

**C-5a Council motion****Proposed GOA Groundfish Specifications****October 7, 2025**

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 and 2027 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The proposed Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments for state water GHL fisheries are shown in Table 2. The proposed TAC for GOA octopus has been adjusted to account for the state water GHL fisheries.

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 and 2027 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 and 2027 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12.

Final specifications will be approved in December 2025 when stock assessments are completed and full information is available.

Regarding spatial apportionment, the Council is interested in SSC advice in December 2025 as to whether there is flexibility in the survey-based spatial apportionments recommended by the SSC for GOA shortraker rockfish, GOA rougheye and blackspotted rockfish complex, GOA thornyhead rockfish, and GOA skates (big and longnose). Useful information from the SSC could include whether the previous year's BRDs, or small changes from the current SSC-recommended BRDs, would be likely to result in biological impacts to the stock or stock complex.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs, Council recommended TACs for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) Proposed Harvest Specifications for 2026 and 2027

Species	Area	2025				2026-2027		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch through 9/15/25	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	4,526		4,226	n/a	3,326	
	W (610)	n/a	37,344	37,344	9,300	n/a	27,453	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	82,265	82,265	63,338	n/a	60,477	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	51,605	51,605	19,632	n/a	37,963	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	5,282	5,282	1,861	n/a	3,883	3,883
	Subtotal	210,111	181,022	176,496	98,357	153,971	133,075	129,749
	SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749	2	12,998	9,749	9,749
	Total	223,109	190,771	186,245	98,359	166,969	142,824	139,498
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,710	6,097	3,882	n/a	8,182	5,727
	C	n/a	20,506	15,379	11,065	n/a	19,263	14,447
	E	n/a	2,925	2,194	515	n/a	2,748	2,061
	Total	38,688	32,141	23,670	15,462	36,459	30,193	22,235
	W	n/a	4,996	4,746	2,268	n/a	4,687	4,687
	C	n/a	10,257	9,744	6,105	n/a	9,622	9,622
Sablefish	WYAK	n/a	3,125	2,686	1,904	n/a	2,652	2,652
	SEO	n/a	5,660	5,660	3,863	n/a	5,589	5,589
	GOA Total	n/a	24,038	22,836	14,140	n/a	22,550	22,550
	AK Total	58,532	50,111	n/a		57,797	47,008	n/a
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC								
	W	n/a	23,755	13,250	100	n/a	23,902	13,250
	C	n/a	28,279	28,279	1,526	n/a	28,455	28,455
	WYAK	n/a	2,828	2,828	25	n/a	2,846	2,846
	SEO	n/a	1,697	1,697	-	n/a	1,707	1,707
	Total	69,277	56,559	46,054	1,651	69,610	56,910	46,258
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	234	234	1	n/a	231	231
	C	n/a	2,616	2,616	72	n/a	2,568	2,568
	WYAK	n/a	1,828	1,828	5	n/a	1,795	1,795
	SEO	n/a	2,280	2,280	4	n/a	2,238	2,238
	Total	8,263	6,958	6,958	82	8,114	6,832	6832
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	234	234	1	n/a	231	231
	C	n/a	2,616	2,616	72	n/a	2,568	2,568
	WYAK	n/a	1,828	1,828	5	n/a	1,795	1,795
	SEO	n/a	2,280	2,280	4	n/a	2,238	2,238
	Total	8,263	6,958	6,958	82	8,114	6,832	6832
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,382	3,382	12	n/a	3,353	3,353
	C	n/a	13,698	13,698	454	n/a	13,582	13,582
	WYAK	n/a	1,436	1,436	-	n/a	1,413	1,413
	SEO	n/a	2,871	2,871	-	n/a	2,825	2,825
	Total	26,002	21,387	21,387	466	25,743	21,173	21,173
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	33,593	14,500	126	n/a	33,716	14,500
	C	n/a	68,261	68,261	10,539	n/a	68,511	68,511
	WYAK	n/a	6,695	6,695	19	n/a	6,719	6,719
	SEO	n/a	10,998	10,998	25	n/a	11,039	11,039
	Total	142,832	119,547	100,454	10,709	143,347	119,985	100,769
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,592	8,650	45	n/a	13,757	8,650
	C	n/a	21,817	21,817	694	n/a	22,083	22,083
	WYAK	n/a	3,970	3,970	-	n/a	4,018	4,018
	SEO	n/a	2,097	2,097	-	n/a	2,122	2,122
	Total	50,587	41,476	36,534	739	51,176	41,980	36,873
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,753	1,753	1,753	n/a	1,688	1,688
	C	n/a	28,209	28,209	21,865	n/a	27,156	27,156
	WYAK	n/a	2,070	2,070	1,892	n/a	1,993	1,993
	SEO	n/a	6,930	6,930	-	n/a	6,672	6,672
	Total	46,562	38,962	38,962	25,510	44,826	37,509	37,509
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,396	1,396	465	n/a	1,346	1,346
	C	n/a	3,680	3,680	1,117	n/a	3,549	3,549
	E	n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Total	6,064	5,076	5,076	1,582	5,848	4,895	4,895
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	34	34	3	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	189	189	252	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	424	424	126	n/a	424	424
	Total	863	647	647	381	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	209	209	66	n/a	199	199
	C	n/a	5,818	5,818	2,053	n/a	5,527	5,527
	WYAK	n/a	215	215	23	n/a	204	204
	SEO	n/a	96	96	-	n/a	91	91
	Total	7,705	6,338	6,338	2,142	7,319	6,021	6021
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	224	224	54	n/a	229	229
	C	n/a	359	359	119	n/a	366	366
	E	n/a	597	597	60	n/a	608	608
	Total	1,576	1,180	1,180	233	1,631	1,203	1203
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	361	271	271	176	361	271	271
	SEO	524	394	394	193	524	394	394
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	206	206	15	n/a	206	206
	C	n/a	590	590	71	n/a	590	590
	E	n/a	542	542	32	n/a	542	542
	Total	1,784	1,338	1,338	487	1,784	1,338	1338
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	1,084	1,084	365	n/a	1,084	1,084
	SEO	n/a	2,421	300	19	n/a	2,421	300
	Total	4,618	3,505	1,384	384	4,618	3,505	1,384
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	930	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	745	745	88	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,749	1,749	1,610	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	341	341	254	n/a	341	341
	Total	3,780	2,835	2,835	1,952	3,780	2,835	2835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	104	104	56	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	1,894	1,894	638	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	538	538	523	n/a	538	538
	Total	3,380	2,536	2,536	1,217	3,380	2,536	2536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	887	665	665	408	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,396	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	57	1,307	980	964
TOTAL		709,422	593,268	514,635	1,861	649,064	539,295	464,741

