

**C-2 BSAI Harvest Specifications – Ecosystem Indicators**  
**December 10, 2015**

The Council requests that the Plan Team members and AFSC develop ecosystem indicators for BSAI and GOA halibut in conjunction with IPHC for inclusion in the Ecosystem Considerations chapter in the SAFE report.

**C-2 BSAI Harvest Specifications – Bycatch**  
**Council motion December 10, 2015**

The Council in setting the annual BSAI groundfish specifications will continue to take into consideration groundfish species halibut bycatch rates, the potential effects of groundfish harvest on directed halibut fisheries, and the health of the halibut resource, recognizing a shared responsibility with the IPHC to maintain the viability of halibut commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries, and the communities dependent on them. The Council will also continue to take into consideration other fisheries' bycatch and bycatch rates, such as for crab and salmon.

**C-2 BSAI Harvest Specifications - Stock Structure/Spatial management**  
**Council motion**  
**December 10, 2015**

The Council recommends the following changes to the spatial management policy and direction to the Stock Structure Workgroup.

Council **Stock Structure and** Spatial Management Policy:

1. *As soon as preliminary scientific information indicates that further stock structure separation or other spatial management measures may be considered, the stock assessment authors, plan teams (groundfish, crab, scallop), and SSC should advise the Council of their findings and any associated conservation concerns **and reasonable timeframes to address the concern.***
2. *With input from the agency, the public, and its advisory bodies, the Council (and NMFS) should identify the economic and management implications and potential options for management response to these findings and identify the suite of tools that could be used to achieve conservation and management goals. **This suite of tools includes separate harvest specifications at the TAC, ABC, and/or OFL level.** In the case of crab and scallop management, ADF&G needs to be part of this process.*
3. *To the extent practicable, further refinement of stock structure or other spatial conservation concerns and potential management responses should be discussed through the process described in recommendations 1 and 2 above.*
4. *Based on the best information available provided through this process, the SSC should continue to recommend OFLs and ABCs that prevent overfishing of stocks.*

### Issues of Clarification for the Stock Structure Workgroup:

1. The Council policy should apply to both spatial structure (area management) and stock structure (e.g., splitting out a stock from a complex). The Council recommends renaming the policy as the “Stock Structure and Spatial Management policy.”
2. The alternative tools and options to be identified under Step 2 of the Council’s policy should include separate harvest specifications at the TAC, ABC, and/or OFL level. The Joint Plan Teams should revise their policy (as described in the 2014 Joint Plan Team (JPT) minutes) accordingly. The Council recommends also revising the JPT policy on scale of concern as follows:
  - *Little or no concern*, in which case no action needs to be taken. **This includes situations where information is insufficient to determine a level of concern, which may motivate additional research.**
  - *Moderate concern*, in which case special monitoring (e.g., frequent updating of the template) is required at a minimum and Steps 2 and 3 of the Council’s process may be activated
  - *Strong concern*, in which case Steps 2 and 3 of the Council’s process must be activated
  - *Emergency*, in which case the Team will recommend separate harvest specifications at the ABC level, the OFL level, or both, for the next season (straight to Step 4 of the Council policy)
3. The Council recommends the following role for the Plan Teams: 1) plan teams will typically be the first to propose a level of concern for a stock or stock complex, or modification of an existing level of concern; 2) because separate harvest specifications at the TAC, ABC, and/or OFL level are included as tools under step 2, there will typically be no need for the plan teams to recommend separate ABCs or OFLs while step 2 of the Council policy is still being conducted; and 3) upon completion of steps 1-3 of the Council policy, the plan teams may recommend management responses, including separate ABCs or OFLs. It is understood that the plan teams may propose separate ABCs or OFLs for the coming harvest year in the event that waiting for completion of step 2 would pose a serious conservation concern.
4. The Council agrees that the differences in spatial management between the two groundfish FMPs as summarized by the Stock Structure Working Group reflect reasonable responses to available information and do not require further evaluation at this time.
5. The Council supports the further efforts by the Stock Structure Workgroup to identify the role of the plan teams and the SSC in developing performance criteria to assess the degree to which a tool is successful in addressing strong stock structure concerns and under what conditions the tool should be considered no longer necessary.
6. The Council supports the clarification that the degree of concern relative to a stock is a function of both the strength of evidence of stock structure and the extent to which the fishery is impacting that structure.

