

# C4 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Harvest Specifications for 2026-2027

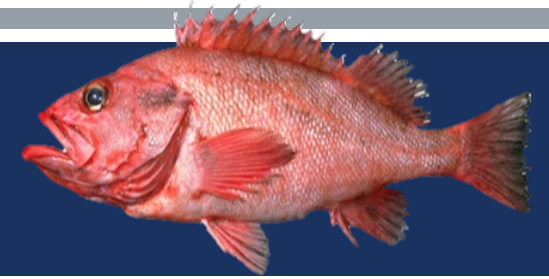
Presentation to the AP  
December 2025



Sara Cleaver (NPFMC)



# Final GOA groundfish harvest specifications 2026/2027



## AP/Council action

For 2026-2027 harvest specifications:

- TAC recommendations
- Halibut PSC limit apportionments
- Halibut DMRs

## C4 GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications for 2026 and 2027

[C4 Action Memo](#) -Uploaded: 11/20/2025 12:12 PM AKST

[C4C5 Groundfish Specs Process Dec 2025](#) -Uploaded: 11/17/2025 06:02 PM AKST

[C4 GOA Table 1 OFL ABC TAC Catch PRE MEETING](#) -Uploaded: 11/20/2025 11:35 AM AKST

[C4 Addl specs tables GOA Groundfish 2026 and 2027](#) -Uploaded: 11/19/2025 05:10 PM AKST

[C4 GOA 2025 Catch Reports](#) -Uploaded: 11/17/2025 05:09 PM AKST

[C4 ERRATA GOA POP Catch Report](#) -Uploaded: 11/20/2025 11:51 AM AKST

[C4 GOA 2024 SAFE Report \(LINK\)](#) -Uploaded: 11/17/2025 03:24 PM AKST

[C4 Stock Assessment Summary of all GOA stocks](#) -Uploaded: 11/18/2025 12:35 PM AKST

[C4 Addl metrics for select GOA stocks](#) -Uploaded: 11/25/2025 12:50 PM AKST

[C4 GOA Bottom Trawl Survey Biomass Trends](#) -Uploaded: 11/25/2025 01:18 PM AKST



# Presentation Outline

- **Process overview for C4/C5 (GOA & BSAI Groundfish)** ([document on eAgenda](#))
  - 2026-2027: Adjustments resulting from Federal shutdown
  - Available information in 2025
  - Update on C3
  - “Annual Two-Year” Harvest Specifications Process, Rulemaking (Gretchen Harrington, NMFS AKRO)
- **GOA Groundfish (C4)**
  - Stock status summary
  - GOA Bottom trawl survey 2025 (Dr. Bob Foy, AFSC)
  - TACs, PSC limits & apportionments
- **BSAI Groundfish (C5)** - separate agenda item & presentation



# Final Specifications for 2026-2027: Process & available information



- No new SAFE reports for 2025 due to Federal shutdown
- 2024 SAFE Reports, Ecosystem Status Reports (ESR), Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs), associated information
  - September 2025 Plan Team, October 2025 SSC Review
  - Recommendations from proposed harvest specifications
- 1 Harvest Projection (GOA deepwater flatfish, already reviewed)
- Updated catch reports for all stocks
- Limited survey information from multiple recent surveys



## C3 Contextual Information Supporting Groundfish Harvest Specifications- **Postponed**

Due to the lapse in Federal appropriations the products that were intended to be included under this item are not available.

### **BSAI and GOA year-end Inseason Management Reports (Council)**

- NMFS is planning to complete a 2025 annual Inseason Management Report but will not be available until early 2026.
- NMFS will provide any Inseason Management updates since the October meeting in the December B2 report.
- Previous annual reports can be found [here](#).

### **Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs)**

- Complete 2025 ESRs are not available. Prior year ESRs can be found [here](#).
- The Alaska Fisheries Science Center is in the process of determining if 2025 ESRs will be completed and if so, when they will be available.

