

C-4 Council motion
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Specifications
December 6, 2025

The Council adopts the 2026 and 2027 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and the TACs shown in Table 1. 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 for state water GHF fisheries are shown in Table 2. The TAC for GOA octopus has been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fishery.

The Council adopts the 2026 and 2027 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 3, 4, and 5.

The Council adopts the 2026 and 2027 halibut discard mortality rates for the Gulf of Alaska as shown in Table 6.

Table 1. Harvest Specifications for Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (metric tons) for 2026 and 2027

December 2025

Species	Area	2025			Catch as of 11/8/2025	2026			2027		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Pollock	State GHL	n/a	4,526	n/a		n/a	3,326	n/a	n/a	3,326	n/a
	W (610)	n/a	37,344	37,344	14,029	n/a	27,453	27,453	n/a	27,453	27,453
	C (620)	n/a	82,265	82,265	79,477	n/a	60,477	60,477	n/a	60,477	60,477
	C (630)	n/a	51,605	51,605	39,046	n/a	37,936	37,936	n/a	37,936	37,936
	WYAK	n/a	5,282	5,282	1,861	n/a	3,883	3,883	n/a	3,883	3,883
	W/C/WYAK/state GHL total	210,111	181,022	176,496	134,413	153,971	133,075	129,749	153,971	133,075	129,749
	SEO	12,998	9,749	9,749	2	12,998	9,749	9,749	12,998	9,749	9,749
Pacific Cod	W	n/a	8,710	6,097	5,340	n/a	8,182	5,318	n/a	8,182	5,318
	C	n/a	20,506	15,379	13,844	n/a	19,263	14,447	n/a	19,263	14,447
	E	n/a	2,925	2,194	532	n/a	2,748	2,061	n/a	2,748	2,061
	GOA (total)	38,688	32,141	23,670	19,716	36,459	30,193	21,826	36,459	30,193	21,826
Sablefish	W	n/a	4,746	4,746	3,117	n/a	4,687	4,687	n/a	4,687	4,687
	C	n/a	9,744	9,744	7,319	n/a	9,622	9,622	n/a	9,622	9,622
	WYAK	n/a	2,686	2,686	2,160	n/a	2,652	2,652	n/a	2,652	2,652
	SEO	n/a	5,660	5,660	4,826	n/a	5,589	5,589	n/a	5,589	5,589
	GOA	n/a	n/a	22,836	17,422	n/a	n/a	22,550	n/a	n/a	22,550
	Alaska-wide OFL and ABC										
	AK total	58,532	47,605	n/a		57,797	47,008	n/a	57,797	47,008	n/a
Shallow-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	23,755	13,250	107	n/a	23,902	13,250	n/a	23,902	13,250
	C	n/a	28,279	28,279	2,025	n/a	28,455	28,455	n/a	28,455	28,455
	WYAK	n/a	2,828	2,828	25	n/a	2,846	2,846	n/a	2,846	2,846
	SEO	n/a	1,697	1,697	-	n/a	1,707	1,707	n/a	1,707	1,707
	GOA (total)	69,277	56,559	46,054	2,157	69,610	56,910	46,258	69,610	56,910	46,258
Deep-Water Flatfish	W	n/a	234	234	1	n/a	231	231	n/a	227	227
	C	n/a	2,616	2,616	76	n/a	2,570	2,570	n/a	2,518	2,518
	WYAK	n/a	1,828	1,828	6	n/a	1,796	1,796	n/a	1,759	1,759
	SEO	n/a	2,280	2,280	4	n/a	2,239	2,239	n/a	2,193	2,193
	GOA (total)	8,263	6,958	6,958	87	8,118	6,836	6,836	7,954	6,697	6,697
Rex Sole	W	n/a	3,382	3,382	12	n/a	3,353	3,353	n/a	3,353	3,353
	C	n/a	13,698	13,698	555	n/a	13,582	13,582	n/a	13,582	13,582
	WYAK	n/a	1,436	1,436	-	n/a	1,413	1,413	n/a	1,413	1,413
	SEO	n/a	2,871	2,871	-	n/a	2,825	2,825	n/a	2,825	2,825
	GOA (total)	26,002	21,387	21,387	567	25,743	21,173	21,173	25,743	21,173	21,173
Arrowtooth Flounder	W	n/a	33,593	14,500	260	n/a	33,716	14,500	n/a	33,716	14,500
	C	n/a	68,261	68,261	12,765	n/a	68,511	68,511	n/a	68,511	68,511
	WYAK	n/a	6,695	6,695	22	n/a	6,719	6,719	n/a	6,719	6,719
	SEO	n/a	10,998	10,998	28	n/a	11,039	11,039	n/a	11,039	11,039
	GOA (total)	142,832	119,547	100,454	18,182	143,347	119,985	100,769	143,347	119,985	100,769
Flathead Sole	W	n/a	13,592	8,650	64	n/a	13,757	8,650	n/a	13,757	8,650
	C	n/a	21,817	21,817	836	n/a	22,083	22,083	n/a	22,083	22,083
	WYAK	n/a	3,970	3,970	-	n/a	4,018	4,018	n/a	4,018	4,018
	SEO	n/a	2,097	2,097	-	n/a	2,122	2,122	n/a	2,122	2,122
	GOA (total)	50,587	41,476	36,534	836	51,176	41,980	36,873	51,176	41,980	36,873
Pacific ocean perch	W	n/a	1,753	1,753	1,800	n/a	1,688	1,688	n/a	1,688	1,688
	C	n/a	28,209	28,209	23,870	n/a	27,156	27,156	n/a	27,156	27,156
	WYAK	n/a	2,070	2,070	1,892	n/a	1,993	1,993	n/a	1,993	1,993
	SEO	n/a	6,930	6,930	-	n/a	6,672	6,672	n/a	6,672	6,672
	GOA (total)	46,562	38,962	38,962	27,562	44,826	37,509	37,509	44,826	37,509	37,509
Northern Rockfish	W	n/a	1,396	1,396	466	n/a	1,346	1,346	n/a	1,346	1,346
	C	n/a	3,680	3,680	1,213	n/a	3,549	3,549	n/a	3,549	3,549
	E	n/a	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
	GOA (total)	6,064	5,076	5,076	1,679	5,848	4,895	4,895	5,848	4,895	4,895

