

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Agenda B-2 -- Inseason Management Report

Catch during 2025 is through November 22, 2025 and is compared to catch during 2024 through November 23, 2024. All catch amounts are in metric tons. Additional information is available from <u>daily</u> catch reports and information bulletins.

Species Closed to Retention

Several species and species complexes have been put on prohibited catch status in 2025. Prohibited catch status means that the species can no longer be retained but does not prevent catching and discarding. All catch (retained and discarded) accrues towards the total allowable catch (TAC).

- Central Gulf of Alaska shortraker rockfish (except for CPs in the Rockfish Program) April 15,
 2025
- Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod for CP trawl July 14, 2025
- Western and Central Aleutian Islands blackspotted and rougheye rockfish September 11, 2025
- Aleutian Islands "other rockfish" September 26, 2025
- Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific ocean perch September 26, 2025
- Central Gulf of Alaska big skates November 1, 2025

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Bering Sea (BS) Pollock

The 2025 Bering Sea pollock TAC is 1,375,000 metric tons (mt). In 2024 the initial TAC was 1,300,000 mt, but increased to 1,313,580 mt after reallocating TAC from the AI to the BS. For 2025, NMFS reallocated 12,100 mt of Aleut Corporation and 1,900 mt of CDQ projected unharvested Aleutian Islands (AI) pollock TAC from the AI to the BS. The B season opened at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2025 and the fishery closed at noon, A.l.t., November 1, 2025. In 2024 catch data showed that 1,310,755 mt (99.8%) of the TAC had been taken by December 31, 2024. BS ICA was higher in 2024 (47,246 mt) than 2025 during the same timeframe. From 2018-2024 the BS ICA catch has exceeded 44,000 mt six times.

Bering Sea	2025 Annual allocation	2025 Annual catch	Percent taken
Inshore	601,800	557,867	93%
CP	481,440	478,532	99%
Mothership	120,360	120,270	100%
CDQ	139,400	139,345	100%
ICA	46,000	29,337	64%
Total	1,389,000	1,325,351	95%



Salmon in the Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries

The Chinook salmon PSC limit is 45,000 Chinook salmon in 2025, and allocated to each sector as specified in 50 CFR 679.21(f)(3)(iii)(A). In 2025 relative to 2024, the total salmon PSC and rates are higher for both Chinook and Non-Chinook. There were no Chinook salmon harvested under the exempted fishing permit (EFP) 2025-01 to develop and test salmon excluders in the Bering Sea pollock fishery during summer fishing conditions.

Species	Chinook				Non-Chinook				
Year	20:	25	2024		2025		2024		
Amount	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	#	Rate ¹	
CDQ	1,536	0.011	748	0.006	4,732	0.034	1,494	0.011	
AFA	18,164	0.016	7,298	0.006	146,371	0.125	33,636	0.030	
Total	19,700	0.015	8,046	0.006	151,103	0.116	35,130	0.028	

¹Rate is total salmon per groundfish in the pollock target.

Herring in the BSAI

The BSAI PSC herring limit being taken in 2025, and the Winter Herring Savings Area closed to the pelagic trawl pollock fishery category on September 25, 2025 and will remain closed through March 1, 2026 per 50 CFR 679.21(e)(7)(vi) and Figure 4 in part 679. This closure includes CDQ. As of November 22, 2025 the pelagic pollock fishery category is reported to have taken 3,017 mt or 128% of the 2,359 mt PSC herring limit in the BSAI.

For the rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/"other flatfish" fishery category, 35 mt or 45% of the 77 mt PSC limit has been reported.

Blackspotted and Rougheye Rockfish

For 2025, the maximum species specific catch (MSSC) recommended in the Western Aleutian Islands is 100 mt. This amount has been exceeded by 103 mt. The Central MSSC of 198 mt was also exceeded by 23 mt. Western and Central Aleutian Islands blackspotted and rougheye rockfish were placed on prohibited catch status on September 11, 2025. All sectors are requested to avoid blackspotted/rougheye rockfish in both the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. A weekly report is available to monitor total catch of blackspotted/rougheye rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The ABC/ACL for this species complex has been exceeded three out of the last four years. To date, catch is 58 mt below the ABC/ACL in 2025.