### **Economic and Community Indicator Reports**

- These reports include relevant information from the Economic Status Report for Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (Groundfish Econ SAFE) and the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO). The most recent versions of these reports, including an unreviewed, preliminary 2025 Groundfish Econ SAFE are located on the [Human Dimensions of Fisheries Data Explorer](#).
- The SSC may schedule presentations of these reports at a future meeting as part of the ongoing process to improve the availability of socio-economic information for harvest specifications.



## Two-Year Harvest Specifications Process, Rulemaking (Gretchen Harrington, NMFS AKRO)

“Annual 2-year process” takes 6 months

- October – Council recommends proposed harvest specifications for 2 years
- Before December Council meeting – NMFS reviews Council recommendations and publishes proposed specifications and requests public comments
- December – Council recommends final harvest specifications for 2 years
- NMFS reviews the Council recommendations and considers public comments
- January – Fisheries open based on final harvest specifications published the previous March (Pacific cod and pollock in the GOA, and Pacific cod, pollock, and Atka mackerel in the BSAI) - NMFS uses inseason adjustment authority to adjust TACs for the species that may be constrained by the Council’s final TACs
- March – NMFS publishes final harvest specifications for 2 years
- Process repeats each year



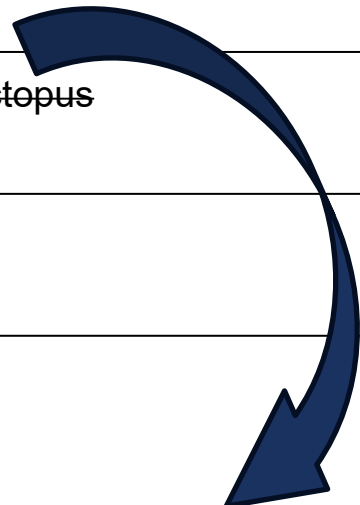
### ***This year***

- NMFS is reviewing the proposed specifications and anticipates publishing them in December
- Final specifications must be published by March 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> 2026



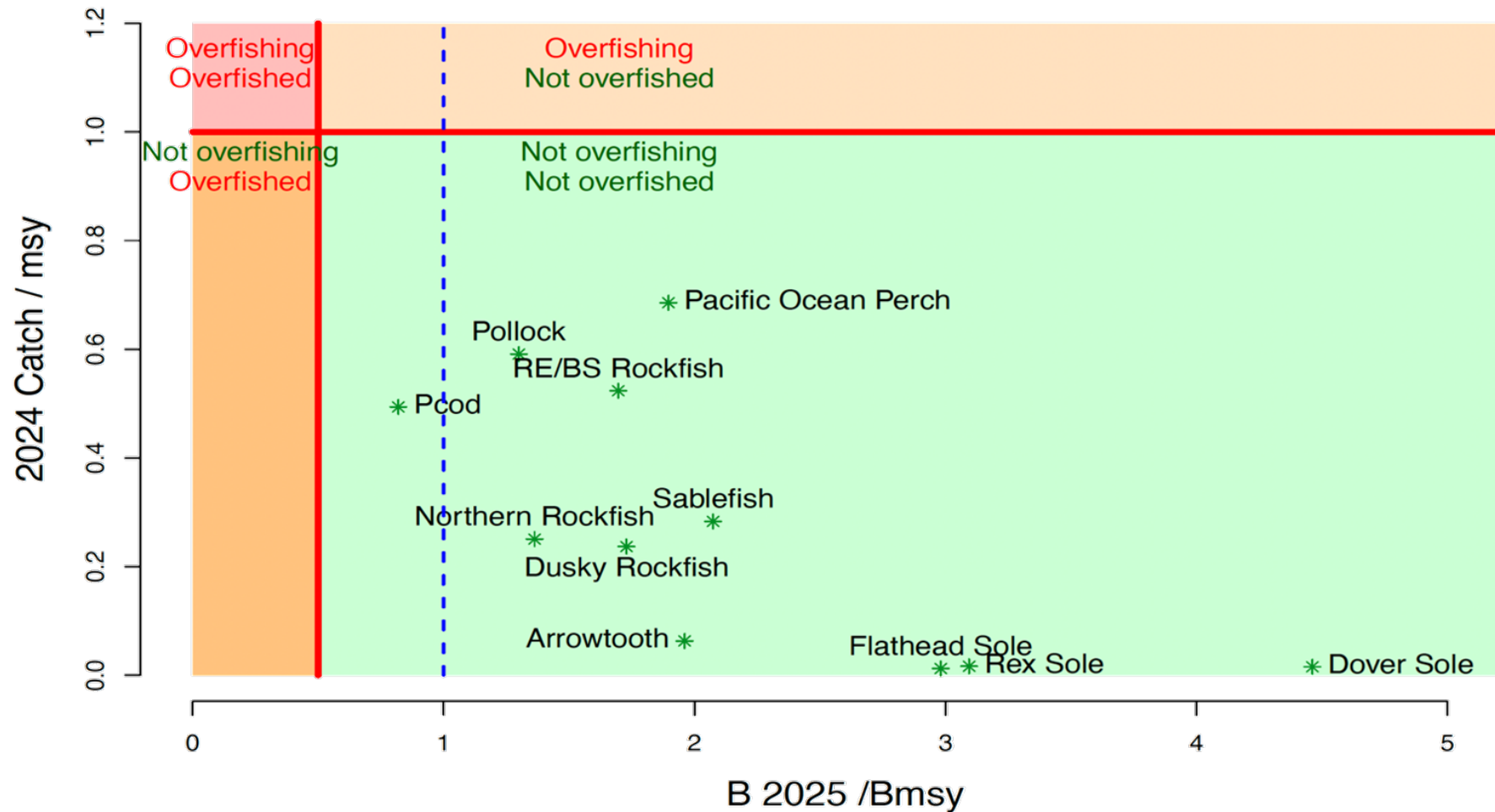
# GOA 2025 assessment plans and changes due to shutdown:

Assessment Type	GOA Stocks for 2025
Operational full	<del>Pollock, Pacific ocean perch, rougheye &amp; blackspotted rockfish, arrowtooth flounder, rex sole, shallow water flatfish (northern/southern rock sole)</del>
Operational update	<del>Pacific cod, Other rockfish, Shortraker rockfish, Skates, Atka mackerel, Octopus</del>
Harvest Projections (reviewed in Sept/Oct)	Deepwater flatfish
Catch Reports (now for all stocks)	Dusky rockfish Northern rockfish Thornyhead rockfish Demersal shelf rockfish Flathead sole Sharks Pollock, Pacific ocean perch, rougheye & blackspotted rockfish, arrowtooth flounder, rex sole, shallow water flatfish (northern/southern rock sole), Pacific cod, Other rockfish, shortraker rockfish, skates, Atka mackerel, Octopus





# Stock status summary from 2024







**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# GOA Bottom Trawl Survey Biomass Trends

Nov 2025, adapted from Sept 2025 Presentation to the GFPT  
Only for select stocks\*

Thank you to:  
Zack Oyafuso,  
Margaret Siple,  
Susanne McDermott,  
Ned Laman,  
Alexandra Dowlin,  
and Bethany Riggle



**NOAA FISHERIES**

\*As noted in process doc and Select Stocks table

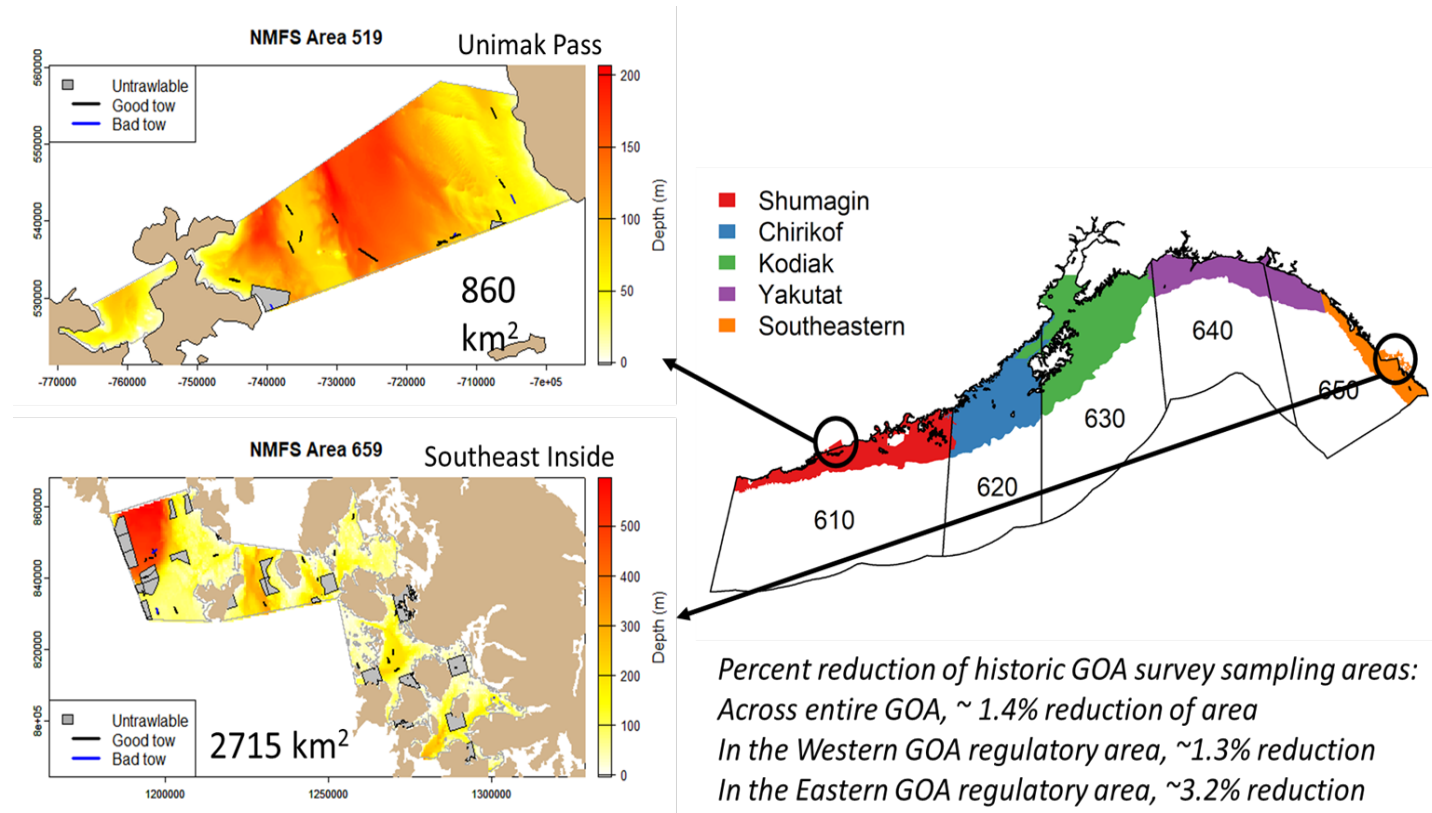
# 2025 GOA bottom trawl survey (BTS)

from Sept 2025 Presentation to the GFPT

- Last GOA BTS in 2023
- ~17% fewer stations in 2025
- New stratified random survey as of 2025
- Notable changes in biomass as discussed Sept/Oct 2025



