

Council Motion
C5 BSAI Proposed Specs
October 7, 2025

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 and 2027 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 2026 final specifications from the 2025/2026 harvest specifications approved in December 2024. The TACs for both Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the state waters GHL fishery. The Bering Sea sablefish TAC has been adjusted to account for the state waters GHL fishery.

The Council adopts the proposed Atka mackerel seasonal, spatial and gear allowances, flatfish ABC reserves, 2026 and 2027 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as proposed in Tables 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 for halibut, red king crab, Tanner crab, opilio crab and herring and their gear type and target fishery apportionments. The 2026 and 2027 crab PSC limits have been revised using current biomass estimates.

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 and 2027 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12.

Table 1-- Proposed 2026 and 2027 Overfishing Level (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Initial TAC (ITAC), CDQ Reserve Allocation, and Nonspecified Reserves of Groundfish in the BSAI¹

[Amounts are in metric tons]

Species	Area	Proposed 2026 and 2027					
		OFL	ABC	TAC	ITAC ²	CDQ ^{3,4}	Nonspecified Reserves
Pollock ⁴	BS	2,496,000	2,036,000	1,375,000	1,237,500	137,500	-
	AI	56,231	46,437	19,000	17,100	1,900	-
	Bogoslof	77,354	58,015	250	250	-	-
Pacific cod ⁵	BS	169,243	141,520	123,077	109,908	13,169	-
	AI	16,273	12,973	8,432	7,530	902	-
Sablefish ⁶	Alaska-wide	57,797	47,008	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
	BS	n/a	13,037	8,996	3,823	337	337
	AI	n/a	11,421	7,440	1,581	140	140
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	305,039	267,639	145,000	129,485	15,515	-
Greenland turbot	BSAI	2,059	1,328	1,328	1,129	n/a	-
	BS	n/a	1,120	1,120	952	120	48
	AI	n/a	208	208	177	-	31
Arrowtooth flounder	BSAI	102,472	87,035	14,000	11,900	1,498	602
Kamchatka flounder	BSAI	7,790	6,606	6,606	5,615	-	991
Rock sole ⁷	BSAI	166,220	158,225	75,000	66,975	8,025	-
Flathead sole ⁸	BSAI	106,283	87,700	36,000	32,148	3,852	-
Alaska plaice	BSAI	33,965	28,230	16,200	13,770	-	2,430
Other flatfish ⁹	BSAI	26,083	19,562	4,500	3,825	-	675
Pacific ocean perch	BSAI	43,084	36,578	33,490	29,481	n/a	-
	BS	n/a	9,905	9,905	8,419	-	1,486
	EAI	n/a	6,144	6,144	5,487	657	-
	CAI	n/a	5,441	5,441	4,859	582	-
	WAI	n/a	16,058	12,000	10,716	1,284	-
Northern rockfish	BSAI	22,284	18,232	12,000	10,200	-	1,800
Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish ¹⁰	BSAI	902	766	766	651	-	115
	BS/EAI	n/a	441	441	375	-	66
	CAI/WAI	n/a	325	325	276	-	49
Shortraker rockfish	BSAI	631	473	473	402	-	71
Other rockfish ¹¹	BSAI	1,406	1,054	1,054	896	-	158
	BS	n/a	639	639	543	-	96
	AI	n/a	415	415	353	-	62
Atka mackerel	BSAI	107,889	92,361	82,941	74,066	8,875	-
	BS/EAI	n/a	41,731	41,731	37,266	4,465	-
	CAI	n/a	23,716	23,716	21,178	2,538	-
	WAI	n/a	26,914	17,494	15,622	1,872	-
Skates	BSAI	43,285	35,833	27,646	23,499	-	4,147
Sharks	BSAI	689	450	400	340	-	60
Octopuses	BSAI	6,080	4,560	400	340	-	60
TOTAL		3,849,059	3,188,585	1,999,999	1,782,414	194,356	13,151

¹ These amounts apply to the entire BSAI management area unless otherwise specified. With the exception of pollock, and for the purpose of these harvest specifications, the Bering Sea subarea (BS) includes the Bogoslof District.

² Except for pollock, the portion of the sablefish TAC allocated to fixed gear, and the Amendment 80 species (Atka mackerel, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, Pacific cod, and Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch), 15 percent of TAC for each species and species group is put into a non-specified reserve. The ITAC for these species is the remainder of the TAC after subtraction of the reserves. For pollock and Amendment 80 species, ITAC is the non-CDQ allocation of TAC (see footnote 3 and 4).