### BSAI Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish (BSAI BS/RE):

The Council supports use of the maximum subarea species catch (MSSC) for WAI BS/RE in 2016. The Council requests the workgroup describe the exploitation rate of WAI BS/RE, and other appropriate metrics to describe the impact of fisheries on WAI BS/RE. The Council requests workgroup

recommendations in September/October 2016 if the MSSC is not found to be a sufficient tool to limit catch in the WAI, as well as an evaluation of the management and economic implications of those recommendations, using the proposed schedule in the workgroup report. The Council also clarifies the following:

- Who should propose additional management tools and what is the role of the public in identifying them?  
The Council requests that the workgroup continue to meet to develop possible additional management tools and convene a public meeting (by April) to solicit public input on those or other options for consideration in the 2017 specifications.
- Who will evaluate the suite of tools?  
Once a suite of tools is identified, the Council recommends the FMP coordinator (Council staff) evaluate the proposed tools, using AFSC and NMFS AKR workgroup staff expertise, and provide a report to the BS plan team in September. The expectation is this issue would be included in the BS plan team minutes in September, with the criteria and rationale used to recommend any changes to stock structure or spatial management clearly articulated.
- What is (or, is there) a continued role for the workgroup in this process?  
The Council will re-evaluate whether the workgroup will continue to have a role in this process after the October Council meeting.

## **C2 BSAI Harvest Specifications**

**December 10, 2015**

The Council recommends approving the SAFE report and recommends the following OFLs, ABC and TACs for 2016-17 including the flatfish reserve and PSC limits as attached.

## Attachment 1

Species	Area	2015			Catch 11/28/2015	2016			2017		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	BS	3,330,000	1,637,000	1,310,000	1,320,371	3,910,000	2,090,000	1,340,000	3,540,000	2,019,000	1,340,643
	AI	36,005	29,659	19,000	915	39,075	32,227	19,000	44,455	36,664	19,000
	Bogoslof	21,200	15,900	100	755	31,800	23,850	500	31,800	23,850	500
Pacific cod	BS	346,000	255,000	240,000	212,871	390,000	255,000	238,680	412,000	270,000	238,680
	AI	23,400	17,600	9,422	9,064	23,400	17,600	12,839	23,400	17,600	12,839
Sablefish	BS	1,575	1,333	1,333	209	1,304	1,151	1,151	1,241	1,052	1,052
	AI	2,128	1,802	1,802	431	1,766	1,557	1,557	1,681	1,423	1,423
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	266,400	248,800	149,000	126,120	228,100	211,700	144,000	219,200	203,500	144,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	3,903	3,172	2,648	2,201	4,194	3,462	2,873	7,416	6,132	2,873
	BS	n/a	2,448	2,448	2,090	n/a	2,673	2,673	n/a	4,734	2,673
	AI	n/a	724	200	113	n/a	789	200	n/a	1,398	200
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	93,856	80,547	22,000	11,141	94,035	80,701	14,000	84,156	72,216	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,500	9,000	6,500	4,987	11,100	9,500	5,000	11,700	10,000	5,000
Rock sole	BSAI	187,600	181,700	69,250	45,442	165,900	161,000	57,100	149,400	145,000	57,100
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,419	66,130	24,250	11,139	79,562	66,250	21,000	77,544	64,580	21,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	54,000	44,900	18,500	14,536	49,000	41,000	14,500	46,800	39,100	14,500
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,700	13,250	3,620	2,397	17,414	13,061	2,500	17,414	13,061	2,500
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	42,558	34,988	32,021	31,361	40,529	33,320	31,900	38,589	31,724	31,490
	BS	n/a	8,771	8,021	7,917	n/a	8,353	8,000	n/a	7,953	7,953
	EAI	n/a	8,312	8,000	7,861	n/a	7,916	7,900	n/a	7,537	7,537
	CAI	n/a	7,723	7,000	6,775	n/a	7,355	7,000	n/a	7,002	7,000
	WAI	n/a	10,182	9,000	8,808	n/a	9,696	9,000	n/a	9,232	9,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,337	12,488	3,250	7,251	14,689	11,960	4,500	14,085	11,468	4,500
Blackspotted/Rougheye	BSAI	560	453	349	178	693	561	300	855	694	300
	EBS/EAI	n/a	149	149	63	n/a	179	100	n/a	216	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	304	200	115	n/a	382	200	n/a	478	200
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	690	518	250	153	690	518	200	690	518	200
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,667	1,250	880	677	1,667	1,250	875	1,667	1,250	875
	BS	n/a	695	325	178	n/a	695	325	n/a	695	325
	AI	n/a	555	555	499	n/a	555	550	n/a	555	550
Atka mackerel	BSAI	125,297	106,000	54,500	53,268	104,749	90,340	55,000	99,490	85,840	55,000
	EAI/BS	n/a	38,492	27,000	26,343	n/a	30,832	28,500	n/a	29,296	28,500
	CAI	n/a	33,108	17,000	16,672	n/a	27,216	16,000	n/a	25,860	16,000
	WAI	n/a	34,400	10,500	10,253	n/a	32,292	10,500	n/a	30,684	10,500
Skates	BSAI	49,575	41,658	25,700	26,421	50,215	42,134	26,000	47,674	39,943	26,000
Sculpins	BSAI	52,365	39,725	4,700	4,744	52,365	39,725	4,500	52,365	39,725	4,500
Sharks	BSAI	1,363	1,022	125	100	1,363	1,022	125	1,363	1,022	125
Squids	BSAI	2,624	1,970	400	2,364	6,912	5,184	1,500	6,912	5,184	1,500
Octopuses	BSAI	3,452	2,589	400	419	3,452	2,589	400	3,452	2,589	400
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,769,174</b>	<b>2,848,454</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,889,515</b>	<b>5,323,974</b>	<b>3,236,662</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>4,935,349</b>	<b>3,143,135</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