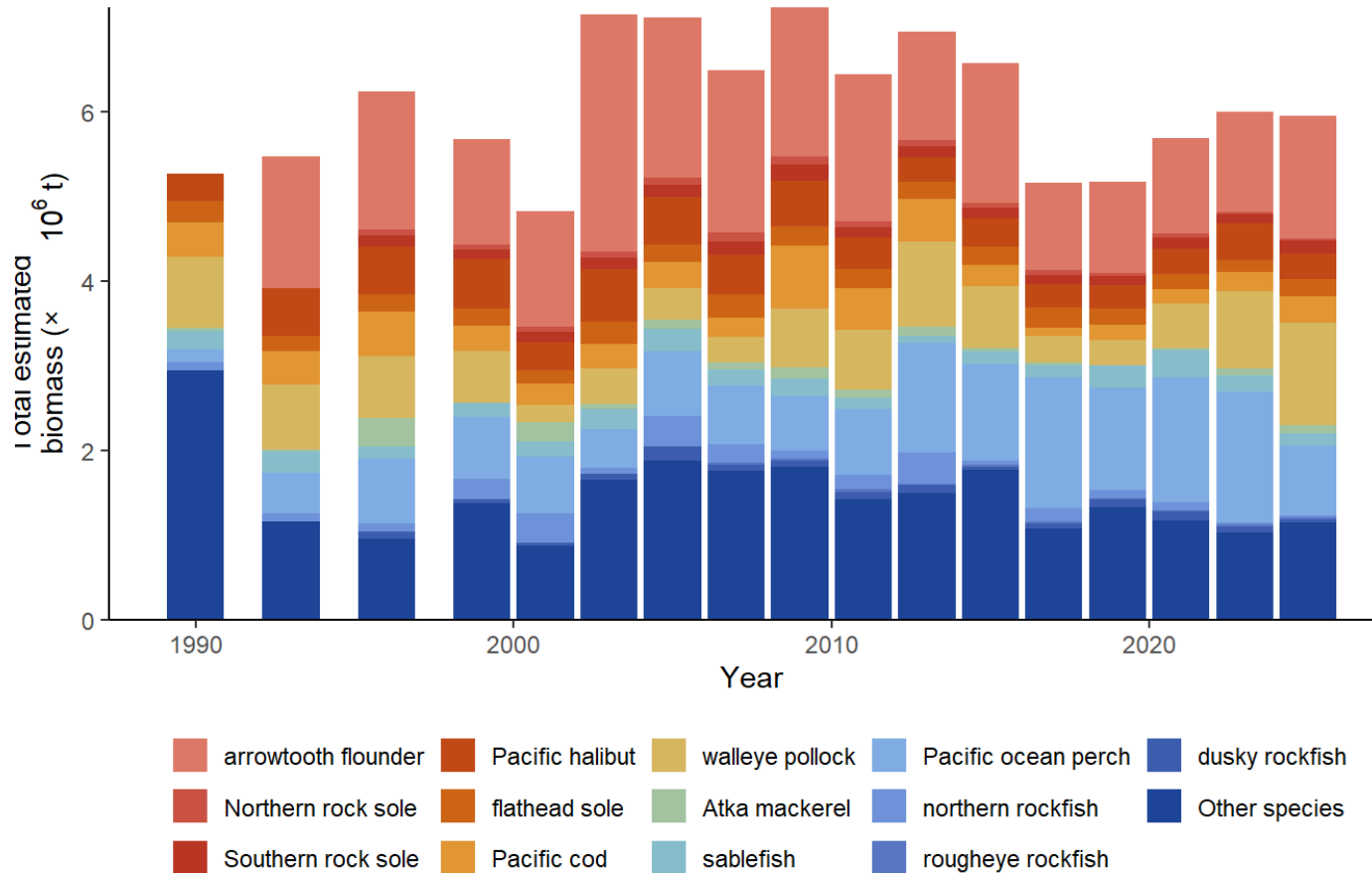
## GOA Survey Footprint Change



# 2025 GOA bottom trawl survey (BTS)

from [Sept 2025 Presentation](#) to the GFPT

## Catch composition





GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications- Preliminary 2026/2027 OFLs, ABCs, TACs based on proposed rule Table 1 (1 of 2)

Table 1. Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2026 and 2027  
pre-meeting DRAFT, November 2025

