

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2025 Webinar

C5 GOA Motion

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2026 and 2027 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs, as recommended by the SSC and set TACs and shown in Table 1. Final specifications will be approved in December.

The TACs for both GOA cod and pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The proposed GOA Pacific cod adjustments are shown in Table 2.

The proposed TAC for GOA Octopus has also been adjusted by 16 mt to account for the state Guideline Harvest Recommendation (GHR) for the Prince William Sound octopus fishery.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2026 and 2027 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the GOA as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11 and the proposed 2026 and 2027 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the GOA in Table 12.

Motion passes 20-0

Rationale in Support of Motion

- *The AP noted appreciation for all of the work that is put into the annual specification process, including surveys, stock assessments, plan team, and Council staff. The AP acknowledged how exceptionally difficult that getting this done is given additional constraints this year.*
- *The AP reiterated the update from the staff presentation that NMFS is advising that the 16 mt reduction in the Octopus TAC to account for the state PWS octopus fishery that was established by the Board of Fisheries in December 2024 for the 2025 fishing year. NMFS is currently evaluating if such adjustments to TACs to account for the octopus GHR are required and will clarify this for the Final groundfish harvest specifications in December.*
- *AP members also specifically reiterated during deliberations the discussion on the bottom trawl survey changes and that it would be interesting to hear more detail about the changes since deeper species like rockfishes were significantly down while the survey showed that all shallower species were significantly up. In the GOA, rockfish species like shortraker are currently limiting, while “other rockfish” and DSR have been in the past. These species are harder to survey in general and biomass decreases play a more significant role in the stock assessment and drop in TACs. This was reflected in 2024 when the Shortraker TAC in the CGOA dropped from 280 mt to 189 metric tons which amounts is a total allowable catch of only 416,673 lbs which is very constraining when it is shared by every sector that operates in the CGOA.*

Table 1

Species	Area	2025 OFL	2025 ABC	2025 TAC	2025 Catch through 9/15/25	2026 SSC Recommended OFL	2026/27 SSC Recommended ABC	2026/27 AP Recommended TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	4,526		4,226	n/a	3,326	
	W (610)	n/a	37,344	37,344	9,300	n/a	27,453	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	82,265	82,265	63,338	n/a	60,477	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	51,605	51,605	19,632	n/a	37,963	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	5,282	5,282	1,861	n/a	3,883	3,883
	Subtotal	210,111	181,022	176,496	98,357	153,971	133,075	129,749
	SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749	2	12,998	9,749	9,749
	Total	223,109	190,771	186,245	98,359	166,969	142,824	139,498
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,710	6,097	3,882	n/a	8,182	5,727
	C	n/a	20,506	15,379	11,065	n/a	19,263	14,447
	E	n/a	2,925	2,194	515	n/a	2,748	2,061
	Total	38,688	32,141	23,670	15,462	36,459	30,193	22,235
	W	n/a	4,996	4,746	2,268	n/a	4,687	4,687
	C	n/a	10,257	9,744	6,105	n/a	9,622	9,622
Sablefish	WYAK	n/a	3,125	2,686	1,904	n/a	2,652	2,652
	SEO	n/a	5,660	5,660	3,863	n/a	5,589	5,589
	GOA Total	n/a	24,038	22,836	14,140	n/a	22,550	22,550
	AK Total	58,532	50,111	n/a		57,797	47,008	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,755	13,250	100	n/a	23,902	13,250
	C	n/a	28,279	28,279	1,526	n/a	28,455	28,455
	WYAK	n/a	2,828	2,828	25	n/a	2,846	2,846
	SEO	n/a	1,697	1,697	-	n/a	1,707	1,707
	Total	69,277	56,559	46,054	1,651	69,610	56,910	46,258
	Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	234	234	1	n/a	231
C		n/a	2,616	2,616	72	n/a	2,568	2,568
WYAK		n/a	1,828	1,828	5	n/a	1,795	1,795
SEO		n/a	2,280	2,280	4	n/a	2,238	2,238
Total		8,263	6,958	6,958	82	8,114	6,832	6,832
Rex Sole		W	n/a	3,382	3,382	12	n/a	3,353
	C	n/a	13,698	13,698	454	n/a	13,582	13,582
	WYAK	n/a	1,436	1,436	-	n/a	1,413	1,413
	SEO	n/a	2,871	2,871	-	n/a	2,825	2,825
	Total	26,002	21,387	21,387	466	25,743	21,173	21,173
	Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	33,593	14,500	126	n/a	33,716
C		n/a	68,261	68,261	10,539	n/a	68,511	68,511
WYAK		n/a	6,695	6,695	19	n/a	6,719	6,719
SEO		n/a	10,998	10,998	25	n/a	11,039	11,039
Total		142,832	119,547	100,454	10,709	143,347	119,985	100,769
Flathead Sole		W	n/a	13,592	8,650	45	n/a	13,757
	C	n/a	21,817	21,817	694	n/a	22,083	22,083
	WYAK	n/a	3,970	3,970	-	n/a	4,018	4,018
	SEO	n/a	2,097	2,097	-	n/a	2,122	2,122
	Total	50,587	41,476	36,534	739	51,176	41,980	36,873
	Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,753	1,753	1,753	n/a	1,688
C		n/a	28,209	28,209	21,865	n/a	27,156	27,156
WYAK		n/a	2,070	2,070	1,892	n/a	1,993	1,993
SEO		n/a	6,930	6,930	-	n/a	6,672	6,672
Total		46,562	38,962	38,962	25,510	44,826	37,509	37,509
Northern Rockfish		W	n/a	1,396	1,396	465	n/a	1,346
	C	n/a	3,680	3,680	1,117	n/a	3,549	3,549
	E	n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Total	6,064	5,076	5,076	1,582	5,848	4,895	4,895

Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	34	34	3	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	189	189	252	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	424	424	126	n/a	424	424
	Total	863	647	647	381	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	209	209	66	n/a	199	199
	C	n/a	5,818	5,818	2,053	n/a	5,527	5,527
	WYAK	n/a	215	215	23	n/a	204	204
	SEO	n/a	96	96	-	n/a	91	91
	Total	7,705	6,338	6,338	2,142	7,319	6,021	6021
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	224	224	54	n/a	229	229
	C	n/a	359	359	119	n/a	366	366
	E	n/a	597	597	60	n/a	608	608
	Total	1,576	1,180	1,180	233	1,631	1,203	1203
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	361	271	271	176	361	271	271
	SEO	524	394	394	193	524	394	394
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	206	206	15	n/a	206	206
	C	n/a	590	590	71	n/a	590	590
	E	n/a	542	542	32	n/a	542	542
	Total	1,784	1,338	1,338	487	1,784	1,338	1338
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	1,084	1,084	365	n/a	1,084	1,084
	SEO	n/a	2,421	300	19	n/a	2,421	300
	Total	4,618	3,505	1,384	384	4,618	3,505	1,384
Atka mackerel	Total	6,200	4,700	3,000	930	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	745	745	88	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,749	1,749	1,610	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	341	341	254	n/a	341	341
	Total	3,780	2,835	2,835	1,952	3,780	2,835	2835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	104	104	56	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	1,894	1,894	638	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	538	538	523	n/a	538	538
	Total	3,380	2,536	2,536	1,217	3,380	2,536	2536
Other Skates	GOA-wide	887	665	665	408	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA-wide	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,396	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA-wide	1,307	980	964	57	1,307	980	964
TOTAL		709,422	593,268	514,635	1,861	649,064	539,295	464,741