



# **C6 Proposed GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications**

October 2019 Council Meeting

## **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver  
Other Presenters: Dr. Jim Ianelli (NMFS AFSC, GOA Plan Team Co-Chair)  
Action Required: 1. Review GOA Groundfish Plan Team Report  
2. Recommend proposed GOA groundfish harvest and prohibited species specifications for 2020-2021

### **A. Plan Team Report**

The GOA Groundfish Plan Team met during September 17-19, 2019, to review and recommend, for proposed rulemaking, groundfish harvest specifications for the upcoming 2020 and 2021 fishing years. The Team also reviewed reports from assessment authors to identify items for inclusion in stock assessments that will be presented at the November Plan Team meeting. Minutes from the GOA Groundfish Plan Team meeting are attached (C6 GOA Groundfish PT Report). Minutes from the Joint Groundfish/Crab Plan Team and the Joint BSAI/GOA Groundfish Plan Team meetings, as well as the Preliminary Ecosystem Status Report are under agenda item C5.

### **B. Proposed Harvest Specifications**

At this meeting the Council will recommend, for proposed rulemaking, GOA groundfish harvest specifications for the upcoming two-year period (2020 and 2021) which will notify the public of expected Council action to set final harvest specifications in December 2019. Existing 2020 harvest specifications were published as a final rule in the Federal Register (84 FR 9000, March 13, 2019) in March 2019 and will be in place for January 2020 when the groundfish fishing year begins. Proposed harvest specifications for the year after next (2021) are typically set equal to the proposed upcoming year (2020) harvest specifications.

The GOA Groundfish Plan Team's harvest recommendations for 2020 and 2021 are shown in Table 1 in the Tables attachment to this agenda item. The Team adopted proposed 2020 and 2021 GOA OFLs and ABCs which rollover the existing final 2020 harvest specifications that were published in the Federal Register in March 2019. Final harvest specifications will be based on stock assessment reports included in the groundfish SAFEs for GOA that will be released in late November 2019.

#### Pacific cod TAC adjustments

The Council will need to recommend Pacific cod TACs for the GOA that are a 25% to 30% reduction from ABC to account for State GHF fisheries. Using the area apportionments from the proposed 2019 Pacific cod ABCs recommended by the Plan Team, the 2020 and 2021 Federal TACs for Pacific cod would be adjusted as listed in attached Table 2.

GOA Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits

In addition to harvest specifications, the Council will recommend, for proposed rulemaking, gear and target fishery apportionments of prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for halibut. Recommended 2020 and 2021 halibut PSC apportionments (Tables 9, 10, and 11) are based on the recommended 2020 apportionments for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. Salmon PSC limits are set in regulation.

GOA Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

The Council will also recommend updated halibut discard mortality rates. At their September meeting, the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams reviewed updated halibut DMRs for implementation in 2020. The Teams concurred with the working group recommendations to maintain current methods and to use the two-year reference period (2017-2018) for producing the 2020 and 2021 DMRs, which are provided in Table 12.