

**ADVISORY PANEL**  
**Motions and Rationale**  
**October 4-8, 2021 - Anchorage, AK**

**C6 Specs**

**Motion 1 BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications**

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2022 and 2023 BSAI groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and set TACs, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2022 final specifications from 2021/2022 harvest specifications. The TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2022 and 2023 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Finally, the AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2022 and 2023 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Tables 7 - 12 are found in the meeting agenda under C-6.

*Motion passed 18-0*

*Rationale:*

- *These OFL and ABC levels are consistent with what was approved by both the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan Team and the SSC. The 2022 TAC levels are those that were adopted by the Council at their December 2020 meeting (and published in the Federal Register) and carried into 2023 in order to meet the Council's process of setting TACs for two years.*
- *Species stock assessments, including OFL and ABC levels, will be updated over the next several weeks and final recommendations made by both the Groundfish Plan Team and SSC at their upcoming November and December meetings. As such, it is recognized that all the OFL, ABC, and TAC numbers contained in Table 1 will change before final adoption by the Council in December. The primary task at this October meeting is to set placeholder numbers to provide a logical outgrowth for whatever is passed for final specifications in December.*

Table 1. AP Proposed recommended OFL, ABC for Groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (metric tons) for 2022-2023

10/8/2021

Species	Area	2020				Catch as of 12/31/2020	2021			Catch as of 9/11/2021	AP Proposed 2022/2023		
		OFL	ABC	TAC			OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	4,085,000	2,043,000	1,425,000	1,367,229	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,297,613	2,366,000	1,484,000	1,400,000	
	AI	66,973	55,120	19,000	3,205	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,497	61,308	50,789	19,000	
	Bogoslof	183,080	137,310	75	9	113,479	85,109	250	49	113,479	85,109	100	
Pacific cod	BS	191,386	155,873	141,799	141,537	147,949	123,805	111,380	98,057	128,340	106,852	95,053	
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,474	27,400	20,600	13,796	4,170	27,400	20,600	13,796	
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	50,481	n/a	n/a	n/a	60,426	29,558	n/a	4,207	70,710	36,955	n/a	
	BS	n/a	2,174	1,861	5,302	n/a	3,396	3,396	2,993	n/a	4,863	4,863	
	AI	n/a	2,952	2,039	1,210	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,213	n/a	6,860	5,061	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	287,307	260,918	150,700	133,799	341,571	313,477	200,000	83,790	374,982	344,140	200,000	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	11,319	9,625	5,300	2,326	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,578	7,181	6,139	6,025	
	BS	n/a	8,403	5,125	1,648	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,126	n/a	5,175	5,125	
	AI	n/a	1,222	175	678	n/a	1,150	900	453	n/a	964	900	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	84,057	71,618	10,000	10,684	90,873	77,349	15,000	6,753	94,368	80,323	15,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	11,495	9,708	6,800	7,442	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,417	10,843	9,163	8,982	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	157,300	153,300	47,100	25,937	145,180	140,306	54,500	13,448	213,783	206,605	54,500	
Flathead sole	BSAI	82,810	68,134	19,500	9,393	75,863	62,567	25,000	8,042	77,763	64,119	25,000	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,600	31,600	17,000	20,078	37,924	31,657	24,500	14,531	36,928	30,815	22,500	
Other flatfish	BSAI	21,824	16,368	4,000	4,174	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,370	22,919	17,189	6,500	
Pacific Ocean perch	BSAI	58,956	48,846	42,875	40,417	44,376	37,173	35,899	23,698	42,384	35,503	34,758	
	BS	n/a	14,168	14,168	11,944	n/a	10,782	10,782	3,119	n/a	10,298	10,298	
	EAI	n/a	11,063	10,613	10,621	n/a	8,419	8,419	5,854	n/a	8,041	8,041	
	CAI	n/a	8,144	8,094	7,966	n/a	6,198	6,198	4,898	n/a	5,919	5,919	
	WAI	n/a	15,471	10,000	9,886	n/a	11,774	10,500	9,826	n/a	11,245	10,500	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	19,751	16,243	10,000	8,443	18,917	15,557	13,000	5,642	18,221	14,984	13,000	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	861	708	349	517	576	482	482	349	595	500	326	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	444	85	149	n/a	313	313	107	n/a	324	150	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	264	264	368	n/a	169	169	242	n/a	176	176	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	375	294	722	541	500	346	722	541	225	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,793	1,344	1,088	1,098	1,751	1,313	916	631	1,751	1,313	694	
	BS	n/a	956	700	359	n/a	919	522	273	n/a	919	300	
	AI	n/a	388	388	739	n/a	394	394	358	n/a	394	394	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	81,200	70,100	59,305	58,884	85,580	73,590	62,257	34,736	79,660	68,220	57,717	
	EAI/BS	n/a	24,535	24,535	24,291	n/a	25,760	25,760	13,691	n/a	23,880	23,880	
	CAI	n/a	14,721	14,721	14,596	n/a	15,450	15,450	14,922	n/a	14,330	14,330	
	WAI	n/a	30,844	20,049	19,997	n/a	32,380	21,047	19,814	n/a	30,010	19,507	
Skates	BSAI	49,792	41,543	16,313	19,136	49,297	41,257	18,000	15,619	47,372	39,598	16,000	
Sculpins	BSAI	67,817	50,863	5,300	5,155	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	150	179	689	517	200	308	689	517	200	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	275	691	4,769	3,576	700	146	4,769	3,576	700	
<b>Total</b>	BSAI	<b>5,584,382</b>	<b>3,272,581</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,874,613</b>	<b>3,945,315</b>	<b>2,747,727</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,637,689</b>	<b>3,802,167</b>	<b>2,682,318</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	