"Other" Rockfish

Aleutian Islands "other" rockfish were placed on prohibited catch status on September 26, 2025. All sectors are requested to avoid "other" rockfish in both the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The ABC/ACL for this species complex has been exceeded once (in 2024) out of the last four years. To date, catch is 26 mt below the ABC/ACL in 2025.

BSAI Pacific cod by Sector

The 2025 Pacific cod TAC is 133,602 mt in the Bering Sea and 8,694 mt in the Aleutian Islands compared to the 2024 Bering Sea TAC of 147,753 mt and Aleutian Islands TAC of 8,080 mt. The remaining amount of the 2025 total non-CDQ sector annual allocation is 14,728 mt. The remaining non-CDQ Bering Sea TAC is 18,380 mt. This leaves 3,652 mt of the non-CDQ Pacific cod allocation that cannot be caught in the Bering Sea.

		202	5		2024				
BSAI Sector	Annual TAC ¹	Catch Nov 22	Closed	% Taken	Annual TAC ¹	Catch Nov 23	Closed	% Taken	
CDQ	15,225	9,837	na	65%	16,675	9,793	na	59%	
Hook-and-line CP	61,483	55,944	na	91%	67,370	59,605	na	88%	
Pot CP	1,894	1,858	na	98%	2,075	conf.	na	conf.	
Pot $CV \ge 60$ ft	10,605	8,362	na	79%	11,620	4,899	na	42%	
Hook-and-line CV >= 60 ft	10	0	na	0%	10	0	na	0%	
Hook-and-line/Pot CVs < 60 ft	5,496	4,201	na	76%	6,884	5,719	na	83%	
Jig	50	0	na	0%	98	0	na	0%	
Trawl CV	27,083	22,497	Nov 1	83%	28,754	24,146	Nov 1	84%	
AFA CP	2,173	1,009	Nov 1	46%	1,701	1,072	Nov 1	63%	
Amendment 80 CP	17,777	14,324	na	81%	20,147	17,106	na	85%	
ICA HAL/Pot	500	495		99%	500	741		148%	
Total	142,296	118,527		83%	155,834	conf.		conf.	

¹Includes reallocations. See information bulletins at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-groundfish-fisheries-management

Pacific cod directed fishing - trawl CVs and PCTC

In 2025 a total of 28 vessels participated in the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) program and harvested 19,002 mt of the 21,670 mt TAC (88%). In 2024 the PCTC program harvested 20,490 mt of the 23,941 mt TAC (86%). The unharvested portion of the PCTC TAC was reallocated into the CV trawl C season. The C season, which is not a part of the PCTC program, opened at noon, A.l.t., June 10, 2025 and closed by regulation at noon, A.l.t., November 1, 2025. Directed Pacific cod catch in the C season is confidential due to a limited number of participants.

BSAI Flatfish (includes CDQ)

2025 and 2024 catch of overall BSAI flatfish is similar in both years, but varies by species. In 2025, rock sole has the largest increase in catch, and flathead sole has the largest decrease in catch.

		2025		2024			
Species	Catch	TAC ¹	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken	
Alaska plaice	7,064	15,903	44%	10,246	21,752	47%	
Arrowtooth flounder	9,173	14,000	66%	10,281	14,000	73%	
Flathead sole	8,629	27,000	32%	12,759	35,500	36%	
Greenland turbot	618	1,678	37%	766	3,188	24%	
Kamchatka flounder	5,045	6,800	74%	5,120	7,498	68%	
Other flatfish	5,364	5,225 ²	103%	3,125	4,500	69%	
Rock sole	40,435	67,000	60%	29,548	66,000	45%	
Yellowfin sole	86,954	152,000	57%	85,371	195,000	44%	
Total	163,282	289,606	56%	157,216	347,438	45%	

¹Includes one flatfish exchange.

BSAI Atka mackerel, Pacific ocean perch (POP) includes CDQ, and Trawl Sablefish

The catch of Atka mackerel is higher in 2025 than 2024. BS and AI non-CDQ trawl sablefish and Pacific ocean perch catch is lower in 2025 compared to 2024.

