

## **C2 GOA Groundfish Specs**

The AP has reviewed the 2024 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) and GOA Groundfish Plan Team reports, and appreciates the thoroughness of the work by all contributors.

1. The AP recommends that the Council approve the 2024 GOA Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.
2. The AP recommends that the Council approve the final 2025 and 2026 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish harvest specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC, and the TACs as shown in the attached Table 1. The TACs for both GOA Pacific cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State Water Guideline Harvest Level Fisheries. The GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in Table 2 in the action memo.
3. The AP recommends that the Council set the final 2025 and 2026 Pacific halibut PSC limits, allowances, and apportionments in the GOA as shown in Tables 3-5 in the C2 GOA action memo.

*Motion passed: 18/1*

### ***Rationale in Favor of Motion:***

- *In October, the Council adopted proposed harvest specifications for OFL and ABC for 2025 and 2026 which is the natural starting point for final specifications at the December meeting. Species ABCs and OFLs were revised based on new data and/or methodologies presented by the Plan Team at November's meeting. Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs) are an integral part of the Council's Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation ("SAFE") document, and they include assessments based on ecosystem indicators that reflect the current status and trends of ecosystem components ranging from physical oceanography to biology and human dimensions.*
- *Table 1 reflects the SSC's adjustments to the sablefish ABCs relative to the Plan Team's recommendations.*
- *Final Halibut DMRs were reviewed and adopted at the October council meeting. There are no changes to these halibut DMRs since the October Council meeting, and are not necessary as part of this motion.*
- *The AP noted this is a thorough, statistically sound specification process which provides us the ability to make decisions using the best available science.*

*The "no" vote was due to technical reasons, not philosophical opposition.*

Table 1. SSC recommended OFL and ABC for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2025 and 2026