Sources: 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2021 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2019 and December 2020, respectively; 2020 catches through December 31, and 2021 catches through September 11, 2021 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7–PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 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	62,567	140,306	313,477
TAC	25,000	54,500	200,000
ABC surplus	37,567	85,806	113,477
ABC reserve	37,567	85,806	113,477
CDQ ABC reserve	4,020	9,181	12,142
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	33,547	76,625	101,335

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 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 <sup>1</sup>	Total PSC	Non-trawl PSC	CDQ PSQ reserve <sup>2</sup>	Trawl PSC remaining after CDQ PSQ	Amendment 80 sector <sup>3</sup>	BSAI trawl limited access sector	BSAI PSC limits not allocated <sup>2</sup>
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,532	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	32,000	n/a	3,424	28,576	14,282	8,739	5,555
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	4,350,000	n/a	465,450	3,884,550	1,909,256	1,248,494	726,799
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	830,000	n/a	88,810	741,190	312,115	348,285	80,790
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,520,000	n/a	269,640	2,250,360	532,660	1,053,394	664,306

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of zones.

<sup>2</sup> The PSQ reserve for crab species is 10.7 percent of each crab PSC limit.

<sup>3</sup> 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 2022 AND 2023 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/Alaska plaice/other flatfish <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2,3</sup>	42	n/a
Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear <sup>4</sup>	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	2,532	32,000

<sup>1</sup>“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.

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

<sup>3</sup>“Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

<sup>4</sup>In October 2021, the Council recommended and NMFS approves 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 2022 AND 2023 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL LIMITED ACCESS SECTOR

BSAI trawl limited access sector fisheries	Prohibited species and area <sup>1</sup>				
	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	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	4	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	391	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species <sup>3</sup>	200	65	5,028	4,235	4,243
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	8,739	1,248,494	348,285	1,053,394

<sup>1</sup> Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

<sup>2</sup> “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.

