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## NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Angel Drobnic, Chair | Diana Evans, Executive Director  
1007 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone 907-271-2809 | [www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org)

# Planning for SSC Review of Fall 2026 Groundfish Stock Assessments

June 2026 Council Meeting

Timing for SSC review of certain groundfish assessment products in fall 2026 has been adjusted to accommodate changes resulting from fall 2025, when most scheduled assessment products could not be completed due to the government shutdown. Staff have included the following description of planned groundfish assessment reviews in October and December to provide the Council and the public with a clear understanding of what type of review will occur at which meeting in fall 2026. Note that **while the SSC's available agenda time requires the SSC to make final recommendations on ABC/OFL for some groundfish stocks in October, the Council will not consider corresponding action on final ABC/OFL/TAC recommendations until the December Council meeting**, when all of the SSC recommendations from both October and December will be available. Additionally, a fourth day for the SSC meeting in December has been scheduled to accommodate their additional workload this year, which means that the Council meeting will also start a day later, on Friday, December 4th, instead of Thursday (and the meeting will correspondingly be scheduled through Wednesday, December 9th).

Typically, stocks with full assessments are reviewed by the SSC in the two-meeting cycle (proposed models are reviewed in October, final assessments are reviewed in December). This year, full assessments for select stocks (**in bold** in the table below) will be reviewed in one meeting, rather than the usual October and December meetings, because proposed models for those full assessments were already reviewed by the SSC in October 2025. Final full operational stock assessments for GOA arrowtooth flounder and GOA rex sole will come forward in October. Final stock assessments for GOA Pacific Ocean perch (POP), GOA rougheye/blackspotted rockfish (REBS), and BSAI skates will come forward in December. Proposed models for some stocks the SSC reviewed in October 2025 are being "re-reviewed" in October 2026 due to additional changes being proposed by the stock assessment authors. These stocks are shown in *italics* in the table below.

Update assessments are typically reviewed in one meeting (December), because update assessments use models that have been previously accepted by the SSC. This year, due to SSC timing and scheduling, a couple of these stocks (GOA skates and Bogoslof pollock) are being reviewed in October instead of December. Additionally, all stocks scheduled for harvest projections will be reviewed in October as well. Catch reports (which do not require SSC review but which are included in the SAFE reports) will be produced for the December meeting.

Below are detailed plans for **SSC review of groundfish stocks in October and December 2026**, including the type of document (full assessment, update assessment, harvest projection, catch report, Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP), Ecosystem Status Report (ESR), proposed models) expected to be reviewed. Descriptions of types of assessment documents can be found [here](#).

Timing	Type of assessment document	Stock or stock complex
<b>October 2026</b>	Full assessment (2) <i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i>	<b>GOA arrowtooth flounder &amp; ESP</b> Proposed models & ESP reviewed Oct 2025 <b>GOA rex sole</b> Proposed models reviewed Oct 2025
	Update assessment (2) <i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i>	GOA skates Bogoslof pollock
	Harvest projection (11) <i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i>	BSAI Northern rock sole AI pollock BSAI Kamchatka flounder BSAI Northern rockfish BSAI Alaska plaice BSAI Arrowtooth flounder BSAI flathead sole GOA dusky rockfish GOA flathead sole GOA shallow water flatfish (incl. n/s rock sole) GOA deep water flatfish
	Proposed models (8)	<i>AK sablefish</i> <i>BSAI yellowfin sole</i> <i>EBS pollock</i> <i>BSAI Greenland turbot</i> <i>GOA pollock</i> AI Pacific cod EBS Pacific cod GOA demersal shelf rockfish
	Other	Ecosystem status report (ESR) climate preview

Timing	Type of assessment document	Stock or stock complex
<p><b>December 2026</b></p>	<p>Full assessment (11)</p> <p><i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i></p>	<p>AK sablefish &amp; ESP            BSAI yellowfin sole            AI Pacific cod            EBS Pacific cod &amp; ESP            EBS pollock            BSAI Greenland turbot &amp; new ESP(t)            GOA Demersal shelf rockfish            GOA pollock &amp; ESP  <b>BSAI skates</b>            Proposed models reviewed Oct 2025  <b>GOA Pacific ocean perch</b>            Proposed models reviewed Oct 2025  <b>GOA Rougheye &amp; Blackspotted rockfish</b>            Proposed models reviewed Oct 2025</p>
	<p>Update assessment (9)</p> <p><i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i></p>	<p>BSAI Atka mackerel &amp; new ESP (t)            BSAI Pacific ocean perch            BSAI rougheye &amp; blackspotted rockfish            BSAI Other rockfish            BSAI shortraker rockfish            GOA shortraker rockfish            GOA Pacific cod &amp; ESP            GOA Northern rockfish            GOA Thornyhead rockfish</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>ESRs for EBS, AI, GOA            Forage fish report</p>
	<p>Catch report</p> <p><i>Final ABC/OFL recommendations</i></p>	<p>BSAI Other flatfish            BSAI octopus            BSAI sharks, GOA sharks            GOA Atka mackerel            GOA octopus</p>