FINAL 2016 AND 2017 ABC SURPLUS, 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	2016 Flathead sole	2016 Rock sole	2016 Yellowfin sole	2017 Flathead sole	2017 Rock sole	2017 Yellowfin sole
ABC	66,250	161,100	211,700	64,580	145,000	203,500
TAC	21,000	57,100	144,000	21,000	57,100	144,000
ABC surplus	45,250	104,000	67,700	43,580	87,900	59,500
ABC reserve	45,250	104,000	67,700	43,580	87,900	59,500
CDQ ABC reserve	4,842	11,128	7,244	4,663	9,405	6,367
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	40,408	92,872	60,456	38,917	78,495	53,134
Alaska Groundfish Cooperative for 2016 <sup>1</sup>	4,145	22,974	24,019	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alaska Seafood Cooperative for 2016 <sup>1</sup>	36,263	69,898	36,437	n/a	n/a	n/a

<sup>1</sup> The 2017 allocations for Amendment 80 species between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2016.

TABLE 14-FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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 <sup>1</sup>	Non-trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	Total trawl PSC	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	710	2,805	n/a	315	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	n/a	2,631	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	97,000	86,621	10,379	43,293	26,489
C. <u>opilio</u> (animals) COBLZ	n/a	4,708,314	4,204,524	503,790	2,066,524	1,351,334
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	830,000	741,190	88,810	312,115	348,285
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 2	n/a	2,520,000	2,250,360	269,640	532,660	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup>Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

<sup>2</sup>The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

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

TABLE 15-FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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	179	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	29	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	19	n/a
Rockfish	13	n/a
Pacific cod	40	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,151	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>2,3</sup>	199	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>4</sup>	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,631	97,000

<sup>1</sup> "Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>2</sup> Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

<sup>3</sup> "Other species" for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

<sup>4</sup> In December 2015 the Council recommended 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–FINAL 2016 AND 2017 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red King crab (animals) Zone 1	<u>C. opilio</u> (animals)	<u>C. bairdi</u> (animals)	
			COBLZ	Zone 1	Zone 2
Yellowfin sole	150	23,338	1,273,886	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish April 15 - December 31	4	0	2,104	0	849
Pacific cod	391	2,954	54,298	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3</sup>	200	197	21,046	4,235	4,242
<b>Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>26,489</b>	<b>1,351,334</b>	<b>348,285</b>	<b>1,053,394</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

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



TABLE 17–FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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	n/a
	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 apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

TABLE 14-FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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 <sup>1</sup>	Total non-trawl PSC	Non-trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	Total trawl PSC	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ <sup>2</sup>	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	900	832	3,675	3,349	393	2,325	875
Herring (mt) BSAI	n/a	n/a	2,631	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	n/a	97,000	86,621	10,379	43,293	26,489
C. <u>opilio</u> (animals) COBLZ	n/a	n/a	4,708,314	4,204,524	503,790	2,066,524	1,351,334
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 1	n/a	n/a	830,000	741,190	88,810	312,115	348,285
C. <u>bairdi</u> crab (animals) Zone 2	n/a	n/a	2,520,000	2,250,360	269,640	532,660	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup>Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

<sup>2</sup>Section 679.21(e)(3)(i)(A)(2) allocates 326 mt of the trawl halibut mortality limit and § 679.21(e)(4)(i)(A) allocates 7.5 percent, or 67 mt, of the non-trawl halibut mortality limit as the PSQ reserve for use by the groundfish CDQ program. The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

<sup>3</sup>The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits by 150 mt for halibut mortality and 20 percent for crab. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

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

TABLE 15-FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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	179	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	29	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	19	n/a
Rockfish	13	n/a
Pacific cod	40	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,151	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>2,3</sup>	199	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>4</sup>	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,631	97,000

<sup>1</sup> "Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

<sup>2</sup> Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

<sup>3</sup> "Other species" for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

<sup>4</sup> In December 2015 the Council recommended 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–FINAL 2016 AND 2017 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area				
	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	167	23,338	1,273,886	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish April 15 - December 31	5	0	2,104	0	849
Pacific cod	453	2,954	54,298	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3</sup>	250	197	21,046	4,235	4,242
<b>Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>26,489</b>	<b>1,351,334</b>	<b>348,285</b>	<b>1,053,394</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

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

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sculpins, sharks, squids, and octopuses.

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

TABLE 17–FINAL 2016 AND 2017 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	760	15	n/a
	January 1-June 10	455	10	n/a
	June 10-August 15	190	3	n/a
	August 15-December 31	115	2	n/a
Non-Pacific cod non-trawl- Total	May 1-December 31	n/a	n/a	58
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	833

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