 3,000 | 880 | 6,200 | 4,700 | 3,000 | 435 | 6,200 | 4,700 | 3,000 |
| Big Skate | W | n/a | 591 | 591 | 174 | n/a | 591 | 591 | 47 | n/a | 591 | 591 |
| | C | n/a | 1,482 | 1,482 | 735 | n/a | 1,482 | 1,482 | 619 | n/a | 1,482 | 1,482 |
| | E | n/a | 794 | 794 | 116 | n/a | 794 | 794 | 117 | n/a | 794 | 794 |
| | Total | 3,822 | 2,867 | 2,867 | 1,025 | 3,822 | 2,867 | 2,867 | 783 | 3,822 | 2,867 | 2,867 |
| Longnose Skate | W | n/a | 151 | 151 | 77 | n/a | 151 | 151 | 58 | n/a | 151 | 151 |
| | C | n/a | 2,044 | 2,044 | 505 | n/a | 2,044 | 2,044 | 405 | n/a | 2,044 | 2,044 |
| | E | n/a | 517 | 517 | 409 | n/a | 517 | 517 | 605 | n/a | 517 | 517 |
| | Total | 3,616 | 2,712 | 2,712 | 991 | 3,616 | 2,712 | 2,712 | 1,068 | 3,616 | 2,712 | 2,712 |
| Other Skates | GOA-wide | 1,311 | 984 | 984 | 1,041 | 1,311 | 984 | 984 | 318 | 1,311 | 984 | 984 |
| Sharks | GOA-wide | 5,006 | 3,755 | 3,755 | 2,160 | 6,521 | 4,891 | 4,891 | 1,344 | 6,521 | 4,891 | 4,891 |
| Octopuses | GOA-wide | 1,307 | 980 | 980 | 155 | 1,307 | 980 | 980 | 139 | 1,307 | 980 | 980 |
| TOTAL | | 626,738 | 520,038 | 448,118 | 225,165 | 646,826 | 539,072 | 468,796 | 157,510 | 658,311 | 550,224 | 476,537 |

Sources: 2022 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2021, 2022 catches through December 31, 2022, and 2023 catches through September 14, 2023 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 2. Proposed 2024 and 2025 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs)

[Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton]

| Specifications | Western | Central | Eastern | Total |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| ABC | 6,873 | 13,655 | 2,155 | 22,683 |
| State GHL | 2,062 | 3,414 | 539 | 6,014 |
| (%) | 30% | 25% | 25% | |
| Federal TAC | 4,811 | 10,241 | 1,616 | 16,668 |

Table 9. Proposed 2024 and 2025 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments [Values are in metric tons]

| Trawl gear | | | Hook-and-line gear ¹ | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | | Other than DSR | | | DSR | |
| Season | Percent | Amount ² | Season | Percent | Amount | Season | Amount |
| January 20 - April 1 | 30.5% | 520 | January 1 - June 10 | 86% | 220 | January 1 - December 31 | 9 |
| April 1 - July 1 | 20% | 341 | June 10 - September 1 | 2% | 5 | | |
| July 1 - August 1 | 27% | 460 | September 1 - December 31 | 12% | 31 | | |
| August 1 - October 1 | 7.5% | 128 | | | | | |
| October 1 - December 31 | 15% | 256 | | | | | |
| Total | | 1,705 | | | 256 | | 9 |

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

² PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 10. Proposed 2024 and 2025 Apportionment of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limits Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fishery Categories

[Values are in metric tons]

| Season | Shallow-water | Deep-water ¹ | Total ³ |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| January 20 - April 1 | 384 | 135 | 520 |
| April 1 - July 1 | 85 | 256 | 341 |
| July 1 - August 1 | 121 | 341 | 460 |
| August 1 - October 1 | 53 | 75 | 128 |
| Subtotal January 20 - October 1 | 643 | 807 | 1,449 |
| October 1 - December 31 ²³ | n/a | n/a | 256 |
| Total | n/a | n/a | 1,705 |

¹ The third season deep-water apportionment of 341 mt is reduced by 191.4 mt for the Rockfish Program Halibut PSC allocation.

² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

³ PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 11. Proposed 2024 and 2025 Apportionments of the “Other Hook and Line Fisheries” Halibut PSC Allowance Between the Hook-and-Line Gear Catcher Vessel and Catcher/Processor Sectors [Values are in metric tons]

| Hook-and-Line gear (Other than DSR) Annual PSC Amount | Hook-and-line Sector | Annual Amount | Season | Seasonal Percentage | Seasonal Amount |
|---|----------------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 256 | CV | 149 | A | 86% | 128 |
| | | | B | 2% | 3 |
| | | | C | 12% | 18 |
| | CP | 107 | A | 86% | 92 |
| | | | B | 2% | 2 |
| | | | C | 12% | 13 |

Table 12. Proposed 2024 and 2025 Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska
 [Values are percent of halibut assumed to be dead]

| Gear | Sector | Groundfish fishery | Halibut discard mortality rate (percent) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Pelagic trawl | Catcher vessel | All | 100 |
| | Catcher/processor | All | 100 |
| Non-pelagic trawl | Catcher vessel | Rockfish Program | 56 |
| | Catcher vessel | All others | 69 |
| | Mothership and catcher/processor | All | 83 |
| Hook-and-line | Catcher/processor | All | 11 |
| | Catcher vessel | All | 10 |
| Pot | Catcher vessel and catcher/processor | All | 26 |