Species	Area	2024			Catch through 12/31/2024	2025			Catch through 11/8/2025	2026*			2027*		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	4,769	n/a		n/a	4,526	n/a		n/a	3,326	n/a	n/a	3,326	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	38,882	38,882	31,585	n/a	37,344	37,344	14,029	n/a	27,453	27,453	n/a	27,453	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	90,937	90,937	71,727	n/a	82,265	82,265	79,477	n/a	60,477	60,477	n/a	60,477	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	50,587	50,587	20,717	n/a	51,605	51,605	39,046	n/a	37,936	37,936	n/a	37,936	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	5,565	5,565	1,382	n/a	5,282	5,282	1,861	n/a	3,883	3,883	n/a	3,883	3,883
	Subtotal	269,916	190,740	185,971	125,411	210,111	181,022	176,496	134,413	153,971	133,075	129,749	153,971	133,075	129,749
	SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749	-	12,998	9,749	9,749	2	12,998	9,749	9,749	12,998	9,749	9,749
Total		282,914	200,489	195,720	125,411	223,109	190,771	186,245	134,415	166,969	142,824	139,498	166,969	142,824	139,498
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,745	6,121	4,476	n/a	8,710	6,097	5,340	n/a	8,182	5,318	n/a	8,182	5,318
	C	n/a	20,590	15,442	15,189	n/a	20,506	15,379	13,844	n/a	19,263	14,447	n/a	19,263	14,447
	E	n/a	2,937	2,203	365	n/a	2,925	2,194	532	n/a	2,748	2,061	n/a	2,748	2,061
	Total	38,712	32,272	23,766	20,030	38,688	32,141	23,670	19,716	36,459	30,193	21,826	36,459	30,193	21,826
Sablefish	W	n/a	4,699	4,699	2,777	n/a	4,996	4,746	3,117	n/a	4,687	4,687	n/a	4,687	4,687
	C	n/a	9,651	9,651	7,267	n/a	10,257	9,744	7,319	n/a	9,622	9,622	n/a	9,622	9,622
	WYAK	n/a	2,926	2,926	2,370	n/a	3,125	2,686	2,160	n/a	2,652	2,652	n/a	2,652	2,652
	SEO	n/a	5,320	5,320	4,542	n/a	5,660	5,660	4,826	n/a	5,589	5,589	n/a	5,589	5,589
	GOA Total	n/a	n/a	22,596	16,956	n/a	n/a	22,836	17,422	n/a	n/a	22,550	n/a	n/a	22,550
Alaska-wide OFL and ABC		AK Total	55,084	47,146	n/a	58,532	47,605	n/a		57,797	47,008	n/a	57,797	47,008	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,337	13,250	64	n/a	23,755	13,250	107	n/a	23,902	13,250	n/a	23,902	13,250
	C	n/a	27,783	27,783	2,830	n/a	28,279	28,279	2,025	n/a	28,455	28,455	n/a	28,455	28,455
	WYAK	n/a	2,778	2,778	1	n/a	2,828	2,828	25	n/a	2,846	2,846	n/a	2,846	2,846
	SEO	n/a	1,667	1,667	1	n/a	1,697	1,697	-	n/a	1,707	1,707	n/a	1,707	1,707
