

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) Committee met on December 6, 2016 in Anchorage, AK to review the public review draft of the RIR/IRFA/EA to allow a recreational quota entity to hold commercial halibut quota share for use by halibut charter anglers.

Committee members present: Andy Mezirow (Chairman), Martin Spargo, Bryan Baker, Bruce Gabrys, Ricky Gease, Richard Yamada, Steve MacLean (Council staff), Sarah Marrinan (Council staff), Jonathan King (Northern Economics)

Others present: Julie Scheurer, Tent Hartill, Chance Mill, Nate Smith, Eric Higbee, Samantha Weinstein, Jim Martin, Matt Kopec, Dave Goldstein, Claude Dykstra, Scott Meyer, Daniel Donich, Tom Taube, Tim Cashman, Stan Malcom, Ken Dole, Robert Powers, Jeff Farvour, Rachel Baker, Jim Mackorstal, Tom Gemmell, Russel Dunn

The paper was presented by Jonathan King (Northern Economics) and Sarah Marrinan (Council staff). During the presentation, it was noted that the assumption that GAF limits were established at 10 or 15% of the total Area 2C or 3A quota share pool, respectively, is not correct. Adoption of the PPA element that limits combined RQE holdings and GAF to 10% and 15% of the quota share pool in Area 2C and 3A effectively places a cap on GAF that is not currently in place.

After discussion, the RQE Committee approved the following recommendations to the Council by consensus, except where noted below:

The RQE Committee recommends the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 1, Option 2 to establish one entity with two area quota pools, Area 2C and Area 3A.

The RQE Committee recommends the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 2 to limit the annual transfers to the RQE in each regulatory area (Area 2C and 3A), but proposes a limit on transfers between 1% and 3% of commercial QS units in each area (2015).

The RQE Committee recommends the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 3A to establish a total (cumulative) limit on amount of commercial quota share held by RQE and leased under GAF to ten percent of the 2015 commercial QS pool in Area 2C and 15% of the 2015 commercial QS pool in Area 3A. The cumulative cap will be managed annually on a sliding scale between RQE and GAF, with GAF transfers restricted to accommodate RQE QS holdings.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council not approve any of the suboptions under Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 3A.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 4 Suboption 1 to restrict the purchase of D class quota share, but recommends that the Council delete the parenthetical that establishes limits under Option 2 and 3 calculated using excluded D class QS.

The effect is that A, B, C, and D class QS is considered when establishing RQE holding limits under Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 3A.

The RQE Committee did not achieve a consensus recommendation on Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 4, Suboption 2.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council not approve Alternative 2, Element 2, Option 4, Suboption 3.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 3, Option 1, Suboption 5.

The RQE Committee did not achieve consensus recommendation for Alternative 2, Element 4.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 5, but recommends that the RQE Board should include stakeholders from both regulatory areas and both directed fisheries (without prescribing the number or affiliation of members).

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council not approve Alternative 2, Element 5, Option 1, Option 2, or Option 3.

The RQE Committee recommends that the Council approve Alternative 2, Element 5, Option 4, but recommends that the report should be presented to the Council as well as filed with NMFS.