

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
October 1-3, 2024 - Anchorage, AK

C3 GOA Groundfish Specs

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2025 and 2026 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs, as recommended by the SSC and set TACs and shown in Table 1. Final specifications will be approved in December. The TACs for both GOA cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The proposed GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in Table 2. The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2025 and 2026 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11 and the proposed 2025 and 2026 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the GOA in Table 12.

Motion passed unanimously: 20/0

Rationale in Favor of Motion:

- *At this meeting the Council will recommend, for proposed rulemaking, both BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest specifications for the upcoming two-year period (2025 and 2026) which will notify the public of expected Council action to set final harvest specifications in December 2024.*
- *Final harvest specifications in December 2024 will be based on stock assessment reports included in the Groundfish SAFE reports for the BSAI and GOA that will be released in late November 2024.*

Table 2. Proposed 2025 and 2026 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	8,745	20,590	2,937	32,272
State GHL	2,624	5,148	734	8,506
(%)	30%	25%	25%	-
Federal TAC	6,121	15,442	2,203	23,766

Table 9. Proposed 2025 and 2026 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	Season	Percent	Amount ²	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.

Table 10. Proposed 2025 and 2026 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries
(Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	385	135	520
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	120	340	460
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	806	1,449
October 1 - December 31 ²			256
Total			1,705

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through September 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

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

Table 11. Proposed 2025 and 2026 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)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
256	Catcher Vessel	150	January 1 - June 10	86	129
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	18
	Catcher/Processor	107	January 1 - June 10	86	92
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	13

Table 12. Proposed 2025 and 2026 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are in 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	74
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	76
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	10
	Catcher vessel	All	19
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	32