

Council Motion
C4 BSAI Groundfish Specifications
December 11, 2022

Motion 1:

The Council moves to approve to 2022 BSAI Groundfish SAFE report.

The Council moves to adopt the 2023/2024 OFLs, ABCs and TACs for groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Table 1.

The Council also moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves as shown in Table 13 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2023/2024.

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The Council moves to approve Pacific halibut DMRs for 2023/2024 as shown in Table 18.

Table 1. Council recommended TACs with SSC specified OFL, ABC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2023-2024

12/8/2022

Species	Area	2021				2022				2023			2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2021	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 11/5/2022	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,376,258	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,103,996	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,300,000	4,639,000	2,275,000	1,302,000
	AI	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,840	61,264	50,752	19,000	2,895	52,383	43,413	19,000	52,043	43,092	19,000
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	8	113,479	85,109	250	256	115,146	86,360	300	115,146	86,360	300
Pacific cod	BS	147,949	123,805	111,380	109,202	183,012	153,383	136,466	127,885	172,495	144,834	127,409	166,814	140,159	123,295
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,298	27,400	20,600	13,796	6,178	18,416	13,812	8,425	18,416	13,812	8,425
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	60,426	29,558	n/a		40,432	34,521	n/a		47,390	40,502		48,561	41,539	
	BS	n/a	3,396	3,396	4,169	n/a	5,264	5,264	5,205	n/a	8,417	7,996	n/a	10,185	9,676
	AI	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,578	n/a	6,463	6,463	2,193	n/a	8,884	8,440	n/a	10,308	9,793
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	341,571	313,477	200,000	108,788	377,071	354,014	250,000	149,869	404,882	378,499	230,000	495,155	462,890	230,656
	BSAI	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,597	7,687	6,572	6,572	1,477	4,645	3,960	3,960	3,947	3,364	3,364
Greenland turbot	BS	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,130	n/a	5,540	5,540	1,038	n/a	3,338	3,338	n/a	2,836	2,836
	AI	n/a	1,150	900	467	n/a	1,032	1,032	439	n/a	622	622	n/a	528	528
	BSAI	90,873	77,349	15,000	9,014	94,445	80,389	20,000	7,626	98,787	83,852	15,000	103,070	87,511	15,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,667	10,903	9,214	9,214	8,349	8,946	7,579	7,579	8,776	7,435	7,435
Northern rock sole	BSAI	145,180	140,306	54,500	14,393	214,084	206,896	66,000	18,242	166,034	121,719	66,000	196,011	119,969	66,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,863	62,567	25,000	10,259	77,967	64,288	35,500	14,559	79,256	65,344	35,500	81,167	66,927	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,924	31,657	24,500	15,862	39,305	32,697	29,221	11,006	40,823	33,946	17,500	43,328	36,021	18,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,638	22,919	17,189	10,000	2,550	22,919	17,189	4,500	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	44,376	37,173	35,899	35,479	42,605	35,688	35,385	22,629	50,133	42,038	37,703	49,279	41,322	38,264
	BS	n/a	10,782	10,782	10,693	n/a	10,352	10,352	9,665	n/a	11,903	11,903	n/a	11,700	11,700
	EAI	n/a	8,419	8,419	8,288	n/a	8,083	8,083	5,924	n/a	8,152	8,152	n/a	8,013	8,013
	CAI	n/a	6,198	6,198	5,993	n/a	5,950	5,950	5,823	n/a	5,648	5,648	n/a	5,551	5,551
	WAI	n/a	11,774	10,500	10,505	n/a	11,303	11,000	10,882	n/a	16,335	12,000	n/a	16,058	13,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	18,917	15,557	13,000	6,212	23,420	19,217	17,000	7,801	22,776	18,687	11,000	22,105	18,135	11,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	576	482	482	515	598	503	503	386	703	525	525	763	570	570
	EBS/EAI	n/a	313	313	196	n/a	326	326	137		359	359		388	388
	CAI/WAI	n/a	169	169	319	n/a	177	177	249		166	166		182	182
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	500	496	722	541	541	284	706	530	530	706	530	530
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	916	1,002	1,751	1,313	1,144	1,224	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	919	522	392	n/a	919	750	647		880	880		880	880
	AI	n/a	394	394	610	n/a	394	394	577		380	380		380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	85,580	73,590	62,257	61,354	91,870	78,510	66,481	54,311	118,787	98,588	69,282	101,188	86,464	66,855
	EAI/BS	n/a	25,760	25,760	25,183	n/a	27,260	27,260	15,504	n/a	43,281	27,260	n/a	37,958	30,000
	CAI	n/a	15,450	15,450	15,308	n/a	16,880	16,880	16,599	n/a	17,351	17,351	n/a	15,218	15,218
	WAI	n/a	32,380	21,047	20,863	n/a	34,370	22,341	22,208	n/a	37,956	24,671	n/a	33,288	21,637
Skates	BSAI	49,297	41,257	18,000	20,029	47,790	39,958	30,000	27,799	46,220	38,605	27,441	44,168	36,837	27,927
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	200	221	689	517	500	125	689	450	250	689	450	250
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	170	4,769	3,576	700	254	4,769	3,576	400	4,769	3,576	400
Total	BSAI	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,000,000	1,795,049	2,953,182	2,383,653	1,871,000	1,586,764	4,859,585	3,155,268	2,000,000	6,219,700	3,590,412	2,000,000