Charing		2025		2024			
Species	Catch	TAC	% Taken	Catch	TAC	% Taken	
Atka mackerel	80,611	82,000	98%	72,165	72,987	99%	
Pacific ocean perch	32,337	33,458	97%	36,227	37,626	96%	
BS non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl	2,096	4,248	49%	2,939	3,998	74%	
AI non-CDQ Sablefish-Trawl	823	1,985	41%	1,149	2,110	54%	

²NMFS anticipates releasing reserves to increase the TAC of other flatfish before December 31.

Gulf of Alaska

Pacific cod - Western GOA

		202	25			202	4	
Sector	Annual allocation	Catch Nov 22	Closed	% Taken	Annual allocation 1	Catch Nov 23	Closed	% Taken
Hook-and-line CP	1,165	1,019	na	87%	1,410	1,265	na	90%
Hook-and-line CV	82	85	Jan 1	104%	283	175	Jan 1	62%
Jig	213	89	na	42%	214	17	na	8%
Pot CV/CP	2,236	2,192	na	98%	2,245	1,500	na	67%
Trawl CV	2,260	1,927	Nov 1	85%	1,828	1,468	Nov 1	80%
Trawl CP	141	34	Jan 20	24%	142	36	Jan 20	25%
Total	6,097	5,346		88%	6,121	4,461		73%

¹Includes reallocations. See information bulletins at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/alaska-groundfish-fisheries-management

Pacific cod - Central GOA

		202	5		2024				
Sector	Annual allocation	Catch Nov 22	Closed	% Taken	Annual allocation	Catch Nov 23	Closed	% Taken	
Hook-and-line CP	762	679	na	89%	772	630	na	82%	
Hook-and-line CV <50 ft	2,178	1,815	na	83%	2,210	1,778	na	80%	
Hook-and-line CV >=50 ft	1,000	721	na	72%	1,115	1,035	Sept 23	93%	
Jig	462	444	Jun 19	96%	309	303	Jul 19	98%	
Pot CV/CP	4,148	4,156	Oct 6	100%	4,208	4,120	na	98%	
Trawl CV - non RP	5,617	4,632	Nov 1	82%	5,705	5,674	Nov 1	99%	
Trawl CV - RP	586	462	na	79%	588	419	na	71%	
Trawl CP	626	1,036	Jan 20	166%	635	750	Jan 20	118%	
Total	15,379	13,945		91%	15,542	14,709		95%	

Central GOA Trawl CP Pacific cod

At the October Council meeting the Council requested more information regarding the TAC overage for the Central GOA trawl catcher processor (CP) Pacific cod sector. The trawl CP sector has been closed to directed fishing in the GOA harvest specifications since 2015, however, this sector may still retain amounts of Pacific cod up to the maximum retainable amount (MRA). The majority of Pacific cod in the trawl CP sector has been caught as bycatch in the arrowtooth flounder and rockfish directed fisheries since 2021. In 2025, 57.6% of Pacific cod by trawl CPs was caught as bycatch in the arrowtooth flounder directed fishery while the remaining 42.4% came from the rockfish directed fishery.

In 2025, Pacific cod catch from the trawl CP sector was the largest catch that occurred between 2018 and 2025. Harvest for this sector has exceeded the initial allocation every year since 2018. NMFS prohibits retention (PSC status) of Pacific cod by CPs once the TAC is reached, however vessels are not prohibited from catching and discarding Pacific cod after it is put on PSC status. Since 2018, NMFS has placed this sector on PSC status before the end of the year, usually in the summer months, however catch of Pacific cod still occurs and is discarded while targeting other species.

By regulation the Regional Administrator may reallocate Pacific cod among sectors if it is determined a sector will not fully utilize their TAC (679.20(a)(12)(ii)). Pacific cod TACs and subsequent sector allocations have been lower in recent years because of stock biomass. In most years, NMFS reallocates unused TAC from one sector to another to cover any overages at the end of the year. NMFS has been able to reallocate to the CP trawl sector from other sectors who have not fully utilized their TAC every year except 2019. In 2019, harvest from multiple sectors exceeded their TACs and resulted in a TAC overage of the overall Central GOA Pacific cod TAC which resulted in an inability to reallocate between sectors. The most common sector to reallocate from is the trawl CV sector (Gulf of Alaska Reallocations, 2012-2024). Other sectors also exceed their TACs in some years due to imprecisions in inseason management and unexpected or delayed discard rates generated by observer and EM data. Currently there is not an ACL overage concern because the ACL for Pacific cod is GOA wide. Historically, there has been TAC remaining in one or more sectors in the GOA every year.

