

**ADVISORY PANEL**  
**Motions and Rationale**  
**Dec 3-5, 2025**

**C5 BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specs**

The AP has reviewed the most recent reports and the best scientific information available for the 2026 and 2027 BSAI groundfish specifications setting process.

The AP recommends the Council approve the final 2026 and 2027 BSAI groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1. The BSAI Pacific cod and sablefish TACs have been adjusted for the respective State Water fisheries.

The AP recommends the Council approve the 2026 and 2027 Seasonal and Spatial Allowances of Atka Mackerel, ABC Reserves, and PSC limits and apportionments as assigned to their respective target fisheries as provided in Tables 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

The AP recommends the Council approve the halibut discard mortality rates for 2026 and 2027 as shown in Table 12.

*Motion Passes 19-0*

*Rationale in Support of Motion*

- *The AP appreciates the effort by Council Staff and others to maintain clarity and adherence to federal process despite the lapse in appropriations since setting Final Specifications is essential to allow fishing to occur. The AP noted that the process remains robust and transparent as described in the Council's Groundfish Specs process document on the eAgenda, 2025 Catch reports show no overfishing is occurring and no major stock concerns have been flagged.*
- *It was made clear to the AP that the best scientific information available for setting BSAI Specs are the 2024 SAFE Report, 2025 ESR Preview, 2025 catch reports, and preliminary 2025 survey data.*
- *The AP incorporated the SSC's recommended OFLs and ABCs rolled over from 2025/2026 BSAI Specifications and accounted for mandatory reductions including state water fisheries GHL deductions (Pacific cod, sablefish GHL), statutory minimums for AI pollock, and sea lion protection measures.*
- *It was noted that the following adjustments to the 2026 ABCs and TACs were already approved through the normal, transparent process to set the 2025/2026 ABCs and TACs which were supported by the 2024 SAFE report and approved by the SSC, AP, and Council in December 2024. This includes:*
  - *EBS pollock 16% decrease*
  - *EBS Pacific cod 8% decrease*
  - *Atka mackerel 10% decrease*

- *Balanced increases to Yellowfin sole, Northern rock sole, flathead sole.*
- *Overall BSAI ABC decrease from 2025 to 2026 is approximately 400,000 mt.*
- *There were no additional adjustments made at this meeting and the BSAI TAC total balances to the required 2 million metric ton limit.*
- *The updated herring biomass estimate from ADFG is delayed, therefore the AP rolled over last year's Herring PSC limit as placeholder. The Council is expected to update before final specs are complete. In-season authority cannot update PSC after TAC is set so the timely update to herring at this Council meeting is critical.*
- *All other PSC allocations have been maintained and halibut DMRs remain as accepted in October.*
- *The AP highlighted the urgency of the Final 2026/2027 Specs being published in the Federal Register before current ones expire in mid-March to avoid disruptions to all federal fishery operations. The AP appreciates NMFS in-season for prioritizing timely publication.*

Table 3—Final 2026 and 2027 Seasonal and Spatial Allowances, Gear Shares, CDQ Reserve, Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA), and Amendment 80 Allocations of the BSAI Atka Mackerel TAC

Sector <sup>1</sup>	Season <sup>2 3 4</sup>	BS/EAI	CAI <sup>5</sup>	WAI <sup>5</sup>
TAC	Total	41,731	23,716	17,494
CDQ reserve	Total	4,465	2,538	1,872
	A	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat		761	562
	B	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat		761	562
non-CDQ TAC <sup>7</sup>	Total	37,266	21,178	15,622
ICA	Total	800	100	20
Jig <sup>6</sup>	Total	182		
BSAI trawl limited access	Total	3,628	2,108	
	A	1,814	1,054	
	Critical Habitat		632	
	B	1,814	1,054	
	Critical Habitat		632	
Amendment 80	Total	32,655	18,971	15,602
	A	16,328	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat		5,691	4,681
	B	16,328	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat		5,691	4,681

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

<sup>1</sup> Section 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)).

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

<sup>3</sup> The 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.

<sup>4</sup> Section 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.

<sup>5</sup> Section 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 ABC in Area 543.

<sup>6</sup> Sections 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 0.5 percent. The jig gear allocation is not apportioned by season.

<sup>7</sup> The 2027 allocations for Atka mackerel 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, 2026.

Table 7-Final 2026 and 2027 ABC Surplus, ABC Reserves, Community Development Quota (CDQ) ABC Reserves, and Amendment 80 ABC Reserves in the BSAI for Flathead Sole, Rock Sole, and Yellowfin Sole

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 <sup>1</sup>	46,168	74,320	109,517

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

<sup>1</sup>The 2027 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, 2026.

