

Advisory Panel
C3 BSAI Groundfish – Proposed specifications
October 2026

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AP Motion 1

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2027 and 2028 BSAI groundfish specifications for OFLs, ABCs, and BRDs as recommended by the SSC and set proposed TACs, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2026 final specifications from 2026/2027 harvest specifications. The proposed TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The proposed TACs for sablefish have also been reduced in the BSAI by 5% to accommodate the GHF fishery.

The AP Recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2027 and 2028 seasonal and spatial allowances for Atka Mackerel as shown in Table 3.

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2027 and 2028 flatfish ABC reserves, annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2027 and 2028 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Tables 1, 3, and 7- 12 can also be found in the meeting agenda under C3.

Motion passed 18-0

Rationale in Support of Motion

- *This motion recommends the Council initiate proposed rulemaking for the upcoming 2-year harvest specifications.*
- *The AP appreciates the staff, plan team members, survey crews, etc for their hard work and quick turnaround of this information, including the efforts to mitigate timing impacts to final assessments in the event of future lapse in appropriations.*
- *Tables 1, 3, and 7-12 reflect the Plan Team's recommendations and serve as placeholders until the final SAFE reports are complete. The AP also noted that the proposed PSC tables 8 and 9 have been updated to reflect the Herring Biomass letter from ADFG that was received early, but noted that they remain proposed tables and changes may still occur in December during final specifications.*
- *The AP heard concerns about reductions in capacity within the Age and Growth program and for surveys. Since both provide important data streams for stock assessments, the AP encourages the Council to highlight these capacity concerns and take opportunities to raise them with the Administration.*

Table 1. AP OFL, ABC, and BRD recommendations (metric tons) for BSAI Groundfish Proposed

Species	Area	2026			Catch as of	Recommended 2027-2028			
		OFL	ABC	TAC	9/8/2026	OFL	ABC	BRD	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,496,000	2,036,000	1,375,000	1,125,707	2,496,000	2,036,000		1,375,000
	AI	56,231	46,437	19,000	2,478	56,231	46,437		19,000
	Bogoslof	77,354	58,015	250	165	77,354	58,015		250
Pacific cod	BS	169,243	141,520	123,077	111,824	169,243	141,520		123,077
	AI	16,273	12,973	8,951	6,084	16,273	12,973		8,951
	BSAI/GOA	57,797	47,008		19,226	57,797	47,008		
Sablefish	BS			8,996	2,723			13,037	8,996
	AI			7,440	831			11,421	7,440
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	305,039	267,639	145,000	67,518	305,039	267,639		145,000
	BSAI	2,059	1,328	1,328	178	2,059	1,328		1,328
Greenland turbot	BS			1,120	121			1,120	1,120
	AI			208	57			208	208
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	102,472	87,035	14,000	4,820	102,472	87,035	14,000	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	7,790	6,606	6,606	1,953	7,790	6,606	6,606	6,606
Northern rock sole	BSAI	166,220	158,225	75,000	35,917	166,220	158,225	75,000	75,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	106,283	87,700	36,000	16,216	106,283	87,700	36,000	36,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	33,965	28,230	15,682	4,143	33,965	28,230	15,682	15,682
Other flatfish	BSAI	26,083	19,562	4,500	3,754	26,083	19,562		4,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	43,084	36,578	33,490	18,945	43,084	36,578		33,490
	BS			9,905	3,070			9,905	9,905
	EAI			6,144	3,366			6,144	6,144
	CAI			5,441	4,050			5,441	5,441
	WAI			12,000	8,459			16,058	12,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,284	18,232	12,000	8,389	22,284	18,232		12,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	902	766	766	439	902	766		766
	EBS/EAI			441	101			441	441
	CAI/WAI			325	338			325	325
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	631	473	473	50	631	473		473
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,406	1,054	1,054	527	1,406	1,054		1,054
	BS		639	639	160			639	639
	AI		415	415	367			415	415
Atka mackerel	BSAI	107,889	92,361	82,941	59,986	107,889	92,361		82,941
	EAI/BS			41,731	24,297			41,731	41,731
	CAI			23,716	19,991			23,716	23,716
	WAI			17,494	15,698			26,914	17,494
Skates	BSAI	43,285	35,833	27,646	14,312	43,285	35,833		27,646
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	400	157	689	450		400
Octopuses	BSAI	6,080	4,560	400	150	6,080	4,560		400
Total	BSAI	3,849,059	3,188,585	2,000,000	1,487,705	3,849,059	3,188,585		2,000,000

Beginning in 2026, the Groundfish Plan Teams and Council bodies will use new terminology for groundfish harvest specifications. The purpose of this endeavor is to make the following distinction: the ABC (ACL) is specified at the stock or stock complex level, and the overall TAC for a stock or stock complex cannot be set above ABC. ABC is tied to MSA requirements and accountability measures (AMS). Spatial apportionments are based on survey data, fishery data, or a combination of the two data types, and are meant to inform distribution of the TAC across areas. These spatial apportionments will be referred to as Biologically-informed Recommended Distributions (BRD).

OFL = Overfishing Limit

ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch

BRD = Biologically-informed Recommended Distribution

TAC = Total Allowable Catch

Source: 2025 and 2026 Final BSAI Harvest Specifications; Catch Accounting System. BSAI catch (not AK wide catch) for sablefish included in catch total.