	Total	68,121	55,565	45,478	2,896	69,277	56,559	46,054	2,157	69,610	56,910	46,258	69,610	56,910	46,258
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	237	237	8	n/a	234	234	1	n/a	231	231	n/a	231	231
	C	n/a	2,655	2,655	78	n/a	2,616	2,616	76	n/a	2,568	2,568	n/a	2,568	2,568
	WYAK	n/a	1,856	1,856	3	n/a	1,828	1,828	6	n/a	1,795	1,795	n/a	1,795	1,795
	SEO	n/a	2,314	2,314	2	n/a	2,280	2,280	4	n/a	2,238	2,238	n/a	2,238	2,238
	Total	8,387	7,062	7,062	91	8,263	6,958	6,958	87	8,114	6,832	6,832	8,114	6,832	6,832
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,367	3,367	23	n/a	3,382	3,382	12	n/a	3,353	3,353	n/a	3,353	3,353
	C	n/a	13,639	13,639	539	n/a	13,698	13,698	555	n/a	13,582	13,582	n/a	13,582	13,582
	WYAK	n/a	1,453	1,453	1	n/a	1,436	1,436	-	n/a	1,413	1,413	n/a	1,413	1,413
	SEO	n/a	2,905	2,905	-	n/a	2,871	2,871	-	n/a	2,825	2,825	n/a	2,825	2,825
	Total	25,978	21,364	21,364	563	26,002	21,387	21,387	567	25,743	21,173	21,173	25,743	21,173	21,173
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	30,409	14,500	490	n/a	33,593	14,500	260	n/a	33,716	14,500	n/a	33,716	14,500
	C	n/a	64,871	64,871	17,634	n/a	68,261	68,261	12,765	n/a	68,511	68,511	n/a	68,511	68,511
	WYAK	n/a	7,870	7,870	31	n/a	6,695	6,695	22	n/a	6,719	6,719	n/a	6,719	6,719
	SEO	n/a	16,099	6,900	27	n/a	10,998	10,998	28	n/a	11,039	11,039	n/a	11,039	11,039
	Total	142,485	119,249	94,141	18,182	142,832	119,547	100,454	18,182	143,347	119,985	100,769	143,347	119,985	100,769
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,273	8,650	145	n/a	13,592	8,650	64	n/a	13,757	8,650	n/a	13,757	8,650
	C	n/a	21,307	21,307	890	n/a	21,817	21,817	836	n/a	22,083	22,083	n/a	22,083	22,083
	WYAK	n/a	3,876	3,876	-	n/a	4,370	3,970	-	n/a	4,018	4,018	n/a	4,018	4,018
	SEO	n/a	2,047	2,047	-	n/a	2,097	2,097	-	n/a	2,122	2,122	n/a	2,122	2,122
	Total	49,414	40,503	35,880	1,035	50,587	41,476	36,534	836	51,176	41,980	36,873	51,176	41,980	36,873
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,787	1,787	1,666	n/a	1,753	1,753	1,800	n/a	1,688	1,688	n/a	1,688	1,688
	C	n/a	28,757	28,757	21,792	n/a	28,209	28,209	23,870	n/a	27,156	27,156	n/a	27,156	27,156
	WYAK	n/a	2,110	2,110	1,946	n/a	2,070	2,070	1,892	n/a	1,993	1,993	n/a	1,993	1,993
	SEO	n/a	7,065	n/a	-	n/a	6,930	6,930	-	n/a	6,672	6,672	n/a	6,672	6,672
	Total	47,466	39,719	39,719	25,404	46,562	38,962	38,962	27,562	44,826	37,509	37,509	44,826	37,509	37,509



GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications- Preliminary 2026/2027 OFLs, ABCs, TACs based on proposed rule Table 1 (2 of 2)

Species	Area	2024			Catch through 12/31/2024	2025			Catch through 11/8/2025	2026*			2027*		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,535	2,535	316	n/a	1,396	1,396	466	n/a	1,346	1,346	n/a	1,346	1,346
	C	n/a	2,280	2,280	822	n/a	3,680	3,680	1,213	n/a	3,549	3,549	n/a	3,549	3,549
	E	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
	Total	5,750	4,815	4,815	1,138	6,064	5,076	5,076	1,679	5,848	4,895	4,895	5,848	4,895	4,895
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	34	34	16	n/a	34	34	3	n/a	34	34	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	189	189	136	n/a	189	189	361	n/a	189	189	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	424	424	195	n/a	424	424	136	n/a	424	424	n/a	424	424
	Total	863	647	647	347	863	647	647	500	863	647	647	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	145	145	72	n/a	209	209	68	n/a	199	199	n/a	199	199
	C	n/a	7,365	7,365	2,127	n/a	5,818	5,818	2,179	n/a	5,527	5,527	n/a	5,527	5,527
	WYAK	n/a	84	84	5	n/a	215	215	23	n/a	204	204	n/a	204	204
	SEO	n/a	30	30	-	n/a	96	96	-	n/a	91	91	n/a	91	91
	Total	9,281	7,624	7,624	2,204	7,705	6,338	6,338	2,270	7,319	6,021	6,021	7,319	6,021	6,021
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	197	197	53	n/a	224	224	55	n/a	229	229	n/a	229	229
	C	n/a	315	315	148	n/a	359	359	130	n/a	366	366	n/a	366	366
	E	n/a	525	525	102	n/a	597	597	69	n/a	608	608	n/a	608	608
	Total	1,555	1,037	1,037	303	1,576	1,180	1,180	254	1,631	1,203	1,203	1,631	1,203	1,203
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	361	271	271	253	361	271	271	361	271	271
	SEO	376	283	283	188	524	394	394	266	524	394	394	524	394	394
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	314	314	37	n/a	206	206	18	n/a	206	206	n/a	206	206
	C	n/a	693	693	65	n/a	590	590	73	n/a	590	590	n/a	590	590
	E	n/a	621	621	65	n/a	542	542	36	n/a	542	542	n/a	542	542
	Total	2,170	1,628	1,628	167	1,784	1,338	1,338	127	1,784	1,338	1,338	1,784	1,338	1,338
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	1,353	1,353	544	n/a	1,084	1,084	400	n/a	1,084	1,084	n/a	1,084	1,084
	SEO	n/a	2,421	300	32	n/a	2,421	300	21	n/a	2,421	300	n/a	2,421	300
	Total	4,977	3,774	1,653	576	4,618	3,505	1,384	421	4,618	3,505	1,384	4,618	3,505	1,384
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	4,700	380	6,200	4,700	3,000	967	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	745	745	153	n/a	745	745	105	n/a	745	745	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,749	1,749	827	n/a	1,749	1,749	1,724	n/a	1,749	1,749	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	341	341	112	n/a	341	341	262	n/a	341	341	n/a	341	341
	Total	3,780	2,835	2,835	1,092	3,780	2,835	2,835	2,091	3,780	2,835	2,835	3,780	2,835	2,835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	104	104	49	n/a	104	104	81	n/a	104	104	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	1,894	1,894	503	n/a	1,894	1,894	684	n/a	1,894	1,894	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	538	538	234	n/a	538	538	527	n/a	538	538	n/a	538	538
	Total	3,380	2,536	2,536	786	3,380	2,536	2,536	1,292	3,380	2,536	2,536	3,380	2,536	2,536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	887	665	665	645	887	665	665	520	887	665	665	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,495	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,536	6,521	4,891	4,891	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	190	1,307	980	980	223	1,307	980	964	1,307	980	964
TOTAL		765,608	599,784	520,020	220,079	709,422	590,762	514,635	233,343	649,064	539,295	464,332	649,064	539,295	464,332

Notes: ABCs are at the level of the stock or stock complex and shown in "Total" or "GOA-wide" rows. Any quantities shown by area are spatial apportionments of ABC and do not reflect ACLs.  
GOA catch (not AK wide catch) for sablefish included in catch totals. ABC for sablefish (AK wide) shown in ABC totals.  
\*2026-2027 OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the Council in October 2025 and specified in the 2025-2026 final harvest specifications published in March 2025.  
Sources: 2024 and 2025 Final GOA Harvest Specifications (published March 2024), 2025 and 2026 Final GOA Harvest Specifications (published March 2025), 2026-2027 Proposed GOA Harvest Specifications (Council motion, October 2025), NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS).

# Adjustments for state waters Pacific cod (GOA)

Table 2--GOA TAC and GHL for State Waters Pacific Cod (ABCs based on recommendations from October 2025 Council meeting).

Final 2026 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State GHLs (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,182	19,263	2,748	30,193
State GHL	2,864	4,816	687	8,367
(%) of ABC for State GHL	35%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	5,318	14,447	2,061	21,826

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

Final 2027 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State GHLs (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
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Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.



# Halibut PSC limits by gear type (GOA)

Table 3--Final 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. 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.





# Halibut PSC Trawl Apportionments (GOA)

Table 4--Final 2026 and 2027 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	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>	n/a	n/a	256
Total	n/a	n/a	1,705

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<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).



# Halibut PSC limit CV-CP hook-and-line split (GOA)

Table 5--Final 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]

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



# GOA Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)

Table 6-- Final 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