Central GOA Trawl CP Pacific cod sector allocation, catch, and overages (2018-2025)

Year	Initial allocation	Harvest	Amount over initial allocation	Percent caught of initial allocation
2018	253	636	383	251.38%
2019	239	587	348	245.61%
2020	158	663	505	419.62%
2021	426	1,004	578	235.68%
2022	616	1,006	390	163.31%
2023	462	596	134	129.00%
2024	635	765	130	120.47%
2025	626	1,036	410	165.50%

Pollock

In the 2025 pollock target, in Area 610, 17 CVs have reported 13,889 mt, in Area 620, 36 CVs have reported 78,505 mt, and in Area 630, 33 CVs have reported 37,528 mt. The GOA pollock fisheries close to directed fishing by regulation on November 1.

2025	610	620	630	640
Annual Allocation	37,344	82,265	51,605	5,282 (annual)
Annual Catch	14,030	79,477	39,212	1,861
Closure	Nov 1	Oct 25	Nov 1	Nov 1

Chinook Salmon PSC Limits in the GOA

Total 2025 Chinook salmon PSC and rates are lower relative to 2024.

Chinook Salmon	2025 Limit	2025 PSC (Rate ¹)	2024 PSC (Rate ¹)
Total	na	15,647 (0.08)	27,931 (0.15)
Western GOA pollock	6,684	2,461 (0.08)	5,035 (0.16)
Central GOA pollock	18,316	10,617 (0.11)	20,332 (0.22)
Western/Central trawl CV ²	3,060	14 (0.00)	18 (0.00)
Central Rockfish Program CV	1,200	498 (0.04)	332 (0.03)
Western/Central trawl CP ²	4,080	2,057 (0.07)	2,214 (0.08)

¹Rate is number of salmon per metric tons of groundfish.

²The limit includes the incentive buffer for 2024 and 2025 Western/Central trawl C/P limit (480 Chinook) and Western/Central trawl CV (360 Chinook).

GOA Shortraker rockfish

As of November 22, 2025 the 189 mt shortraker rockfish TAC in the Central Gulf of Alaska has been exceeded by 169 mt. NMFS placed shortraker rockfish in the Central Gulf of Alaska on prohibited catch status on April 15, 2025 except for CPs participating in the Rockfish Program. Total catch in the GOA is 149 mt below the GOA-wide ABC/ACL. All fishery sectors are requested to avoid shortraker rockfish in the Gulf of Alaska in order to minimize the chance of approaching the GOA-wide ABC or OFL.

BSAI and **GOA** Halibut **PSC**

In 2025 relative to 2024, the total halibut mortality and rate are slightly higher in the BSAI. In the GOA, the total halibut mortality and rate are lower in 2025 than 2024.

		2025		2024			
Area, Gear, and Sector	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	Halibut mortality	Groundfish	Rate	
BSAI Total	1,739	612,647	0.28%	1,582	628,927	0.25%	
Amendment 80	1,199	283,153	0.42%	1,176	302,939	0.39%	
BSAI trawl limited access and PCTC ¹	197	36,471	0.54%	157	35,494	0.44%	
Non-trawl Pacific cod	175	115,534	0.15%	141	118,380	0.12%	
CDQ	168	177,489	0.09%	108	172,114	0.06%	
GOA Total	362	246,958	0.15%	520	236,466	0.22%	
Trawl, Deep-water	139	52,863	0.26%	349	54,481	0.64%	
Trawl, Shallow-water	76	147,146	0.05%	57	137,604	0.04%	
Trawl, Rockfish Program	67	32,191	0.21%	80	28,686	0.28%	
Hook-and-line	80	14,758	0.54%	34	15,695	0.21%	

¹BSAI trawl limited access includes all trawl except CDQ, AFA, and A80.

Implementation of Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) in the BSAI and GOA

Review of the 2025 trawl EM activity did not show any vessel behavior shifts linked to trawl EM that created management concerns. This was the program's first year in regulation. It removed regulatory discards associated with pollock trip limits and maximum retainable amounts.