³ For the Amendment 80 species (Atka mackerel, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, Pacific cod, and Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch), 10.7 percent of the TAC is reserved for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.20(b)(1)(ii)(C)). Twenty percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to fixed gear, 7.5 percent of the sablefish TAC allocated to trawl gear, and 10.7 percent of the TACs for Bering Sea Greenland turbot and BSAI arrowtooth flounder are reserved for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.20(b)(1)(ii)(B) and (D)). The 2027 fixed gear portion of the sablefish ITAC and CDQ reserve will not be specified until the final 2027 and 2028 harvest specifications. Aleutian Islands Greenland turbot, “other flatfish,” Alaska plaice, Bering Sea Pacific ocean perch, Kamchatka flounder, northern rockfish, shortraker rockfish, blackspotted and rougheye rockfish, “other rockfish,” skates, sharks, and octopuses are not allocated to the CDQ Program.

⁴ Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A), the annual BS pollock TAC, after subtracting first for the CDQ directed fishing allowance (10 percent) and second for the incidental catch allowance (46,000 mt), is further allocated by sector for a pollock directed fishery as follows: inshore–50 percent; catcher/processor–40 percent; and motherships–10 percent. Section 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B)(1) requires the AI pollock TAC to be set at 19,000 mt when the AI pollock ABC equals or exceeds 19,000 mt. Under § 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B)(2), the annual AI pollock TAC, after subtracting first for the CDQ directed fishing allowance (10 percent) and second for the incidental catch allowance (3,000 mt), is allocated to the Aleut Corporation for a pollock directed fishery. The Bogoslof pollock TAC is set to accommodate incidental catch amounts.

⁵ The proposed BS Pacific cod TAC is set to account for the 13 percent of the BS ABC, plus 45 mt, for the State of Alaska's (State) guideline harvest level in State waters of the BS. The proposed AI Pacific cod TAC is set to account for 31 percent of the AI ABC for the State guideline harvest levels in State waters of the AI.

⁶ The sablefish OFL and ABC are Alaska-wide and include the Gulf of Alaska. The Alaska-wide sablefish OFL and ABC are included in the total OFL and ABC. The BS and AI sablefish TACs are set to account for the 5 percent of the BS and AI ABC for the State of Alaska's (State) guideline harvest level in State waters of the BS and AI.

⁷ “Rock sole” includes *Lepidopsetta polyxystra* (Northern rock sole).

⁸ “Flathead sole” includes *Hippoglossoides elassodon* (flathead sole) and *Hippoglossoides robustus* (Bering flounder).

⁹ “Other flatfish” 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.

¹⁰ “Blackspotted/Rougheye rockfish” includes *Sebastes melanostictus* (blackspotted) and *Sebastes aleutianus* (rougheye).

¹¹ “Other rockfish” includes all *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* species except for Pacific ocean perch, dark rockfish, northern rockfish, shortraker rockfish, and blackspotted/rougheye rockfish.

BS=Bering Sea subarea, AI=Aleutian Islands subarea, EAI=Eastern Aleutian district, CAI=Central Aleutian district, WAI=Western Aleutian district.)

Table 3--Proposed 2026 and 2027 Seasonal and Spatial Allowances, Gear Shares, CDQ Reserve, Incidental Catch Allowance (ICA), and Amendment 80 Allocations of the BSAI Atka Mackerel TAC

[Amounts are in metric tons]

Sector ¹	Season ^{2, 3, 4}	2026 and 2027 allocation by area		
		Eastern Aleutian District/Bering Sea	Central Aleutian District ⁵	Western Aleutian District ⁵
TAC	n/a	41,731	23,716	17,494
CDQ reserve	Total	4,465	2,538	1,872
	A	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	761	562
	B	2,233	1,269	936
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	761	562
non-CDQ TAC	n/a	37,266	21,178	15,622
ICA	Total	800	100	20
Jig ⁶	Total	182	-	-
BSAI trawl limited access	Total	3,628	2,108	-
	A	1,814	1,054	-
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	632	-
	B	1,814	1,054	-
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	632	-
Amendment 80 ⁷	Total	32,655	18,971	15,602
	A	16,328	9,485	7,801
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	5,691	4,681
	B	16,328	9,485	7,801
	Critical habitat ⁵	n/a	5,691	4,681

¹ Section 679.20(a)(8)(ii) allocates the Atka mackerel TACs, after subtracting the CDQ reserves, ICAs, and the jig gear allocation, to the Amendment 80 and BSAI trawl limited access sectors. The allocation of the ITAC for Atka mackerel to the Amendment 80 and BSAI trawl limited access sectors is established in Table 33 to 50 CFR part 679 and § 679.91. The CDQ reserve is 10.7 percent of the TAC for use by CDQ participants (see § 679.20(b)(1)(ii)(C)).

² Sections 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(A) and 679.22(a) establish temporal and spatial limitations for the Atka mackerel fishery.

³ The seasonal allowances of Atka mackerel for the CDQ reserve, BSAI trawl limited access sector, and Amendment 80 sector are 50 percent in the A season and 50 percent in the B season.

