

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## Recreational Quota Entity Committee Minutes April 7 2015, Anchorage, AK

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Recreational Quota Entity Committee met on April 7, 2015 in Anchorage, Alaska. Committee members present included: Ed Dersham (Chairman), Steve MacLean (Council staff), Martin Spargo, Bruce Gabrys, Ryan Littleton (phone), Duncan Fields (phone), Richard Yamada, Andy Mezirow. Ken Dole was absent. Other attendees included: Tom Gemmell, Dan Hull, Bob Powers, Rachel Baker, Brad Robbins, Nicole Kimball, and Sarah Marrinan.

NPFMC Chairman, Dan Hull, spoke briefly and reminded the committee that the Council and fishery sectors have supported a market-based approach as a long-term solution to allocation issues in the halibut fisheries. The Council believes that the CATCH proposal, and motion from the Council, provides the committee with a good foundation to begin to flesh out elements of a RQE program, and the Council expects to see something from the committee that can be analyzed and considered by the Council.

Steve MacLean provided a brief summary of the CATCH proposal, and Sarah Marrinan (Council staff) provided an overview of the Council motion from October 2014.

Following those brief presentations, the committee asked questions of clarity and provided comments on the Council motion. The majority of questions and discussion focused on the inclusion of Alternative 3, retirement of latent charter angler permits, in the Council motion. Most of the committee felt that Alternative 3 was not responsive to the Purpose and Need statement, and confounded the main issue of the intended action; creation of a Recreational Quota Entity. Some on the committee felt that creation of a RQE and retirement of "latent" permits were more appropriately considered in two separate actions. Some of the concern included the possibility that controversy over retirement of permits could delay or derail action on creation of a RQE. **The committee approved a motion that would make the focus of the committee the formation of a Recreational Quota Entity, and strike out Alternative 3 from the discussion of the Council motion.**

The committee had a brief discussion about the type of entity that is intended for a RQE. The funding source for the RQE would affect that tax liability for the RQE, and may affect the likelihood of the entity acquiring suitable funding to meet their goals. The committee also discussed the implications of prohibiting or allowing acquisition of D class shares by the RQE, and encouraged staff to include that discussion in the analysis.

The committee discussed the need for and timing of additional committee meetings and concluded that it is **not necessary for the committee to meet in June**, but acknowledged that a new committee chairman may wish to meet in October.