Species	Area	2024			Catch 11/1/2024	SSC Recommended 2025		SSC Recommended 2026	
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	TAC	OFL	ABC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	4,769		3,640	n/a	4,526	n/a	3,326
	W (610)	n/a	38,882	38,882	31,457	n/a	37,344	n/a	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	90,937	90,937	71,571	n/a	82,265	n/a	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	50,587	50,587	20,534	n/a	51,605	n/a	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	5,565	5,565	1,382	n/a	5,262	n/a	3,883
	Subtotal	269,916	190,740	185,971	124,944	210,111	181,022	176,495	153,971
SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749		12,998	9,749	9,749	12,998	9,749
Total	282,914	200,489	195,720	124,944	223,109	190,771	186,245	166,969	142,824
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,745	6,121	4,216	n/a	8,710	6,097	n/a
	C	n/a	20,590	15,442	14,401	n/a	20,506	15,379	n/a
	E	n/a	2,937	2,203	489	n/a	2,925	2,194	n/a
	Total	38,712	32,272	23,766	19,106	38,688	32,141	23,670	36,459
	GOA-wide	3,380	2,536	2,536	716	3,380	2,536	2,536	3,380
Sablefish	W	n/a	4,699	4,699	2,620	n/a	4,746	4,746	4,687
	C	n/a	9,651	9,651	6,698	n/a	9,744	9,744	9,622
	WYAK	n/a	2,926	2,926	2,295	n/a	2,686	2,686	2,652
	SEO	n/a	5,320	5,320	4,073	n/a	5,660	5,660	5,589
	GOA Total	n/a	22,596	22,596	15,686	n/a	22,836	22,836	22,550
AK Total	55,084	47,146	n/a	21,759	58,532	47,605	47,605	57,797	47,008
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,337	13,250	63	n/a	23,755	13,250	n/a
	C	n/a	27,783	27,783	2,742	n/a	28,279	28,279	n/a
	WYAK	n/a	2,778	2,778	1	n/a	2,828	2,828	n/a
	SEO	n/a	1,667	1,667	1	n/a	1,697	1,697	n/a
	Total	68,121	55,565	45,478	2,807	69,277	56,559	46,054	69,610
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	237	237	8	n/a	234	234	231
	C	n/a	2,655	2,655	78	n/a	2,616	2,616	2,568
	WYAK	n/a	1,856	1,856	3	n/a	1,828	1,828	1,795
	SEO	n/a	2,314	2,314	2	n/a	2,280	2,280	2,238
	Total	8,387	7,062	7,062	91	8,263	6,958	6,958	8,114
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,367	3,367	23	n/a	3,382	3,382	n/a
	C	n/a	13,639	13,639	474	n/a	13,698	13,698	13,562
	WYAK	n/a	1,453	1,453	1	n/a	1,436	1,436	1,413
	SEO	n/a	2,905	2,905	-	n/a	2,871	2,871	2,825
	Total	25,978	21,364	21,364	498	26,002	21,387	21,387	25,743
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	30,409	14,500	486	n/a	33,593	14,500	n/a
	C	n/a	64,871	64,871	16,329	n/a	68,261	68,261	n/a
	WYAK	n/a	7,870	7,870	29	n/a	6,695	6,695	n/a
	SEO	n/a	16,099	6,900	22	n/a	10,998	10,998	n/a
	Total	142,485	119,249	94,141	16,866	142,832	119,547	100,454	143,347
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,273	8,650	145	n/a	13,592	8,650	n/a
	C	n/a	21,307	21,307	763	n/a	21,817	21,817	n/a
	WYAK	n/a	3,876	3,876	0	n/a	3,970	3,970	n/a
	SEO	n/a	2,047	2,047	0	n/a	2,097	2,097	n/a
	Total	49,414	40,503	35,880	908	50,587	41,476	36,534	51,176
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,787	1,787	1,667	n/a	1,753	1,753	n/a
	C	n/a	28,757	28,757	21,294	n/a	28,209	28,209	n/a
	WYAK	n/a	2,110	2,110	1,946	n/a	2,070	2,070	n/a
	SEO	n/a	7,065	7,065	-	n/a	6,930	6,930	n/a
	Total	47,466	39,719	39,719	24,907	46,562	38,962	38,962	44,826
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	2,535	2,535	315	n/a	1,396	1,396	n/a
	C	n/a	2,280	2,280	817	n/a	3,680	3,680	n/a
	E	n/a	-	-	NA	n/a	-	-	n/a
	Total	5,750	4,815	4,815	1,132	6,064	5,076	5,076	5,848
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	34	34	15	n/a	34	34	n/a
	C	n/a	189	189	137	n/a	189	189	n/a
	E	n/a	424	424	191	n/a	424	424	n/a
	Total	863	647	647	343	863	647	647	863
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	145	145	71	n/a	209	209	n/a
	C	n/a	7,365	7,365	2,122	n/a	5,818	5,818	n/a
	WYAK	n/a	84	84	5	n/a	215	215	n/a
	SEO	n/a	30	30	-	n/a	96	96	n/a
	Total	9,281	7,624	7,624	2,198	7,705	6,338	6,338	7,319
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	197	197	51	n/a	224	224	n/a
	C	n/a	315	315	140	n/a	359	359	n/a
	E	n/a	525	525	98	n/a	597	597	n/a
	Total	1,555	1,037	1,037	289	1,576	1,180	1,180	1,631
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	271	271	361
	SEO	376	283	283	153	524	394	394	524
	Total	376	283	283	153	885	665	665	885
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
	Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,288	6,521	4,891	4,891
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	314	314	35	n/a	206	206	n/a
	C	n/a	693	693	65	n/a	590	590	n/a
	E	n/a	621	621	64	n/a	542	542	n/a
	Total	2,170	1,628	1,628	164	1,784	1,338	1,338	1,784
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	1,353	1,353	511	n/a	1,084	1,084	n/a
	SEO	4,977	3,774	1,653	541	4,618	3,505	1,384	4,618
	Total	6,200	4,700	4,700	380	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200
	GOA-wide	887	665	665	547	887	665	665	887
	Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	980	197	1,307	980	980
TOTAL		765,608	599,784	520,020	214,879	709,422	590,762	539,404	649,064

Source: 2024 and 2025 Final GOA Harvest Specifications; Catch Accounting System. GOA catch (not AK wide catch) for sablefish included in total.