



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[250813-0138; RTID 0648-XE346]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Final 2025 and 2026 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: On March 18, 2025, NMFS published the final rule to implement the 2025 and 2026 harvest specifications, apportionments, and prohibited species catch (PSC) allowances for the groundfish fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). Following publication, errors were identified in table 21, which provides notice of allocations of groundfish and apportionments of PSC limits for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups. This rule corrects the errors in table 21.

DATES: Effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Whitney, 907-206-6783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS publishes this rule to correct errors in table 21 of the final BSAI 2025 and 2026 groundfish harvest specifications. Table 21 sets forth the allocations of groundfish and apportionments of PSC allowances for the CDQ groups. PSC allowances are apportioned to individual CDQ groups as prohibited species quota (PSQ). In 2006, Public Law 109-241 amended section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation

and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(1)) to provide for the allocation of CDQ groundfish among certain entities. The six CDQ groups receiving allocations are the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA), Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association (CBSFA), Coastal Villages Regional Fund (CVRF), Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC), and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). NMFS published the CDQ groundfish and PSQ percentages on August 31, 2006 (71 FR 51804). The groundfish and PSQ amounts for each CDQ group are based on those percentages as applied to the total 2025 CDQ amounts in the final groundfish harvest specifications, which were published on March 18, 2025 (90 FR 12640). Those amounts for each CDQ group for 2025 are shown in table 21.

Need for Correction

Multiple errors were discovered in the percentages of flatfish allocations between the six CDQ groups. As a result, the final rule specified CDQ allocations that are inconsistent with statute and regulation. This correction replaces table 21 with a correct table 21 that contains the correct groundfish and PSQ amounts for each CDQ group.

Classification

NMFS issues this final rule pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because through previous actions, the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the BSAI and implementing regulations authorize NMFS to take this action pursuant to section 305(d) (see 50 CFR part 679). The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with the FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable laws.

This action is authorized under 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. The Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies how to set the percentage allocations of certain groundfish species among each of the six CDQ groups. NMFS applies these statutorily-mandated percentages to the final total allowable catch for those groundfish species each year to calculate each CDQ group's allocation of groundfish species. NMFS does not have discretion to change the percentage allocations or the final allocations in the annual BSAI groundfish harvest specifications. Therefore, prior notice and an opportunity for public comment is unnecessary on this final rule to correct flatfish allocations that are inconsistent with statute and regulation. In addition, notice and comment would prevent NMFS from correcting the CDQ groundfish allocations in a timely fashion and would delay publishing the correct allocations for CDQ fisheries that are currently underway. These errors were discovered only after publication of the final BSAI 2025 and 2026 groundfish harvest specifications, and now these fisheries are currently being prosecuted. If this correction is delayed to allow for notice and comment, it would result in confusion for participants in the CDQ fisheries, given that the final rule implementing the BSAI 2025 and 2026 groundfish harvest specifications is already effective. Without this correction, participants in the CDQ fisheries may believe that there are different amounts available for harvest in 2025 than are actually available. Therefore, there is good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment in order to avoid any negative consequences that could result from delaying notice of these corrections.

For the same reasons, good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) exists.

Because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., are inapplicable.

This rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of March 18, 2025, in FR Doc. 2025–04406, on page 12659, Table 21 is corrected as follows:

Table 21–2025 CDQ Program Quota Categories, Target CDQ Reserves, Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Reserves, and CDQ Group Quotas

Groundfish units are in metric tons.							
Species or Species Group	APICDA	BBEDC	CBSFA	CVRF	NSEDC	YDFDA	Total
BS Pollock A season	8,662.5	12,993.8	3,093.8	14,850.0	13,612.5	8,662.5	61,875
BS Pollock B season	10,587.5	15,881.3	3,781.3	18,150.0	16,637.5	10,587.5	75,625
BS Pollock Total	19,250.0	28,875.0	6,875.0	33,000.0	30,250.0	19,250.0	137,500
AI Pollock	266.0	399.0	95.0	456.0	418.0	266.0	1,900
BS Fixed Gear Sablefish	127.4	169.9	135.9	0.0	152.9	263.4	850
AI Fixed Gear Sablefish	166.7	226.3	35.7	321.6	273.9	166.7	1,191
BS Sablefish	66.9	70.1	28.7	41.4	41.4	70.1	319
AI Sablefish	38.7	29.8	11.9	19.4	17.9	31.3	149
BS Pacific cod	2,208.4	2,993.2	1,266.7	2,562.5	2,554.0	2,710.7	14,295
AI Pacific cod	143.7	194.8	82.4	166.8	166.2	176.4	930
WAI Atka Mackerel	595.6	297.8	158.8	297.8	278.0	357.4	1,986
CAI Atka Mackerel	784.5	392.4	209.2	392.3	366.2	470.8	2,615
EAI/BS Atka Mackerel	1,251.7	626.0	333.9	626.0	584.3	751.1	4,173
Yellowfin Sole	4,002.9	3,455.9	1,156.0	917.8	1,052.6	3,859.7	14,445
Yellowfin Sole ABC reserves	3,782.2	3,265.4	1,092.2	867.2	994.6	3,646.9	13,649
Rock Sole	1,931.5	1,846.1	639.2	877.8	879.5	1,850.9	8,025
Rock Sole ABC reserves	2,124.3	2,030.4	703.0	965.4	967.3	2,035.7	8,826
BS Greenland Turbot	24.2	30.3	12.1	25.7	28.8	30.3	151
Arrowtooth Flounder	329.6	329.6	134.8	194.7	179.8	329.6	1,498
Flathead Sole	772.3	812.4	341.7	576.9	576.2	772.5	3,852
Flathead Sole ABC reserves	1,025.6	1,078.8	453.8	766.2	765.2	1,025.8	5,115
WAI Pacific Ocean Perch	369.2	184.6	98.4	184.6	172.3	221.5	1,231
CAI Pacific Ocean Perch	178.4	89.2	47.6	89.2	83.3	107.1	595

EAI Pacific Ocean Perch	201.5	100.8	53.7	100.8	94.0	120.9	672
PSQ							
Halibut PSQ is in metric tons. Crab and salmon PSQ are in number of animals							
Zone 1 Red King Crab	2,491	2,180	830	1,245	1,245	2,387	10,379
Zone 1 Bairdi Tanner Crab	27,264	25,166	8,389	8,389	8,389	27,264	104,860
Zone 2 Bairdi Tanner Crab	76,270	73,092	25,423	34,957	31,779	76,270	317,790
COBLZ Opilio Tanner Crab	343,738	329,988	109,996	137,495	109,996	343,738	1,374,950
Pacific Halibut	69	69	28	38	38	72	315
BS Chinook Salmon A season	547	820	195	937	859	547	3,906
BS Chinook Salmon B season	139	208	50	238	218	139	990
BS Chinook Salmon total	685	1,028	245	1,175	1,077	685	4,896
AI Chinook Salmon	7	11	3	13	12	7	53
Non-Chinook Salmon	629	944	225	1,079	989	629	4,494

Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas and zones.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 18, 2025.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs,

National Marine Fisheries Service.