Sources: 2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2022 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020 and December 2021 respectively; 2021 catches through December 31, and 2022 catches through November 5, 2022 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 13—Final 2023 and 2024 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, Community Development Quota (CDQ) ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	2023 Flathead sole	2023 Rock sole	2023 Yellowfin sole	2024 ¹ Flathead sole	2024 ¹ Rock sole	2024 ¹ Yellowfin sole
ABC	65,344	121,719	378,499	66,927	119,969	462,890
TAC	35,500	66,000	230,000	35,500	66,000	230,656
ABC surplus	29,844	55,719	148,499	31,427	53,969	232,234
ABC reserve	29,844	55,719	148,499	31,427	53,969	232,234
CDQ ABC reserve	3,193	5,962	15,889	3,363	5,775	24,849
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	26,651	49,757	132,610	28,064	48,194	207,385

¹ The 2024 allocations for Amendment 80 species 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 November 1, 2023.

Table 14—Final 2023 And 2024 Apportionment of Prohibited Species Catch Allowances to Non-Trawl Gear, the CDQ Program, Amendment 80, and the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors

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 ³
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	-
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,444	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	32,000	n/a	3,424	28,576	14,282	8,739	5,555
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285	80,790
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394	664,306

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

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

³ The Amendment 80 program reduced apportionment of the trawl PSC limits for crab below the total PSC limit. These reductions are not apportioned to other gear types or sectors.

Table 15—Final 2023 And 2024 Herring and Red King Crab Savings Subarea Prohibited Species Catch Allowances for all Trawl Sectors

Fishery Categories	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1
Yellowfin sole	200	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	99	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	10	n/a
Rockfish	10	n/a
Pacific cod	18	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,066	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	41	n/a
2023 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	-
2024 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	3,444	32,000

¹ “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.

² Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

⁴ Section 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B) establishes criteria under which an annual red king crab bycatch limit must be specified for the Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS) if the State has established a GHF fishery for red king crab in the Bristol Bay area in the previous year. Based on the final 2022 NMFS trawl survey data for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock, the State of Alaska closed the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery for the 2022/2023 crab season. NMFS and the Council will not specify the red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS in 2023, and pursuant to § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(1) directed fishing for groundfish is prohibited for vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the RKCSS for 2022.

⁵ If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery remains closed in the 2023/2024 crab season, the RKCSS specification will be zero. If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery is open in the 2023/2024 crab season, NMFS, after consultation with the Council, will specify an annual red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS, which is limited by regulation to up to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

Note: Species allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 16–Final 2023 And 2024 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector

BSAI trawl limited access fisheries	Prohibited species and area and zone				
	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	265	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15 - December 31	5	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	300	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	175	65	5,028	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

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

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

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.

³ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Table 17–Final 2023 And 2024 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries

Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI				
Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Total 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	49
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 allowances may not total precisely due to rounding.

Table 18–2023 and 2024 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	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Pot	All	26