Table 8—Final 2026 and 2027 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 <sup>1</sup>	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3,4</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated to Amendment 80
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,079	710	315		1,309	745	
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,651						
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000		10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
C. opilio (animals) COBLZ	12,850,000		1,374,950	11,475,050	5,639,987	3,688,081	2,146,982
C. bairdi crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000		104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
C. bairdi crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000		317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

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

<sup>1</sup>Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup>Under Amendment 123 and implementing regulations (88 FR 82740, November 24, 2023), 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)-(C)). Since both survey indices are not yet available, NMFS is unable to calculate the Amendment 80 sector halibut PSC limit for the proposed 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications and therefore proposes a roll-over from last year's 2025 and 2026 harvest specifications of 1,309 mt. NMFS will update the final halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector, as well as the total halibut PSC limit for the BSAI, in the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications.

Table 9—Final 2026 and 2027 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	153	
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	77	
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	8	
Rockfish	8	
Pacific cod	14	
Midwater trawl pollock	2,359	
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>2,3</sup>	31	
2026 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>4</sup>		24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,651	97,000

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

<sup>1</sup>“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.

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

<sup>3</sup>“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

<sup>4</sup> In October 2025, 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—Final 2026 and 2027 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Programs

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area <sup>1</sup>				
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	C. opilio (animals) COBLZ	C. bairdi (animals)	
		Zone 1	Zone 2		
Yellowfin sole	250	23,337	3,521,725	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>					
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish					
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5		2,972		1,000
Total Pacific cod <sup>3</sup>	315	2,955	148,531	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific cod	6	278	13,962	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific cod, A and B	220	1,653	83,097	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Pacific cod, C season	15	134	6,728	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	73	890	44,744	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>4</sup>	175	197	14,853	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	3,688,081	411,228	1,241,500

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

<sup>1</sup>Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

<sup>2</sup>“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.

<sup>3</sup>With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits for halibut and crab are split between AFA CPs, PCTC A and B-season for trawl CVs, and open access C-season. NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC limit in the annual harvest specifications after the Council recommends and NMFS approves the BSAI trawl limited access sector's PSC limit apportionments to fishery categories including the Pacific cod fishery category. In addition, NMFS will apply a 35 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector crab PSC limit. Any amount of the PCTC Program halibut or crab PSC limits remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV open access fishery in the C season. Because the annual PSC limits for the PCTC Program are not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, are determined annually through the harvest specification process, NMFS must apply the reduction to the A and B season apportionment of the trawl CV sector apportionment to implement the overall PSC reductions under the PCTC Program.

<sup>4</sup>“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

Table 11—Final 2026 and 2027 Halibut Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for Non-Trawl Fisheries

Non-trawl fisheries	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	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—Final 2026 and 2027 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	86
Non-Pelagic Trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	10
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	10
Pot	All	19

