

C-4 Council Motion
2024 and 2025 Gulf of Alaska groundfish harvest specifications
December 10, 2023

The Council approves the 2023 Gulf of Alaska SAFE report.

The Council approves the final 2024 and 2025 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1.

The Council clarifies that the specification of "other rockfish" will be: OFL and ABC at the gulf-wide level, with apportionment of ABC across the subareas as recommended by the SSC.

The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water Guideline Harvest Level fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the attached Table 2.

The 2024 and 2025 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA are attached in Tables 3, 4, and 5.

The Council approves the halibut discard mortality rates for 2024 and 2025 as shown in attached Table 6.

Table 1. Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska for 2024 and 2025 (metric tons)

Species	Area	2023			Catch 11/9/2023	2024			2025		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	3,723	n/a	-	n/a	4,769	n/a	n/a	3,942	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	26,958	26,958	26,226	n/a	38,882	38,882	n/a	32,144	32,144
	C (620)	n/a	77,005	77,005	65,384	n/a	90,937	90,937	n/a	75,179	75,179
	C (630)	n/a	33,729	33,729	33,394	n/a	50,587	50,587	n/a	41,821	41,821
	WYAK	n/a	7,523	7,523	6,888	n/a	5,565	5,565	n/a	4,601	4,601
	Subtotal		173,470	148,938	145,215	131,892	269,916	190,740	185,971	182,891	157,687
EYAK/SEO		15,150	11,363	11,363	0	12,998	9,749	9,749	12,998	9,749	9,749
	Total	188,620	160,301	156,578	131,892	282,914	200,489	195,720	195,889	167,436	163,494
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	7,464	5,225	3,630	n/a	8,745	6,121	n/a	7,638	5,347
	C	n/a	14,830	11,123	10,836	n/a	20,590	15,442	n/a	17,981	13,486
	E	n/a	2,340	1,755	417	n/a	2,937	2,203	n/a	2,565	1,924
	Total	29,737	24,634	18,103	14,883	38,712	32,272	23,766	33,970	28,184	20,757
Sablefish	W	n/a	4,473	4,473	2,723	n/a	4,699	4,699	n/a	4,719	4,719
	C	n/a	9,921	9,921	6,413	n/a	9,651	9,651	n/a	9,693	9,693
	WYAK	n/a	3,205	3,205	2,401	n/a	2,926	2,926	n/a	2,940	2,940
	SEO	n/a	5,602	5,602	4,582	n/a	5,320	5,320	n/a	5,343	5,343
	GOA Total	n/a	23,201	23,201	16,118	n/a	22,596	22,596	n/a	22,695	22,695
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC	AK Total	47,390	40,502	n/a	22,746	55,084	47,146	n/a	55,317	47,350	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	22,485	13,250	25	n/a	23,337	13,250	n/a	23,782	13,250
	C	n/a	26,769	26,769	1,002	n/a	27,783	27,783	n/a	28,311	28,311
	WYAK	n/a	2,677	2,677	6	n/a	2,778	2,778	n/a	2,831	2,831
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	1,606	1,606	0	n/a	1,667	1,667	n/a	1,699	1,699
Total	65,736	53,537	44,302	1,034	68,121	55,565	45,478	69,354	56,623	46,091	
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	256	256	24	n/a	237	237	n/a	234	234
	C	n/a	2,105	2,105	72	n/a	2,655	2,655	n/a	2,614	2,614
	WYAK	n/a	1,407	1,407	4	n/a	1,856	1,856	n/a	1,827	1,827
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,048	2,048	4	n/a	2,314	2,314	n/a	2,278	2,278
Total	6,918	5,816	5,816	105	8,387	7,062	7,062	8,257	6,953	6,953	
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,236	3,236	23	n/a	3,367	3,367	n/a	3,363	3,363
	C	n/a	13,110	13,110	392	n/a	13,639	13,639	n/a	13,624	13,624
	WYAK	n/a	1,439	1,439	1	n/a	1,453	1,453	n/a	1,439	1,439
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,879	2,879	0	n/a	2,905	2,905	n/a	2,877	2,877
Total	25,135	20,664	20,664	415	25,978	21,364	21,364	25,900	21,303	21,303	
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	30,469	14,500	384	n/a	30,409	14,500	n/a	30,323	14,500
	C	n/a	65,000	65,000	8,780	n/a	64,871	64,871	n/a	64,688	64,688
	WYAK	n/a	7,886	7,886	35	n/a	7,870	7,870	n/a	7,848	7,848
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	16,130	6,900	49	n/a	16,099	6,900	n/a	16,053	6,900
Total	142,749	119,485	94,286	9,248	142,485	119,249	94,141	142,074	118,912	93,936	
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	12,793	8,650	30	n/a	13,273	8,650	n/a	13,521	8,650
	C	n/a	21,487	21,487	434	n/a	21,307	21,307	n/a	21,702	21,702
	WYAK	n/a	2,320	2,320	0	n/a	3,876	3,876	n/a	3,949	3,949
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,880	2,880	0	n/a	2,047	2,047	n/a	2,086	2,086
Total	48,161	39,480	35,337	464	49,414	40,503	35,880	50,322	41,258	36,387	
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	2,529	2,529	2,486	n/a	1,787	1,787	n/a	1,726	1,726
	C	n/a	29,940	29,940	25,941	n/a	28,757	28,757	n/a	27,768	27,768
	WYAK	n/a	1,370	1,370	1,366	n/a	2,110	2,110	n/a	2,038	2,038
	W/C/WYAK	40,308	33,839	33,839	29,793	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31,532
	SEO	3,994	3,354	3,354	0	n/a	7,065	7,065	n/a	6,822	6,822
Total	44,302	37,193	37,193	29,793	47,466	39,719	39,719	45,835	38,354	38,354	
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,614	2,614	388	n/a	2,535	2,535	n/a	2,446	2,446
	C	n/a	2,350	2,350	935	n/a	2,280	2,280	n/a	2,200	2,200
	E	n/a	-	-	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0
	Total	5,927	4,964	4,964	1,323	5,750	4,815	4,815	5,548	4,646	4,646
Shorthead Rockfish	W	n/a	51	51	21	n/a	34	34	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	280	280	263	n/a	189	189	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	374	374	204	n/a	424	424	n/a	424	424
	Total	940	705	705	488	863	647	647	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	149	149	74	n/a	145	145	n/a	137	137
	C	n/a	7,647	7,647	3,415	n/a	7,365	7,365	n/a	6,979	6,979
	WYAK	n/a	90	90	1	n/a	84	84	n/a	81	81
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	31	31	1	n/a	30	30	n/a	28	28
Total	9,638	7,917	7,917	3,491	9,281	7,624	7,624	8,796	7,225	7,225	
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	180	180	101	n/a	197	197	n/a	198	198
	C	n/a	232	232	156	n/a	315	315	n/a	317	317
	E	n/a	363	363	176	n/a	525	525	n/a	526	526
	Total	930	775	775	434	1,555	1,037	1,037	1,566	1,041	1,041
Demersal shelf rockfish	Total	376	283	283	188	376	283	283	376	283	283
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	314	314	53	n/a	314	314	n/a	314	314
	C	n/a	693	693	91	n/a	693	693	n/a	693	693
	E	n/a	621	621	57	n/a	621	621	n/a	621	621
	Total	2,170	1,628	1,628	201	2,170	1,628	1,628	2,170	1,628	1,628
Other Rockfish	W/C (and WYAK for 2024 2025)	n/a	940	940	940	n/a	1,353	1,353	n/a	1,353	1,353
	WYAK (for 2023 only)	n/a	370	370	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	EYAK/SEO	n/a	2,744	300	32	n/a	2,421	300	n/a	2,421	300
	Total	5,320	4,054	1,610	1,026	4,977	3,774	1,653	4,977	3,774	1,653
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	462	6,200	4,700	4,700	6,200	4,700	4,700
Big Skate	W	n/a	591	591	117	n/a	745	745	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,482	1,482	814	n/a	1,749	1,749	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	794	794	189	n/a	341	341	n/a	341	341
	Total	3,822	2,867	2,867	1,120	3,780	2,835	2,835	3,780	2,835	2,835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	151	151	66	n/a	104	104	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	2,044	2,044	481	n/a	1,894	1,894	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	517	517	631	n/a	538	538	n/a	538	538
	Total	3,616	2,712	2,712	1,178	3,380	2,536	2,536	3,380	2,536	2,536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	1,311	984	984	443	887	665	665	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,777	6,521	4,891	4,891	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	154	1,307	980	980	1,307	980	980
TOTAL		646,826	539,072	468,796	222,863	765,608	599,784	520,020	673,289	562,224	483,700