Species	Area	2025			Catch as of 11/8/2025	2026			2027		
		OFL	ABC	TAC		OFL	ABC	TAC	OFL	ABC	TAC
Shortraker Rockfish	W	n/a	34	34	3	n/a	34	34	n/a	34	34
	C	n/a	189	189	361	n/a	189	189	n/a	189	189
	E	n/a	424	424	136	n/a	424	424	n/a	424	424
	GOA (total)	863	647	647	500	863	647	647	863	647	647
Dusky Rockfish	W	n/a	209	209	68	n/a	199	199	n/a	199	199
	C	n/a	5,818	5,818	2,179	n/a	5,527	5,527	n/a	5,527	5,527
	WYAK	n/a	215	215	23	n/a	204	204	n/a	204	204
	SEO	n/a	96	96	-	n/a	91	91	n/a	91	91
	GOA (total)	7,705	6,338	6,338	2,270	7,319	6,021	6,021	7,319	6,021	6,021
Rougheye and Blackspotted Rockfish	W	n/a	224	224	55	n/a	229	229	n/a	229	229
	C	n/a	359	359	130	n/a	366	366	n/a	366	366
	E	n/a	597	597	69	n/a	608	608	n/a	608	608
	GOA (total)	1,576	1,180	1,180	254	1,631	1,203	1,203	1,631	1,203	1,203
Demersal shelf rockfish	W/C/WYAK	361	271	271	253	361	271	271	361	271	271
	SEO	524	394	394	266	524	394	394	524	394	394
Thornyhead Rockfish	W	n/a	206	206	18	n/a	206	206	n/a	206	206
	C	n/a	590	590	73	n/a	590	590	n/a	590	590
	E	n/a	542	542	36	n/a	542	542	n/a	542	542
	GOA (total)	1,784	1,338	1,338	127	1,784	1,338	1,338	1,784	1,338	1,338
Other Rockfish	W/C/WYAK	n/a	1,084	1,084	400	n/a	1,084	1,084	n/a	1,084	1,084
	SEO	n/a	2,421	300	21	n/a	2,421	300	n/a	2,421	300
	GOA (total)	4,618	3,505	1,384	421	4,618	3,505	1,384	4,618	3,505	1,384
Atka mackerel	GOA	6,200	4,700	3,000	967	6,200	4,700	3,000	6,200	4,700	3,000
Big Skate	W	n/a	745	745	105	n/a	745	745	n/a	745	745
	C	n/a	1,749	1,749	1,724	n/a	1,749	1,749	n/a	1,749	1,749
	E	n/a	341	341	262	n/a	341	341	n/a	341	341
	GOA (total)	3,780	2,835	2,835	2,091	3,780	2,835	2,835	3,780	2,835	2,835
Longnose Skate	W	n/a	104	104	81	n/a	104	104	n/a	104	104
	C	n/a	1,894	1,894	684	n/a	1,894	1,894	n/a	1,894	1,894
	E	n/a	538	538	527	n/a	538	538	n/a	538	538
	GOA (total)	3,380	2,536	2,536	1,292	3,380	2,536	2,536	3,380	2,536	2,536
Other Skates	GOA	887	665	665	520	887	665	665	887	665	665
Sharks	GOA	6,521	4,891	4,891	1,536	6,521	4,891	4,891	6,521	4,891	4,891
Octopuses	GOA	1,307	980	964	223	1,307	980	964	1,307	980	964
TOTAL		709,422	590,762	514,619	233,343	649,068	539,299	464,336	648,904	539,160	464,197

