

Council Motion
C5 BSAI Groundfish Specifications
October 6, 2019

The Council adopts the proposed 2020 and 2021 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish specifications of 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 final specifications from 2020 with a change to reduce TAC of Pacific cod by 824 mt to accommodate the increased GHL in the AI. The 824 mt of TAC will be added to the TAC for pollock in the BS.

The Council adopts the 2020 and 2021 flatfish flexibility ABC reserves as shown in Table 7, attached.

The Council adopts the PSC limits as shown in Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11, attached, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab, and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2020 and 2021 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts.

The Council adopts the halibut DMRs for 2020 and 2021 as shown in Table 12, attached.

Table 1. SSC recommended OFL, ABC, and Council recommended TAC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2020 and 2021.

												10/3/2019	
Species	Area	2018				Catch as of 12/31/2018	2019			Catch as of 9/7/2019	Proposed 2020/2021		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	OFL		ABC	TAC	
Pollock	EBS	4,797,000	2,592,000	1,364,341	1,379,306	3,914,000	2,163,000	1,397,000	1,237,975	3,082,000	1,792,000	1,420,824	
	AI	49,289	40,788	19,000	1,860	64,240	52,887	19,000	1,453	66,981	55,125	19,000	
	Bogoslof	130,428	60,800	450	14	183,080	137,310	75	117	183,080	137,310	75	
Pacific cod	BS	238,000	201,000	188,136	186,702	216,000	181,000	166,475	121,981	183,000	137,000	124,625	
	AI	28,700	21,500	15,695	14,719	27,400	20,600	14,214	12,459	27,400	20,600	13,390	
Sablefish	BSAI												
	BS	2,887	1,464	1,464	1,598	3,221	1,489	1,489	2,820	4,576	1,994	1,994	
	AI	3,917	1,988	1,988	660	4,350	2,008	2,008	465	6,209	2,688	2,688	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	306,700	277,500	154,000	131,544	290,000	263,200	154,000	100,656	284,000	257,800	166,425	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	13,148	11,132	5,294	1,835	11,362	9,658	5,294	2,831	10,476	8,908	5,294	
	BS	n/a	9,718	5,125	1,672	n/a	8,431	5,125	2,663	n/a	7,777	5,125	
	AI	n/a	1,414	169	163	n/a	1,227	169	168	n/a	1,131	169	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	76,757	65,932	13,621	7,002	82,939	70,673	8,000	6,840	83,814	71,411	8,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,347	9,737	5,000	3,108	10,965	9,260	5,000	4,195	11,260	9,509	5,000	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	147,300	143,100	47,100	28,275	122,000	118,900	47,100	24,720	147,500	143,700	57,100	
Flathead sole	BSAI	79,862	66,773	14,500	11,061	80,918	66,625	14,500	12,652	83,190	68,448	14,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	41,170	34,590	16,100	23,342	39,880	33,600	18,000	13,861	37,860	31,900	18,000	
Other flatfish	BSAI	17,591	13,193	4,000	5,984	21,824	16,368	6,500	3,539	21,824	16,368	6,500	
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	51,675	42,509	37,361	34,749	61,067	50,594	44,069	32,562	59,396	49,211	43,625	
	BS	n/a	11,861	11,861	9,635	n/a	14,675	14,675	6,219	n/a	14,274	14,274	
	EAI	n/a	10,021	9,000	8,946	n/a	11,459	11,009	8,191	n/a	11,146	11,146	
	CAI	n/a	7,787	7,500	7,312	n/a	8,435	8,385	8,264	n/a	8,205	8,205	
	WAI	n/a	12,840	9,000	8,856	n/a	16,025	10,000	9,888	n/a	15,586	10,000	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,888	12,975	6,100	5,767	15,507	12,664	6,500	8,549	15,180	12,396	6,500	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	749	613	225	238	676	555	279	371	868	715	279	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	374	75	66	n/a	351	75	67	n/a	448	75	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	239	150	173	n/a	204	204	304	n/a	267	204	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	666	499	150	250	722	541	358	283	722	541	358	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,816	1,362	845	987	1,793	1,344	663	1,066	1,793	1,344	663	
	BS	n/a	791	275	212	n/a	956	275	564	n/a	956	275	
	AI	n/a	571	570	775	n/a	388	388	502	n/a	388	388	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	108,600	92,000	71,000	70,393	79,200	68,500	57,951	46,873	73,400	63,400	53,635	
	EAI/BS	n/a	36,820	36,500	36,085	n/a	23,970	23,970	13,113	n/a	22,190	22,190	
	CAI	n/a	32,000	21,000	20,889	n/a	14,390	14,390	14,319	n/a	13,310	13,310	
	WAI	n/a	23,180	13,500	13,419	n/a	30,140	19,591	19,441	n/a	27,900	18,135	
Skates	BSAI	46,668	39,082	27,000	31,207	51,152	42,714	26,000	14,801	48,944	40,813	26,000	
Sculpins	BSAI	53,201	39,995	5,000	5,109	53,201	39,995	5,000	4,484	53,201	39,995	5,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	180	103	689	517	125	114	689	517	125	
Squids	BSAI	6,912	5,184	1,200	1,736	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	250	290	4,769	3,576	400	193	4,769	3,576	400	
Total	BSAI	6,235,729	3,779,809	2,000,000	1,947,838	5,340,955	3,367,578	2,000,000	1,655,860	4,492,132	2,967,269	2,000,000	

Sources: 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2019 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2017 and December 2018, respectively; 2018 catches through December 31, and 2019 catches through September 7, 2019 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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	68,448	143,700	257,800
TAC	14,500	57,100	166,425
ABC surplus	53,948	86,600	91,375
ABC reserve	53,948	86,600	91,375
CDQ ABC reserve	5,772	9,266	9,777
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	48,176	77,334	81,598

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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 ¹	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve ²	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector ³	BSAI trawl limited access fishery
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,547	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
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	8,580,898	n/a	918,156	7,662,742	3,766,238	2,462,805
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of 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.

TABLE 9-PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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	111	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ¹	54	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	7	n/a
Rockfish	7	n/a
Pacific cod	13	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,313	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	42	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,547	97,000

¹“Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), 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 sculpins, sharks, skates, and octopuses.

⁴In October 2019, the Council recommended that the red king crab bycatch limit for non-pelagic trawl fisheries 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 2020 AND 2021 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access 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	150	23,338	2,321,656	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	3,835	-	1,000
Pacific cod	391	2,954	98,959	60,000	49,999
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	38,356	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access PSC	745	26,489	2,462,805	411,228	1,241,500

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

² “Other flatfish” for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for halibut (a prohibited species), arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

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

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

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2020 AND 2021 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	n/a
	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 2020 AND 2021 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	75
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	58
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	27