Table 3—Proposed 2027 and 2028 Seasonal and Spatial Allowances, Gear Shares, CDQ Reserve, ICA, and Amendment 80 Allocations of the BSAI Atka Mackerel TAC (values are rounded to the nearest metric ton)

Sector ¹	Season ^{2 3 4}	BS/EAI	CAI ⁵	WAI ⁵
TAC ¹	Total	41,731	23,716	17,494
CDQ reserve ¹	Total	4,465	2,538	1,872
	A	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat	n/a	761	562
	B	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat	n/a	761	562
non-CDQ TAC	Total	37,266	21,178	15,622
ICA ¹	Total	800	100	20
Jig ^{1 6}	Total	0	n/a	n/a
BSAI trawl limited access	Total	3,647	2,108	n/a
	A	1,823	1,054	n/a
	Critical Habitat	n/a	632	n/a
	B	1,823	1,054	n/a
	Critical Habitat	n/a	632	n/a
Amendment 80	Total	32,819	18,970	15,602
	A	16,410	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat	n/a	5,691	4,681
	B	16,410	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat	n/a	5,691	4,681

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

¹Section 679.20(a)(8)(ii) allocates the Atka mackerel TACs, after subtracting the CDQ reserves, ICAs, and the jig gear allocation, to the Amendment 80 and BSAI trawl limited access sectors. The allocation of the ITAC for Atka mackerel to the Amendment 80 and BSAI trawl limited access sectors is established in table 33 to 50 CFR part 679 and § 679.91. The CDQ reserve is 10.7 percent of the TAC for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.20(b)(1)(ii)(C)).

²Sections 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(A) and 679.22(a) establish temporal and spatial limitations for the Atka mackerel fishery.

³The seasonal allowances of Atka mackerel for the CDQ reserve, BSAI trawl limited access sector, and Amendment 80 sector are 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season.

⁴Section 679.23(e)(3) authorizes directed fishing for Atka mackerel with trawl gear during the A season from January 20 to June 10, and the B season from June 10 to December 31.

⁵Section 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(1)(i) limits no more than 60 percent of the annual TACs in Areas 542 and 543 to be caught inside of Steller sea lion critical habitat; § 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(1)(ii) equally divides the annual harvest limits between the A and B seasons as defined at § 679.23(e)(3); and § 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(2) requires that the TAC in Area 543 shall be no more than 65 percent of BRD in Area 543.

⁶Sections 679.2 and 679.20(a)(8)(i) require that up to 2 percent of the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea TAC be allocated to jig gear after subtraction of the CDQ reserve and ICA. The proposed amount of this allocation is 0 percent. The jig gear allocation is not apportioned by season.

Table 7–Proposed 2027 and 2028 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, CDQ ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves in the BSAI for Flathead Sole, Rock Sole, and Yellowfin Sole (values are rounded to the nearest metric ton)

Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin Sole
ABC	87,700	158,225	267,639
TAC	36,000	75,000	145,000
ABC surplus	51,700	83,225	122,639
ABC reserve	51,700	83,225	122,639
CDQ ABC reserve	5,532	8,905	13,122
Amendment 80 ABC reserve ¹	46,168	74,320	109,517

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

¹The 2028 allocations 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 the deadline of November 1, 2027.

Table 8–Proposed 2027 and 2028 Apportionment of Prohibited Species Catch Allowances to Non-Trawl Gear, the CDQ Program, Amendment 80, and the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors (values are rounded to the nearest metric ton. Crab are in number of animals.)

PSC species and area and zone 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 to Amendment 80
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,079	710	315	n/a	1,309	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,015	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	6,764,586	n/a	723,811	6,040,775	2,969,041	1,941,505	1,130,229
<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

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

¹Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

²The PSQ reserve for the CDQ Program for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

³ The halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector is determined annually based on the most recent halibut biomass estimates from the IPHC setline survey index and the NMFS AFSC Eastern Bering Sea shelf trawl survey index (§ 679.21(b)(1)(i)(A) through (C)). NMFS uses both halibut biomass estimates such that the value at the intercept of those survey indices from table 58 to 50 CFR part 679 is the Amendment 80 sector halibut PSC limit.

Table 9—Proposed 2027 and 2028 Herring and Red King Crab Savings Subarea Prohibited Species Catch Allowances for All Trawl Sectors (Herring amounts are rounded to the nearest metric ton. Crab are in number of animals.)

Fishery categories ¹	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	116	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ²	59	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	6	n/a
Rockfish	6	n/a
Pacific cod	11	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	1,793	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{3 4}	24	n/a
2026 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,015	97,000

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

¹Target fishery categories are defined at § 679.21(b)(1)(ii)(B) and (e)(3)(iv).

²“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.

³Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

⁴“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁵In October 2026, the Council recommended and NMFS proposes that the red king crab bycatch limit within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC limit (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Table 10—Proposed 2027 and 2028 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Programs (values are rounded to the nearest metric ton. Crab are in number of animals.)

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries ²	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	250	23,337	1,853,931	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	n/a	1,564	n/a	1,000
Total Pacific cod ⁴	315	2,955	78,191	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific cod	6	278	7,350	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific cod, A and B	220	1,653	43,744	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Pacific cod, C season	15	134	3,542	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	73	890	23,555	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁵	175	197	7,819	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	1,941,505	411,228	1,241,500

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

¹Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

²Target fishery categories are defined at § 679.21(b)(1)(ii)(B) and (e)(3)(iv).

³“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.

⁴The BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits for halibut and crab are split between AFA C/Ps, PCTC A and B-season for trawl CVs, and open access C-season (§ 679.131(c) and (d)). The halibut PSC limits are reduced for the A and B season trawl CV sector by 25 percent each year (§ 679.131(c)(1)(iii)). The crab PSC limits are reduced for the A and B season trawl CV sector by 35 percent each year (§ 679.131(d)(1)(iii)). Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV open access fishery in the C season.

⁵“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Table 11—Proposed 2027 and 2028 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries (values are rounded to the nearest metric ton)

Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	C/P	CV	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	n/a
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 12—Proposed 2027 and 2028 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	84
Non-Pelagic Trawl	Catcher vessel	64
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	18

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