Notes: OFL = Overfishing Limit, ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch, TAC = Total Allowable Catch. The ABC is the Annual Catch Limit (ACL), which is specified at the stock or stock complex level. ABC is GOA-wide for all stocks except pollock (W/C/WYAK & SEO), demersal shelf rockfish (W/C/WYAK & SEO), and sablefish (AK). ABC (ACL) is tied to MSA requirements and accountability measures (AMs) and the overall TAC for a stock or stock complex cannot be set above ABC. ABC Spatial apportionments of ABCs are based on survey data, fishery data, or a combination of the two data types, and are meant to inform distribution of the TAC across areas. GOA TAC and catch (not AK wide) for sablefish included in catch totals, ABC for sablefish (AK wide) shown in ABC totals. Catch does not include state fisheries catch for pollock, Pacific cod, or octopus.

Sources: 2025 and 2026 Final GOA Harvest Specifications (published March 2025), 2026-2027 Proposed GOA Harvest Specifications (Council motion, October 2025), NMFS Catch Accounting System (CAS).

Table 2--GOA TAC and GHL for State Waters Pacific Cod

Final 2026 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State GHLs (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,182	19,263	2,748	30,193
State GHL	2,864	4,816	687	8,367
(%) of ABC for State GHL	35%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	5,318	14,447	2,061	21,826

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Final 2027 GOA Pacific cod ABCs, TACs, and State GHLs (mt)

Specifications	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
ABC	8,182	19,263	2,748	30,193
State GHL	2,864	4,816	687	8,367
(%) of ABC for State GHL	35%	25%	25%	
Federal TAC	5,318	14,447	2,061	21,826

Note: The Federal TAC is designated for Federal fisheries only and does not include the State GHL.

Table 3--Final 2026 and 2027 Pacific Halibut PSC Limits, Allowances, and Apportionments
[Values are in metric tons]

Trawl gear			Hook-and-line gear ¹				
			Other than DSR			DSR	
Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Percent	Amount	Season	Amount
January 20 - April 1	30.5	520	January 1 - June 10	86%	220	January 1 - December 31	9
April 1 - July 1	20	341	June 10 - September 1	2%	5		
July 1 - August 1	27	460	September 1 - December 31	12%	31		
August 1 - October 1	7.5	128					
October 1 - December 31	15	256					
Total		1,705			256		9

¹ The Pacific halibut PSC limit for hook-and-line gear is allocated to the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) fishery and fisheries other than DSR. Since 1995, the Council recommended and NMFS proposed that the hook-and-line sablefish fishery and the pot and jig gear groundfish fisheries be exempt from halibut PSC limits.

Table 4--Final 2026 and 2027 Apportionment of the Pacific Halibut PSC Limits Apportioned Between the Trawl Gear Shallow-Water and Deep-Water Species Fisheries [Values are in metric tons]

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water ¹	Total
January 20 - April 1	385	135	520
April 1 - July 1	85	256	341
July 1 - August 1	120	340	460
August 1 - October 1	53	75	128
Subtotal January 20 - October 1	643	806	1,449
October 1 - December 31 ²	n/a	n/a	256
Total	n/a	n/a	1,705

¹ Vessels participating in cooperatives in the Rockfish Program will receive 191 mt of the third season (July 1 – August 1) deep-water species fishery Halibut PSC apportionment.

² There is no apportionment between trawl shallow-water and deep-water species fisheries during the fifth season (October 1 through December 31).

Table 5--Final 2026 and 2027 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]

Hook-and-Line gear (Other than DSR) Annual PSC Amount	Hook-and-line Sector	Annual Amount	Season	Seasonal Percentage	Seasonal Amount
256	Catcher Vessel	149	A	86	128
			B	2	3
			C	12	18
	Catcher/Processor	107	A	86	92
			B	2	2
			C	12	13

Table 6-- Final 2026 and 2027 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	53
	Catcher vessel	All others	62
	Mothership and catcher/processor	All	79
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	All	12
	Catcher vessel	All	15
Pot	Catcher vessel and catcher/processor	All	29