

C5 Council Motion

BSAI Groundfish Specifications

December 7, 2025

Motion:

The Council moves to adopt the 2026/2027 OFLs, ABCs and TACs for groundfish in the BSAI as shown in Table 1.

The Council moves to set seasonal and spatial apportionments, gear allowances, CDQ reserve, ICA and A80 allocations of the BSAI Atka mackerel TAC for 2026 and 2027 as in Table 3.

The Council also moves to set flatfish flexibility reserves as shown in Table 7 to maximize the ABC reserves for 2026/2027.

The Council moves to approve the PSC amounts and distributions as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11.

The Council approved Pacific halibut DMRs for 2026/2027 as shown in Table 12 at our October 2025 meeting but they are included again here to be complete.

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

Species	Area	2023 Catch as of				2024 Catch through				2025 Catch through				2026			2027		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	12/31/2023	OFL	ABC	TAC	12/31/24	OFL	ABC	TAC	11/8/25	OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	BS	3,381,000	1,910,000	1,314,500	1,310,591	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	52,383	43,413	4,500	3,744	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	300	125	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	172,495	144,834	127,409	126,458	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	13,812	8,425	3,398	18,416	12,431	8,080	4,169	16,782	13,376	8,694	4,608	16,273	12,973	8,951	16,273	12,973	8,951
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	47,390	40,502	n/a		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
	BS	n/a	8,417	7,996	5,418	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	8,884	8,440	2,463	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	404,882	378,499	230,000	112,889	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	4,645	3,960	3,960	1,276	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	3,338	3,338	795	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	622	622	481	n/a	501	501	305	n/a	263	263	212	n/a	208	208	n/a	208	208
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	98,787	83,852	15,000	7,276	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	8,946	7,579	7,579	6,949	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	166,034	121,719	66,000	27,212	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	79,256	65,344	35,500	8,991	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	40,823	33,946	17,500	15,252	42,695	35,494	21,752	10,399	34,576	28,745	15,903	6,947	33,965	28,230	15,682	33,965	28,230	15,682
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	4,500	3,020	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	50,133	42,038	37,703	35,951	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	11,903	11,903	10,892	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	8,152	8,152	7,791	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	5,648	5,648	5,461	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
	WAI	n/a	16,335	12,000	11,807	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
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,776	18,687	11,000	10,433	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
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	703	525	525	607	761	569	569	639	838	706	706	642	902	766	766	902	766	766
	BS/EAI	n/a	359	359	291	n/a	388	388	201	n/a	408	408	224	n/a	441	441	n/a	441	441
	CAI/WAI	n/a	166	166	316	n/a	181	181	439	n/a	298	298	418	n/a	325	325	n/a	325	325
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	706	530	530	243	706	530	530	177	631	473	473	301	631	473	473	631	473	473
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,680	1,260	1,260	1,220	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
	BS	n/a	880	880	652	n/a	880	880	788	n/a	639	639	504	n/a	639	639	n/a	639	639
	AI	n/a	380	380	568	n/a	380	380	573	n/a	415	415	522	n/a	415	415	n/a	415	415
Atka mackerel	C	118,787	98,588	69,282	66,613	111,684	95,358	72,987	72,173	122,622	103,247	82,000	80,440	107,889	92,361	82,941	107,889	92,361	82,941
	BS/EAI	n/a	43,281	27,260	24,862	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	17,351	17,351	17,210	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	37,956	24,671	24,541	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	46,220	38,605	27,441	25,866	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	333	325	689	450	400	174	689	450	400	197	689	450	400	689	450	400
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	148	6,080	4,560	400	246	6,080	4,560	400	296	6,080	4,560	400	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	1,781,793	4,334,715	3,588,066	2,000,000	1,748,054	3,849,059	3,188,585	2,000,000	3,849,059	3,188,585	2,000,000
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.																			
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 2025-2026 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.																			

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

[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector	Season	2026 and 2027 allocation by area		
		Eastern Aleutian District/Bering Sea	Central Aleutian District ⁵	Western Aleutian District
TAC	n/a	41,731	23,716	17,494
CDQ reserve	Total	4,465	2,538	1,872
	A	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat	n/a	761	562
	B	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical Habitat	n/a	761	562
Non-CDQ TAC	n/a	37,266	21,178	15,622
ICA	Total	800	100	20
Jig	Total	-	-	-
BSAI trawl limited access	Total	3,647	2,108	-
	A	1,823	1,054	-
	Critical Habitat	n/a	632	-
	B	1,823	1,054	-
	Critical Habitat	n/a	632	-
Amendment 80 sector	Total	32,819	18,971	15,602
	A	16,410	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat	n/a	5,691	4,681
	B	16,410	9,485	7,801
	Critical Habitat	n/a	5,691	4,681

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

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 ¹	46,168	74,320	109,517

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

¹The 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 ¹	Total PSC	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 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.

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 ¹	77	
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	8	
Rockfish	8	
Pacific cod	14	
Midwater trawl pollock	2,359	
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2 3}	31	
2026 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴		24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,651	97,000

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

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 ¹				
	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 ²					
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish					
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5		2,972		1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	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 ⁴	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.

¹Refer 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.

³With 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.

⁴“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.