

Council Motion

C2 BSAI Groundfish Specifications

October 9, 2020

The Council adopts the proposed 2021 and 2022 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest 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 OFLs and ABCs consisting of rollovers of final 2021 specifications approved in December 2019, with a change to northern rock sole due to a data file error.

The Council adopts the 2021 and 2022 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 2021 and 2022 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts.

The Council adopts the halibut DMRs for 2021 and 2022 as shown in Table 12, attached.

Table 1. Council proposed OFL, ABC, and TAC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2021-2022

10/9/2020

Species	Area	2019				2020				2021/2022		
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 12/31/2019	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 8/29/2020	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	3,914,000	2,163,000	1,397,000	1,409,219	4,085,000	2,043,000	1,425,000	1,097,046	3,385,000	1,767,000	1,450,000
	AI	64,240	52,887	19,000	1,663	66,973	55,120	19,000	2,786	70,970	58,384	19,000
	Bogoslof	183,080	137,310	75	8	183,080	137,310	75	37	183,080	137,310	75
Pacific cod	BS	216,000	181,000	166,475	164,098	191,386	155,873	141,799	107,705	125,734	102,975	92,633
	AI	27,400	20,600	14,214	12,941	27,400	20,600	13,796	3,436	27,400	20,600	13,796
Sablefish	BSAI	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,481	n/a	n/a	n/a	64,765	n/a	n/a
	BS	3,221	1,489	1,489	3,191	n/a	2,174	1,861	2,382	n/a	2,865	2,865
	AI	4,350	2,008	2,008	661	n/a	2,952	2,039	1,015	n/a	3,891	2,500
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	290,000	263,200	154,000	128,061	287,307	260,918	150,700	93,718	287,943	261,497	168,900
Greenland turbot	BSAI	11,362	9,658	5,294	2,850	11,319	9,625	5,300	2,199	10,006	8,510	5,795
	BS	n/a	8,431	5,125	2,678	n/a	8,403	5,125	1,530	n/a	7,429	5,125
	AI	n/a	1,227	169	171	n/a	1,222	175	669	n/a	1,081	670
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	82,939	70,673	8,000	10,063	84,057	71,618	10,000	8,122	86,647	73,804	10,000
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,965	9,260	5,000	4,488	11,495	9,708	6,800	7,093	11,472	9,688	7,116
Northern rock sole	BSAI	122,000	118,900	47,100	25,799	157,300	153,300	47,100	21,480	251,800	245,400	49,000
Flathead sole	BSAI	80,918	66,625	14,500	15,912	82,810	68,134	19,500	6,526	86,432	71,079	24,000
Alaska plaice	BSAI	39,880	33,600	18,000	16,164	37,600	31,600	17,000	17,552	36,500	30,700	24,000
Other flatfish	BSAI	21,824	16,368	6,500	3,784	21,824	16,368	4,000	3,767	21,824	16,368	5,000
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	61,067	50,594	44,069	43,614	58,956	48,846	42,875	28,507	56,589	46,885	42,036
	BS	n/a	14,675	14,675	14,518	n/a	14,168	14,168	3,690	n/a	13,600	13,600
	EAI	n/a	11,459	11,009	10,945	n/a	11,063	10,613	7,929	n/a	10,619	10,619
	CAI	n/a	8,435	8,385	8,263	n/a	8,144	8,094	6,993	n/a	7,817	7,817
	WAI	n/a	16,025	10,000	9,888	n/a	15,471	10,000	9,895	n/a	14,849	10,000
Northern rockfish	BSAI	15,507	12,664	6,500	9,063	19,751	16,243	10,000	7,643	19,070	15,683	10,000
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	676	555	279	393	861	708	349	412	1,090	899	439
	EBS/EAI	n/a	351	75	89	n/a	444	85	115	n/a	560	100
	CAI/WAI	n/a	204	204	304	n/a	264	264	297	n/a	339	339
Shorthead rockfish	BSAI	722	541	358	383	722	541	375	166	722	541	375
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,793	1,344	663	1,269	1,793	1,344	1,088	816	1,793	1,344	1,088
	BS	n/a	956	275	699	n/a	956	700	236	n/a	956	700
	AI	n/a	388	388	569	n/a	388	388	580	n/a	388	388
Atka mackerel	BSAI	79,200	68,500	57,951	57,206	81,200	70,100	59,305	47,355	74,800	64,400	54,482
	EAI/BS	n/a	23,970	23,970	23,654	n/a	24,535	24,535	13,845	n/a	22,540	22,540
	CAI	n/a	14,390	14,390	14,110	n/a	14,721	14,721	13,531	n/a	13,524	13,524
	WAI	n/a	30,140	19,591	19,441	n/a	30,844	20,049	19,979	n/a	28,336	18,418
Skates	BSAI	51,152	42,714	26,000	20,205	49,792	41,543	16,313	13,639	48,289	40,248	16,000
Sculpins	BSAI	53,201	39,995	5,000	5,606	67,817	50,863	5,300	3,837	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	125	146	689	517	150	156	689	517	200
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	400	268	4,769	3,576	275	643	4,769	3,576	700
Total	BSAI	5,340,955	3,367,578	2,000,000	1,937,052	5,584,382	3,272,581	2,000,000	1,478,038	4,857,384	2,984,164	2,000,000

Sources: 2019 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2020 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2018 and December 2019, respectively; 2019

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2021 AND 2022 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	71,079	245,400	261,497
TAC	24,000	49,000	168,900
ABC surplus	47,079	196,500	92,597
ABC reserve	47,079	196,500	92,597
CDQ ABC reserve	5,037	21,026	9,908
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	42,042	175,475	82,689

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2021 AND 2022 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 sector
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,532	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	12,850,000	n/a	1,374,950	11,475,050	5,639,987	3,688,081
<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 2021 AND 2022 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	110	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	2,299	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	2,532	97,000

¹“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.

²Pollock other than midwater trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and “other species” fishery category.

³“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, 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 2021 AND 2022 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector 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	3,476,708	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	-	5,743	-	1,000
Pacific cod	391	2,954	148,192	60,000	49,999
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	200	197	57,438	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	3,688,081	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), Alaska plaice, arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole.

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

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

TABLE 11–PROPOSED 2021 AND 2022 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 2021 AND 2022 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	84
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	59
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	32