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

Table 1. Harvest specifications for BSAI Groundfish for 2026 and 2027

pre-meeting DRAFT, November 2025

Species	Area	2024			Catch through 12/31/24			2025			Catch through 11/8/25			2026			2027		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	BS	3,162,000	2,313,000	1,313,580	1,311,261	2,957,000	2,417,000	1,389,000	1,324,556	2,496,000	2,036,000	1,375,000	2,496,000	2,036,000	1,375,000				
	AI	51,516	42,654	5,420	4,999	55,728	46,051	5,000	4,527	56,231	46,437	19,000	56,231	46,437	19,000				
	Bogoslof	115,146	86,360	250	23	77,354	58,015	250	63	77,354	58,015	250	77,354	58,015	250				
Pacific cod	BS	200,995	167,952	147,753	142,783	183,509	153,617	133,602	111,227	169,243	141,520	123,077	169,243	141,520	123,077				
	AI	18,416	12,431	8,080	4,169	16,782	13,376	8,694	4,608	16,273	12,973	8,433	16,273	12,973	8,433				
	BSAI/GOA	55,084	47,146	n/a	6,333	58,532	47,605	n/a	4,672	57,797	47,008	n/a	57,797	47,008	n/a				
Sablefish	BS	n/a	11,450	7,996	4,591	n/a	13,203	8,496	3,751	n/a	13,037	8,996	n/a	13,037	8,996				
	AI	n/a	13,100	8,440	1,742	n/a	11,566	7,940	921	n/a	11,421	7,440	n/a	11,421	7,440				
	Yellowfin sole	BSAI	305,298	265,913	195,000	91,192	299,247	262,557	135,000	80,971	305,039	267,639	145,000	305,039	267,639	145,000			
Greenland turbot	BSAI	3,705	3,188	3,188	768	2,598	1,678	1,678	618	2,059	1,328	1,328	2,059	1,328	1,328				
	BS	n/a	2,687	2,687	462	n/a	1,415	1,415	406	n/a	1,120	1,120	n/a	1,120	1,120				
	AI	n/a	501	501	305	n/a	263	263	212	n/a	208	208	n/a	208	208				
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	103,280	87,690	14,000	10,660	104,428	88,683	14,000	9,024	102,472	87,035	14,000	102,472	87,035	14,000				
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,850	7,498	7,498	5,157	8,019	6,800	6,800	5,038	7,790	6,606	6,606	7,790	6,606	6,606				
Northern rock sole	BSAI	197,828	122,091	66,000	29,855	165,444	157,487	75,000	39,947	166,220	158,225	75,000	166,220	158,225	75,000				
Flathead sole	BSAI	81,605	67,289	35,500	13,176	101,621	83,807	36,000	8,432	106,283	87,700	36,000	106,283	87,700	36,000				
Alaska plaice	BSAI	42,695	35,494	21,752	10,399	34,576	28,745	15,903	6,947	33,965	28,230	16,200	33,965	28,230	16,200				
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	4,500	3,197	26,083	19,562	4,500	5,353	26,083	19,562	4,500	26,083	19,562	4,500				
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	49,010	41,096	37,626	37,096	44,594	37,375	33,458	31,652	43,084	36,578	33,490	43,084	36,578	33,490				
	BS	n/a	11,636	11,636	11,746	n/a	10,121	10,121	9,483	n/a	9,905	9,905	n/a	9,905	9,905				
	EAI	n/a	7,969	7,969	7,792	n/a	6,278	6,278	6,003	n/a	6,144	6,144	n/a	6,144	6,144				
	CAI	n/a	5,521	5,521	5,250	n/a	5,559	5,559	4,803	n/a	5,441	5,441	n/a	5,441	5,441				
Northern rockfish	WAI	n/a	15,970	12,500	12,308	n/a	15,417	11,500	11,363	n/a	15,088	12,000	n/a	15,088	12,000				
	BSAI	23,556	19,274	16,752	8,809	22,848	18,694	12,000	8,014	22,284	18,232	12,000	22,284	18,232	12,000				
	BSAI	761	569	569	639	838	706	706	642	902	766	766	902	766	766				
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BS/EAI	n/a	388	388	201	n/a	408	408	224	n/a	441	441	n/a	441	441				
Shortraker rockfish	CAI/WAI	n/a	181	181	439	n/a	298	298	418	n/a	325	325	n/a	325	325				
	BSAI	706	530	530	177	631	473	473	301	631	473	473	631	473	473				
	BS	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,361	1,406	1,054	1,054	1,026	1,406	1,054	1,054	1,406	1,054	1,054				
Other rockfish	AI	n/a	880	880	788	n/a	639	639	504	n/a	639	639	n/a	639	639				
	BS	n/a	380	380	573	n/a	415	415	522	n/a	415	415	n/a	415	415				
	BSAI	111,684	95,358	72,987	72,173	122,622	103,247	82,000	107,889	92,361	82,941	107,889	92,361	82,941	107,889	92,361	82,941		
Atka mackerel	BS/EAI	n/a	41,723	32,260	31,765	n/a	46,650	39,000	37,871	n/a	41,731	41,731	n/a	41,731	41,731				
	CAI	n/a	16,754	16,754	16,654	n/a	26,511	24,443	24,121	n/a	23,716	23,716	n/a	23,716	23,716				
	WAI	n/a	36,882	23,973	23,754	n/a	30,087	18,557	18,448	n/a	26,914	17,494	n/a	26,914	17,494				
Skates	BSAI	45,574	37,808	30,519	27,146	44,086	36,523	27,646	19,503	43,285	35,833	27,646	43,285	35,833	27,646				
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	400	174	689	450	400	197	689	450	400	689	450	400				
Octopuses	BSAI	6,080	4,560	400	246	6,080	4,560	400	296	6,080	4,560	400	6,080	4,560	400				
<b>Total</b>	<b>BSAI</b>	<b>4,609,077</b>	<b>3,476,801</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,781,793</b>	<b>4,334,715</b>	<b>3,588,066</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,748,054</b>	<b>3,849,059</b>	<b>3,188,585</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>3,849,059</b>	<b>3,188,585</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>				

Sources: Sources: 2024 and 2025 Final BSAI Harvest Specifications (published March 2024), 2025 and 2026 Final BSAI Harvest Specifications (published March 2025); 2026-2027 Proposed BSAI Harvest Specifications (Council recommendations, October 2025); Catch Accounting System. Changes from previously posted Table 1 in blue reflect additional flatfish exchanges that occurred between December 2024 and the FR publishing in March 2025.

Note: BSAI catch (not AK wide catch) for sablefish included in total. ABCs are at the level of the stock or stock complex and shown in "Total" rows. Any quantities shown in "Area" rows are spatial apportionments of ABC and do not reflect ACLs. 2026 and 2027 quantities based on 2026-2027 Proposed BSAI Harvest Specifications (October 2025); 2024 and 2025 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2023 and 2024, respectively. Catch data are from the Catch Accounting System accessed 11/13/2025. \* TACs for AI pollock BS pollock, yellowfin sole, northern rocksole and flathead sole differ from the Council December 2024 motion to reflect inseason reallocation of pollock and flatfish exchanges. On June 27 the TAC for "other flatfish" was raised from 4,500 mt to 5,225 mt through a release of non-specified reserves.