Sources: 2025 Final GOA Harvest Specifications; Catch Accounting System

Table 2. Proposed 2026 and 2027 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) [Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton]

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,182	19,263	2,748	30,193
State GHL	2,455	4,816	687	7,958
(%)	30%	25%	25%	-
Federal TAC	5,727	14,447	2,061	22,235

Table 9. Proposed 2026 and 2027 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments

(Values are in metric tons)

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear <sup>1</sup>				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	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

<sup>1</sup> The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. The hook-and-line IFQ sablefish fishery is exempt from halibut PSC limits, as are pot and jig gear for all groundfish fisheries.

Table 10. Proposed 2026 and 2027 Seasonal Apportionments of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limit Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries

(Values are in metric tons)

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water <sup>1</sup>	Total
January 20 - April 1	385	135	520
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	120	340	460
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	806	1,449
October 1 - December 31 <sup>2</sup>			256
Total			1,705

<sup>1</sup> Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 through September 1) deep-water species fishery halibut PSC apportionment.

<sup>2</sup> There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

Table 11. Proposed 2026 and 2027 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)

“Other than DSR” allowance	Hook-and-line sector	Sector annual amount	Season	Seasonal percentage	Sector seasonal amount
256	Catcher Vessel	149	January 1 - June 10	86	128
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	18
	Catcher/Processor	107	January 1 - June 10	86	92
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	13

Table 12. Proposed 2026 and 2027 Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. (Values are in 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	53
	Catcher vessel	All others	62
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	79
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	12
	Catcher vessel	All	15
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29