

C-3 Council motion

Proposed GOA Groundfish Specifications

October 10, 2026

The Council adopts the proposed 2027 and 2028 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. The TACs for Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries (Pacific cod adjustments shown in Table 2). The proposed TAC for GOA octopus has also been adjusted to account for the state water GHL fisheries (included in Table 1).

The Council adopts the proposed 2027 and 2028 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the proposed 2027 and 2028 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12.

Final specifications will be approved in December 2026 when stock assessments are completed and full information is available.

Regarding spatial apportionment, the Council is interested in SSC advice in December 2026 as to whether there is flexibility in the survey-based spatial apportionments recommended by the SSC for GOA shorttraker rockfish, GOA rougheye and blackspotted rockfish complex, GOA thornyhead rockfish, and GOA skates (big and longnose). Useful information from the SSC could include whether the previous year's BRDs, or small changes from the current SSC-recommended BRDs, would be likely to result in biological impacts to the stock or stock complex.

Table 1. Council Recommendations (mt) for GOA Groundfish Proposed Harvest Specifications for 2027 and 2028

Species	Area	2026			Catch 9/8/2026	2027-2028			
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	BRD	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	3,326			n/a		3,326	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	27,453	27,453	4,788	n/a		27,453	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	60,477	60,477	47,143	n/a		60,477	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	37,936	37,936	14,941	n/a		37,936	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	3,883	3,883	2,097	n/a		3,883	3,883
	Subtotal	153,971	133,075	129,749	68,969	153,971	133,075		129,749
	SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749	1	12,998	9,749		9,749
	Total	166,969	142,824	139,498	68,970	166,969	142,824		139,498
Pacific Cod	W		10,297	6,693	4,131	n/a		7,987	5,192
	C		28,732	21,549	17,133	n/a		22,289	16,717
	E		2,491	1,811	682	n/a		1,933	1,450
	Total	49,782	41,520	30,053	21,946	38,812	32,209		23,359
Sablefish	W		4,687	4,687	2,898	n/a		4,687	4,687
	C		9,622	9,622	6,389	n/a		9,622	9,622
	WYAK		2,652	2,652	2,096	n/a		2,652	2,652
	SEO		5,589	5,589	3,887	n/a		5,589	5,589
	GOA Total			22,550	15,270	n/a			22,550
	AK Total	57,797	47,008			57,797	47,008		-
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W		23,902	13,250	44	n/a		23,902	13,250
	C		28,455	28,455	1,523	n/a		28,455	28,455
	WYAK		2,846	2,846	3	n/a		2,846	2,846
	SEO		1,707	1,707	-	n/a		1,707	1,707
	Total	69,610	56,910	46,258	1,570	69,610	56,910		46,258
Deep-Water Flatfish	W		231	231	2	n/a		227	227
	C		2,570	2,570	111	n/a		2,518	2,518
	WYAK		1,796	1,796	3	n/a		1,759	1,759
	SEO		2,239	2,239	1	n/a		2,193	2,193
	Total	8,118	6,836	6,836	117	7,954	6,697		6,697
Rex Sole	W		3,353	3,353	15	n/a		3,353	3,353
	C		13,582	13,582	1,139	n/a		13,582	13,582
	WYAK		1,413	1,413	-	n/a		1,413	1,413
	SEO		2,825	2,825	-	n/a		2,825	2,825
	Total	25,743	21,173	21,173	1,154	25,743	21,173		21,173
Arrowtooth Flounder	W		33,716	14,500	84	n/a		33,716	14,500
	C		68,511	68,511	16,872	n/a		68,511	68,511
	WYAK		6,719	6,719	26	n/a		6,719	6,719
	SEO		11,039	11,039	15	n/a		11,039	11,039
	Total	143,347	119,985	100,769	16,997	143,347	119,985		100,769
Flathead Sole	W		13,757	8,650	21	n/a		13,757	8,650
	C		22,083	22,083	900	n/a		22,083	22,083
	WYAK		4,018	4,018	-	n/a		4,018	4,018
	SEO		2,122	2,122	-	n/a		2,122	2,122
	Total	51,176	41,980	36,873	921	51,176	41,980		36,873
Pacific ocean perch	W		1,688	1,688	1,494	n/a		1,688	1,688
	C		27,156	27,156	23,875	n/a		27,156	27,156
	WYAK		1,993	1,993	1,825	n/a		1,993	1,993
	SEO		6,672	6,672	-	n/a		6,672	6,672
	Total	44,826	37,509	37,509	27,194	44,826	37,509		37,509
Northern Rockfish	W		1,346	1,346	225	n/a		1,346	1,346
	C		3,549	3,549	599	n/a		3,549	3,549
	E		-	-	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a
	Total	5,848	4,895	4,895	824	5,848	4,895		4,895
Shortraker Rockfish	W		34	34	1	n/a		34	34
	C		189	189	78	n/a		189	189
	E		424	424	207	n/a		424	424
	Total	863	647	647	286	863	647		647
Dusky Rockfish	W		199	199	38	n/a		199	199
	C		5,527	5,527	3,091	n/a		5,527	5,527
	WYAK		204	204	40	n/a		204	204
	SEO		91	91	-	n/a		91	91
	Total	7,319	6,021	6,021	3,169	7,319	6,021		6,021
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W		229	229	80	n/a		229	229
	C		366	366	83	n/a		366	366
	E		608	608	62	n/a		608	608
	Total	1,631	1,203	1,203	225	1,631	1,203		1,203
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	361	271	271	186	361	271		271
	SEO	524	394	394	166	524	394		394
Thornyhead Rockfish	W		206	206	26	n/a		206	206
	C		590	590	86	n/a		590	590
	E		542	542	31	n/a		542	542
	Total	1,784	1,338	1,338	495	1,784	1,338		1,338
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK		1,084	1,084	670	n/a		1,084	1,084
	SEO		2,421	300	17	n/a		2,421	300
	Total	4,618	3,505	1,384	687	4,618	3,505		1,384
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	493	6,200	4,700		3,000
Big Skate	W		745	745	72	n/a		745	745
	C		1,749	1,749	654	n/a		1,749	1,749
	E		341	341	129	n/a		341	341
	Total	3,780	2,835	2,835	855	3,780	2,835		2,835
Longnose Skate	W		104	104	41	n/a		104	104
	C		1,894	1,894	527	n/a		1,894	1,894
	E		538	538	380	n/a		538	538
	Total	3,380	2,536	2,536	948	3,380	2,536		2,536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	887	665	665	369	887	665		665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	949	6,521	4,891		4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	932	89	1,307	980		932
TOTAL		662,391	550,626	472,531	394,125	651,257	541,176		465,698

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 GOA Harvest Specifications; Catch Accounting System. GOA catch (not AK wide catch) for sablefish included in catch total.

Table 2. Proposed 2027 and 2028 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
BRD	7,987	22,289	1,933	32,209
State GHL	2,795	5,572	483	8,850
(%)	35%	25%	25%	-
Federal TAC	5,192	16,717	1,450	23,359

Table 9. Proposed 2027 and 2028 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	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	520	January 1 - June 10	86	219	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			255		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 2027 and 2028 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 2027 and 2028 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
255	Catcher Vessel	163	January 1 - June 10	86	140
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	20
	Catcher/Processor	92	January 1 - June 10	86	79
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	11

Table 12. Proposed 2027 and 2028 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are in percent of halibut assumed to be dead.)

Gear	Sector	Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)
Pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	100
	Catcher/processor	100
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	50
	Mothership and catcher/processor	86
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	8
	Catcher vessel	15
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	36