

Council Motion
C-5 BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications
October 8, 2022

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish harvest specifications for 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 2023 final specifications from 2022/2023 harvest specifications as approved in December 2021. The TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The BS sablefish TAC has been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fishery.

The Council adopts the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2023 and 2024 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in attached Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2023 and 2024 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass amounts.

The Council adopts the proposed 2023 and 2024 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Table 1. Council recommended proposed harvest specifications for Groundfish in the BSAI (metric tons) for 2023-2024

Species	Area	2021				Catch as of 12/31/2021	2022				2023/2024		
		OFL	ABC	TAC			OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch as of 9/10/2022	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	2,594,000	1,626,000	1,375,000	1,376,250	1,469,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,088,062	1,704,000	1,289,000	1,289,000	
	AI	61,856	51,241	19,000	1,840	61,264	50,752	19,000	2,694	61,379	50,825	19,000	
	Bogoslof	113,479	85,109	250	8	113,479	85,109	250	256	113,479	85,109	250	
Pacific cod	BS	147,949	123,805	111,380	109,202	183,012	153,383	136,466	113,251	180,909	151,709	133,459	
	AI	27,400	20,600	13,796	7,298	27,400	20,600	13,796	4,861	27,400	20,600	13,796	
Sablefish	BSAI/GOA	60,426	29,558	n/a		40,432	34,521	n/a		42,520	36,318	n/a	
	BS	n/a	3,396	3,396	4,169	n/a	5,264	5,264	4,146	n/a	6,529	5,813	
	AI	n/a	4,717	4,717	1,578	n/a	6,463	6,463	1,987	n/a	7,786	7,786	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	341,571	313,477	200,000	108,788	377,071	354,014	250,000	102,234	382,035	358,675	230,000	
Greenland turbot	BSAI	8,568	7,326	6,025	1,597	7,687	6,572	6,572	1,421	6,698	5,724	5,724	
	BS	n/a	6,176	5,125	1,130	n/a	5,540	5,540	989	n/a	4,825	4,825	
	AI	n/a	1,150	900	467	n/a	1,032	1,032	432	n/a	899	899	
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	90,873	77,349	15,000	9,014	94,445	80,389	20,000	5,887	97,944	83,389	20,000	
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	10,630	8,982	8,982	6,667	10,903	9,214	9,214	8,166	11,115	9,393	9,393	
Northern rock sole	BSAI	145,180	140,306	54,500	14,393	214,084	206,896	66,000	17,070	280,621	271,199	55,000	
Flathead sole	BSAI	75,863	62,567	25,000	10,259	77,967	64,288	35,500	13,257	80,034	65,988	25,500	
Alaska plaice	BSAI	37,924	31,657	24,500	15,862	39,305	32,697	29,221	8,398	39,685	32,998	29,082	
Other flatfish	BSAI	22,919	17,189	6,500	2,638	22,919	17,189	10,000	2,041	22,919	17,189	10,000	
	BSAI	44,376	37,173	35,899	35,479	42,605	35,688	35,385	24,190	40,977	34,322	33,952	
Pacific Ocean perch	BS	n/a	10,782	10,782	10,693	n/a	10,352	10,352	4,860	n/a	9,956	9,956	
	EAI	n/a	8,419	8,419	8,288	n/a	8,083	8,083	5,000	n/a	7,774	7,774	
	CAI	n/a	6,198	6,198	5,993	n/a	5,950	5,950	4,668	n/a	5,722	5,722	
	WAI	n/a	11,774	10,500	10,505	n/a	11,303	11,000	9,662	n/a	10,870	10,500	
Northern rockfish	BSAI	18,917	15,557	13,000	6,212	23,420	19,217	17,000	7,321	22,594	18,538	17,000	
Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish	BSAI	576	482	482	515	598	503	503	326	615	517	517	
	EBS/EAI	n/a	313	313	196	n/a	326	326	114	n/a	334	334	
	CAI/WAI	n/a	169	169	319	n/a	177	177	212	n/a	183	183	
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	722	541	500	496	722	541	541	194	722	541	541	
Other rockfish	BSAI	1,751	1,313	916	1,002	1,751	1,313	1,144	903	1,751	1,313	1,313	
	BS	n/a	919	522	392	n/a	919	750	467	n/a	919	919	
	AI	n/a	394	394	610	n/a	394	394	436	n/a	394	394	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	85,580	73,590	62,257	36,171	91,870	78,510	66,481	37,467	84,440	71,990	60,958	
	EAI/BS	n/a	25,760	25,760	25,183	n/a	27,260	27,260	10,688	n/a	25,000	25,000	
	CAI	n/a	15,450	15,450	15,308	n/a	16,880	16,880	15,502	n/a	15,470	15,470	
	WAI	n/a	32,380	21,047	20,863	n/a	34,370	22,341	21,965	n/a	31,520	20,488	
Skates	BSAI	49,297	41,257	18,000	20,029	47,790	39,958	30,000	22,892	46,475	38,824	30,000	
Sharks	BSAI	689	517	200	221	689	517	500	121	689	517	500	
Octopuses	BSAI	4,769	3,576	700	170	4,769	3,576	700	199	4,769	3,576	700	
Total	BSAI	3,945,315	2,747,727	2,000,000	1,795,041	2,953,182	2,383,653	1,871,000	1,478,032	3,253,770	2,648,254	1,999,284	

Sources: 2021 OFLs, ABCs, and TACs and 2022 OFLs and ABCs are from harvest specifications adopted by the Council in December 2020 and December 2021 respectively; 2021 catches through December 31, and 2022 catches through September 10, 2022 from AKR Catch Accounting.

TABLE 7—PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 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	65,988	271,199	358,675
TAC	25,500	55,000	230,000
ABC surplus	40,488	216,199	128,675
ABC reserve	40,488	216,199	128,675
CDQ ABC reserve	4,332	23,133	13,768
Amendment 80 ABC reserve	36,156	193,066	114,907

TABLE 8—PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 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	BSAI PSC limits not allocated ²
Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	3,515	710	315	n/a	1,745	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	3,819	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

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 2023 AND 2024 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	222	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	110	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	11	n/a
Rockfish	11	n/a
Pacific cod	20	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	3,400	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	45	n/a
2022 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	-
2023 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁵	n/a	8,000
Total trawl PSC	3,819	32,000

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.

⁴Section 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B) establishes criteria under which an annual red king crab bycatch limit must be specified for the Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS) if the State has established a GHL fishery for red king crab in the Bristol Bay area in the previous year. Based on the final 2022 NMFS trawl survey data for the Bristol Bay red king crab stock, the State of Alaska closed the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery for the 2022/2023 crab season. NMFS and the Council will not specify the red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS in 2023, and pursuant to § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(1) directed fishing for groundfish is prohibited for vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the RKCSS for 2023.

⁵If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery remains closed in the 2023/2024 crab season, the RKCSS specification will be zero. . If the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery is open in the 2022/2023 crab season, NMFS, after consultation with the Council, will specify an annual red king crab bycatch limit for the RKCSS, which is limited by regulation to up to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC allowance (§ 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

TABLE 10-PROPOSED 2023 AND 2024 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	265	7,700	1,192,179	293,234	1,005,879
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	-	-	-
Rockfish April 15-December 31	5	-	1,006	-	849
Pacific cod	300	975	50,281	50,816	42,424
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ³	175	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

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

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 2023 AND 2024 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	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 2023 AND 2024 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	85
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	9
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	9
Pot	All	26