

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C3 BSAI Specs motion
October 4, 2024

The Council adopts the proposed 2025 and 2026 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and sets the TACs as shown in the attached BSAI Table 1 with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2025 final specifications from the 2024/2025 harvest specifications approved in December 2023. The TACs for both Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the state waters GHL fishery. The Bering Sea sablefish TAC has been adjusted to account for the state waters GHL fishery.

The Council adopts the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2025 and 2026 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as proposed in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2025 and 2026 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass estimates.

The Council adopts the proposed 2025 and 2026 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Table 1. SSC recommended proposed OFL, ABC and Council recommended TACs for Groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2025-2026

Species	Area	2023				2024				SSC Proposed 2025/2026		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2023	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/16/2024	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,314,500	1,310,591	3,162,000	2,313,000	1,313,580	1,229,404	3,449,000	2,401,000	1,325,000
	AI	52,383	43,413	4,500	3,744	51,516	42,654	5,420	4,431	53,030	43,863	19,000
	Bogoslof	115,146	86,360	300	125	115,146	86,360	250	23	115,146	86,360	250
Pacific cod	BS	172,495	144,834	127,409	126,458	200,995	167,952	147,753	104,170	180,798	150,876	131,217
	AI	18,416	13,812	8,425	3,398	18,416	12,431	8,080	3,570	18,416	12,431	8,080
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	47,390	40,502	n/a		55,084	47,146	n/a		55,317	47,350	n/a
	BS	n/a	8,417	7,996	5,418	n/a	11,450	7,996	3,579	n/a	11,499	9,500
	AI	n/a	8,884	8,440	2,463	n/a	13,100	8,440	1,262	n/a	13,156	8,440
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	404,882	378,499	230,000	112,889	305,298	265,913	195,000	56,775	317,932	276,917	195,000
Greenland turbot	BSAI	4,645	3,960	3,960	1,276	3,705	3,188	3,188	736	3,185	2,740	2,740
	BS	n/a	3,338	3,338	795	n/a	2,687	2,687	436	n/a	2,310	2,310
	AI	n/a	622	622	481	n/a	501	501	300	n/a	430	195
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	98,787	83,852	15,000	7,276	103,280	87,690	14,000	8,030	104,270	88,548	14,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	8,946	7,579	7,579	6,949	8,850	7,498	7,498	4,748	8,687	7,360	7,360
Northern rock sole	BSAI	166,034	121,719	66,000	27,212	197,828	122,091	66,000	25,411	264,789	122,535	66,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,256	65,344	35,500	8,991	81,605	67,289	35,500	10,764	82,699	68,203	35,500
Alaska plaice	BSAI	40,823	33,946	17,500	15,252	42,695	35,494	21,752	8,293	45,182	37,560	20,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	4,500	3,020	22,919	17,189	4,500	2,855	22,919	17,189	4,500
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	50,133	42,038	37,703	35,951	49,010	41,096	37,626	23,647	48,139	40,366	37,181
	BS	n/a	11,903	11,903	10,892	n/a	11,636	11,636	6,678	n/a	11,430	11,430
	EAI	n/a	8,152	8,152	7,791	n/a	7,969	7,969	6,723	n/a	7,828	7,828
	CAI	n/a	5,648	5,648	5,461	n/a	5,521	5,521	3,497	n/a	5,423	5,423
	WAI	n/a	16,335	12,000	11,807	n/a	15,970	12,500	6,749	n/a	15,685	12,500
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,776	18,687	11,000	10,433	23,556	19,274	16,752	7,647	22,838	18,685	15,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	703	525	525	607	761	569	569	414	813	607	607
	EBS/EAI	n/a	359	359	291	n/a	388	388	167	n/a	412	412
	CAI/WAI	n/a	166	166	316	n/a	181	181	248	n/a	195	195
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	706	530	530	243	706	530	530	102	706	530	530
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,220	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,101	1,680	1,260	1,260
	BS	n/a	880	880	652	n/a	880	880	693	n/a	880	880
	AI	n/a	380	380	568	n/a	380	380	408	n/a	380	380
Atka mackerel	BSAI	118,787	98,588	69,282	66,613	111,684	95,358	72,987	59,475	99,723	84,676	66,165
	EAI/BS	n/a	43,281	27,260	24,862	n/a	41,723	32,260	27,247	n/a	37,049	30,000
	CAI	n/a	17,351	17,351	17,210	n/a	16,754	16,754	13,901	n/a	14,877	14,877
	WAI	n/a	37,956	24,671	24,541	n/a	36,882	23,973	18,326	n/a	32,750	21,288
Skates	BSAI	46,220	38,605	27,441	25,866	45,574	37,808	30,519	21,451	44,203	36,625	30,361
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	333	325	689	450	400	159	689	450	400
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	148	6,080	4,560	400	163	6,080	4,560	400
Total	BSAI	4,859,585	3,132,067	2,000,083	1,776,469	4,609,077	3,476,801	2,000,000	1,578,210	4,946,241	3,550,691	1,998,491

Sources: 2023 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2024 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2022 and December 2023 respectively; 2023 catches through December 31, and 2023 catches through September 16, 2024 from AKR Catch Accounting.

Table 7—Proposed 2025 and 2026 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

[Amounts are in metric tons]			
Sector	Flathead sole	Rock sole	Yellowfin sole
ABC	68,203	122,535	276,917
TAC	35,500	66,000	195,000
ABC surplus	32,703	56,535	81,917
ABC reserve	32,703	56,535	81,917
CDQ ABC reserve	3,499	6,049	8,765
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	29,204	50,486	73,152

Table 8–Proposed 2025 and 2026 Apportionment of Prohibited Species Catch Allowances to Non-Trawl Gear, the CDQ Program, Amendment 80, and the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors

PSC species, areas, and zones ¹	Total PSC ⁴	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ^{3, 4}	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	2,535	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,444	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	12,850,000	n/a	1,374,950	11,475,050	5,639,987	3,688,081	2,146,982
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

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.

⁴ [Under Amendment 123 and its implementing regulations, the BSAI halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector would be determined annually based on the most recent halibut abundance estimates from the IPHC setline survey index and the NMFS AFSC Eastern Bering Sea shelf trawl survey index \(87 FR 75570, December 9, 2022\). NMFS will update the halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 sector in the final harvest specifications.](#)

Table 9-Proposed 2025 and 2026 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	147	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	73	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	7	n/a
Rockfish	7	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,257	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	30	n/a
2024 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,535	97,000

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.

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

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

⁴In October 2023, 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 allowance (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

Table 10—Proposed 2025 and 2026 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area ¹				
	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	23,337	3,521,726	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	0	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	0	-	-
Rockfish, April 15-December 31	5	-	2,971	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	300	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 season	209	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	70	890	44,744	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	14,854	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	3,688,082	411,228	1,241,500

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,

³ With the implementation of the PCTC Program, the BSAI trawl limited access sector Pacific cod PSC limits will be split between AFA CPs, PCTC A and B-season, and open access C-season. NMFS will apply a 25 percent reduction to the A and B season trawl CV sector halibut PSC apportionment 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. Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV limited access fishery in the C season. Because the annual halibut PSC limit for the PCTC Program is not a fixed amount established in regulation and, instead, is 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.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

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

Table 11--Proposed 2025 and 2026 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	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	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

Table 12—Proposed 2025 and 2026 Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (D)

Gear	Sector
Pelagic trawl	All
Non-pelagic trawl	Mothership and catcher/processor
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor
Pot	All

MR) for the BSAI	
Halibut discard mortality rate (percent)	
	100
	86
	67
	9
	9
	21