⁴ Section 679.23(e)(3) authorizes directed fishing for Atka mackerel with trawl gear during the A season from January 20 to June 10, and the B season from June 10 to December 31.

⁵ Section 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(1)(i) limits no more than 60 percent of the annual TACs in Areas 542 and 543 to be caught inside of Steller sea lion critical habitat; § 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(1)(ii) equally divides the annual harvest limits between the A and B seasons as defined at § 679.23(e)(3); and § 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(C)(2) requires that the TAC in Area 543 shall be no more than 65 percent of ABC in Area 543.

⁶ Sections 679.2 and 679.20(a)(8)(i) require that up to 2 percent of the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea TAC be allocated to jig gear after subtraction of the CDQ reserve and ICA. The proposed amount of this allocation is 0.5 percent. The jig gear allocation is not apportioned by season.

⁷ The 2027 allocations for Atka mackerel between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2025.

Table 7--Proposed 2026 and 2027 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	87,700	158,225	267,639
TAC	36,000	75,000	145,000
ABC surplus	51,700	83,225	122,639
ABC reserve	51,700	83,225	122,639
CDQ ABC reserve	5,532	8,905	13,122
Amendment 80 ABC reserve ¹	46,168	74,320	109,517

Note: The 2027 allocations between Amendment 80 cooperatives and the Amendment 80 limited access sector will not be known until eligible participants apply for participation in the program by November 1, 2025.

Table 8--Proposed 2026 and 2027 Apportionment of Prohibited Species Catch Allowances to Non-Trawl Gear, the CDQ Program, Amendment 80, and the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors

PSC species, areas, and zones ¹	Total PSC ⁴	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	3,079	710	315	n/a	1,309	745	n/a
Herring (mt) BSAI	2,651	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	97,000	n/a	10,379	86,621	43,293	26,489	16,839
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	12,850,000	n/a	1,374,950	11,475,050	5,639,987	3,688,081	2,146,982
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 1	980,000	n/a	104,860	875,140	368,521	411,228	95,390
<i>C. bairdi</i> crab (animals) Zone 2	2,970,000	n/a	317,790	2,652,210	627,778	1,241,500	782,932

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

² The PSQ reserve for the CDQ program 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 2026 and 2027 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	153	n/a
Rock sole/flathead sole/Alaska plaice/other flatfish ¹	77	n/a
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	8	n/a
Rockfish	8	n/a
Pacific cod	14	n/a
Midwater trawl pollock	2,359	n/a
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ^{2,3}	31	n/a
2024 Red king crab savings subarea non-pelagic trawl gear ⁴	n/a	24,250
Total trawl PSC	2,360	97,000

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.

⁴In October 2024, the Council recommended and NMFS proposes that the red king crab bycatch limit within the RKCSS be limited to 25 percent of the red king crab PSC limit (see § 679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B)(2)).

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

Table 10--Proposed 2026 and 2027 Prohibited Species Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sectors and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program

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	250	23,337	3,521,726	346,228	1,185,500
Rock sole/flathead sole/other flatfish ²	-	-	0	-	-
Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/Kamchatka flounder/sablefish	-	-	0	-	-
Rockfish, April 15-December 31	5	-	2,971	-	1,000
Total Pacific cod ³	300	2,955	148,531	60,000	50,000
AFA CP Pacific cod	6	278	13,962	5,640	4,700
PCTC Program Pacific cod, A and B season	209	1,653	83,097	33,567	27,973
Trawl CV Pacific cod, C season	15	134	6,728	2,718	2,265
PCTC Program unallocated reduction	70	890	44,744	18,075	15,062
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other species ⁴	175	197	14,854	5,000	5,000
Total BSAI trawl limited access sector PSC	745	26,489	3,688,082	411,228	1,241,500

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,

³ The Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) Program further apportioned the BSAI trawl limited access sector’s Pacific cod fishery category PSC limits for halibut and crab between AFA CPs, PCTC A and B season for trawl CVs, and the open access C-season for trawl CVs (§ 679.131(c) and (d)). The halibut PSC limits are reduced for the A and B season trawl CV sector by 25 percent each year (§ 679.131(c)(1)(iii)). The crab PSC limits are reduced for the A and B season trawl CV sector by 35 percent each year (§ 679.131(d)(1)(iii)). Any amount of the PCTC Program PSC limit remaining after the B season may be reapportioned to the trawl CV open access fishery in the C season.

⁴ “Other species” for PSC monitoring includes skates, sharks, and octopuses.

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

Table 11--Proposed 2026 and 2027 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 2026 and 2027 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	86
Non-pelagic trawl	Catcher vessel	62
Hook-and-line	Catcher vessel	10
Hook-and-line	Catcher/processor	10
Pot	All	19