Sources: 2023 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2022. 2023 catches through November 9, 2023 from the AKR Catch Accounting System.

Table 2 – GOA TAC and GHL for State Waters Pacific Cod

Final 2024 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (mt)

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

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Final 2025 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	7,638	17,981	2,565	28,184
State GHL	2,291	4,495	641	7,427
(%)	30%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	5,347	13,486	1,924	20,757

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Table 3 -- Final 2024 and 2025 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 ²	Season	Percent	Amount	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. Since 1995, the Council recommended and NMFS proposed that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

² PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 4 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Apportionment of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limits Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries

[Values are in metric tons]

Season	Shallow-water ¹	Deep-water ^{2,3}	Total ⁵
January 20 - April 1	384	135	520
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	460
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,449
October 1 - December 31 ⁴	n/a	n/a	256
Total	n/a	n/a	1,705

¹ The shallow-water species fishery is composed of pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and “other species” (sharks and octopuses).

² The deep-water species fishery is composed of sablefish, rockfish, deep-water flatfish, rex sole, and arrowtooth flounder

³ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 – August 1) deep-water species fishery Halibut PSC apportionment.

⁴ There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

⁵ PSC limits published in the Final Harvest Specifications (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023) had rounding errors. The values presented in this table correct these rounding errors and will be published accordingly in the Proposed and Final 2024 and 2025 Harvest Specifications.

Table 5 -- Final 2024 and 2025 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]

Hook-and-Line gear (Other than DSR) Annual PSC Amount	Hook-and-line Sector	Annual Amount	Season	Seasonal Percentage	Seasonal Amount
256	CV	149	A	86%	128
			B	2%	3
			C	12%	18
	CP	107	A	86%	92
			B	2%	2
			C	12%	13

Table 6 -- Final 2024 and 2025 Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska
 [Values are 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	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	11
	Catcher vessel	All	10
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	26

Note: Tables 3-6 will correspond to Tables 14-17 in the final rule for harvest specifications, to be published in 2024.