<sup>3</sup> “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

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

TABLE 11--PROPOSED 2022 AND 2023 HALIBUT PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Non-trawl fisheries	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI			
	Seasons	Catcher/processor	Catcher vessel	All Non-Trawl
Pacific cod	Annual Pacific cod	648	13	661
	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 2022 AND 2023 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	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	10
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	10
Pot	All	33

## **Motion 2 C-6 GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications**

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2022 and 2023 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and set TACs as shown in the handout, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of final specifications from 2021. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and Pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments are shown in the C6 action memo Table 2.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2022 and 2023 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, 11 in the C6 action memo.

Finally, the AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2022 and 2023 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 12.

*Motion passed 18-0*

### Rationale:

- *These OFL and ABC levels are consistent with what was approved by both the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team and the SSC. The 2022 TAC levels are those that were adopted by the Council at their December 2020 meeting (and published in the Federal Register) and carried into 2023 in order to meet the Council's process of setting TACs for two years.*
- *Species stock assessments, including OFL and ABC levels, will be updated over the next several weeks and final recommendations made by both the Groundfish Plan Team and SSC at their upcoming November and December meetings. As such, it is recognized that all the OFL, ABC, and TAC numbers contained in the handout will change before final adoption by the Council in December. The primary task at this October meeting is to set placeholder numbers to provide a logical outgrowth for what is passed for final specifications in December.*



Table 2. Proposed 2022 and 2023 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod ABCs, TACs and State Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) in metric tons.

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	12,892	22,045	3,204	38,141
State GHL	3,868	5,511	801	10,180
(%)	30%	25%	25%	25-30
Federal TAC	9,024	16,534	2,403	27,961



Table 9. Proposed 2022 and 2023 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 <sup>2</sup>	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	519	January 1 - June 10	86	221	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	462	September 1 - December 31	12	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,706			257		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 2022 and 2023 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	384	135	519
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	121	341	462
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal, January 20 - October 1	643	807	1,450
October 1 - December 31 <sup>2</sup>			256
Total			1,706

<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 2022 and 2023 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
257	Catcher Vessel	144	January 1 - June 10	86	124
			June 10 - September 1	2	3
			September 1 - December 31	12	17
	Catcher/Processor	113	January 1 - June 10	86	97
			June 10 - September 1	2	2
			September 1 - December 31	12	14

Table 12. Proposed 2022 and 2023 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	66
	Catcher vessel	All others	69
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	83
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	15
	Catcher vessel	All	12
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29

### Motion 3

AP highlights the importance of CPUE data <sup>2</sup>**in the directed sablefish fishery and halibut fishery** to the sablefish stock assessment process and asks that NOAA work with the IPHC to secure that data on a timely basis.

AP requests the stock assessment authors provide apportionment scenarios that include a 25%, 50% and 100% step from the static apportionment in place over the past six years to the <sup>1</sup>~~survey-based~~ **5-year weighted survey average** apportionment.

*Amendment 1 passed 19-0*

*Amendment 2 passed 19-0*

*Motion as amended passed 19-0*

#### Rationale:

- *Amendment 1 is intended to clarify the specific apportionment scheme (used prior to adoption of the static apportionment) being requested under this motion. Given that sablefish is a coastwise stock and the OFL is set at the coastwide level, there is room to explore various ABC apportionment strategies without posing a conservation concern to the stock. With the move from the full static apportionment that occurred last year, this recommendation would seek to look at another 25%, 50% and full (100%) survey-based apportionment scheme. This request is intended to highlight the importance of continued exploration of the most appropriate apportionment scheme from both a biological and economic perspective.*
- *Amendment 2 is intended to clarify that the missing CPUE data is specific to the directed sablefish and halibut fisheries and not the trawl fisheries. This data is critical to the stock assessment process. Every year the IPHC applies to the cost recovery program from NMFS to input data for sablefish for the under 60' vessels that use the IPHC logbook. There was less money available to accommodate this data entry request so data was not entered. This action is time-sensitive as the annual stock assessment and TAC setting processes have already begun.*