

Status of analytical projects related to the Halibut & Sablefish IFQ Program

Updated June 2018

Name	Description	Status / Due Date / Target Date
Projects in Council Review (Council have tasked staff and scheduled review at a future meeting)		
Halibut retention in BSAI pots	The Council is considering an action that would allow retention of halibut in pot gear when participants hold sufficient IFQ or CDQ for the appropriate BSAI regulatory area. (The action would not affect the part of Area 4A that is in the GOA.) The public review draft will include additional information on escapement mechanisms for crab, potential impacts on the existing BSAI sablefish pot fishery, and a list of topics to cover in a 3-year review after implementation.	A preliminary preferred alternative was identified in June 2018. The Council will receive a public review draft and could take final action in October 2018 .
IFQ Medical Lease Provision	The Council will consider alternatives that (A) broaden the definition of medical providers who can certify a medical IFQ transfer, and (B) establish a maximum number of times (years) that an individual QS holder may utilize the provision over the course of their lifetime or during a defined set of years.	Purpose & Need and alternatives were established in February 2018. Initial Review draft scheduled for October 2018 . (Action would be combined with Beneficiary Designation in rulemaking).
IFQ Beneficiary Designation	The Council will consider alternatives for regulatory amendments that clarify who may temporarily receive QS and lease out IFQ after the death of a QS holder. Existing regulations cite "immediate family members," which is not defined. Applying definitions used by either the US Office of Personnel Mgmt. or the Family Medical Leave Act could alleviate difficulties that NMFS faces when determining beneficiaries' lease privileges.	Purpose & Need and alternatives were established in February 2018. Initial Review draft scheduled for October 2018 . (Action would be combined with Medical Lease in rulemaking).
IFQ "Fish Up" for CQEs in Halibut Area 3A	Scoping potential action to allow CQEs defined in regulation as located in Area 3A to fish D class halibut IFQ on larger C class vessels (less than 60' LOA). The ability to fish CQE halibut on larger vessels would only apply after a cut-off date late in the season, with the purpose of helping CQEs harvest their IFQ in cases of unforeseen vessel breakdown or adverse weather conditions.	Discussion paper tasked for October 2018
Small Sablefish Retention	Scoping potential action to allow vessels fishing sablefish IFQ to discard small fish or to set a minimum size limit for sablefish retention. This considered action is responsive to an increase in the number of small-size sablefish encountered in the fishery. The paper should include information that informs the development of a discard mortality rate for sablefish released from longline and pot gear in the GOA and BSAI, as well as effects on observer sampling.	Discussion paper tasked for October 2018

Rank	Name	Description
Projects yet to be scheduled (<i>Council may choose to rank projects to guide staff tasking priority and the setting of future agendas</i>) ** IFQ Discussion Papers will be reviewed by the IFQ Committee **		
Rank	Discussion Paper: Eligibility Requirements for QS holders	Consider replacing the Transfer Eligibility Certificate (TEC) as the permit to <u>purchase</u> QS with an active participation requirement (sea-days over a period of years) to <u>own</u> QS that applies to both existing and prospective QS holders. The Council is interested in how such a requirement could promote the original program objective of an owner/operator fleet by restricting the practice of QS holders who go onboard an IFQ vessel but do not actively participate in the work of the fishery, sometimes referred to as "ride-alongs."
Rank	Discussion Paper: Use of Hired Master Provision	Given the increasing use of hired masters in the IFQ fishery, assemble data on hired master use and describe business arrangements between vessel owners, QS holders, and crew to the extent possible. The Council is scoping for potential modifications to hired master regulations that would promote the original program objective of an owner/operator fleet.
Rank	Discussion Paper: QS Transfer Mechanisms	Explore regulatory and non-regulatory options that promote willing transfers of QS from initial QS recipients to hired masters and crew, including but not limited to the Right of First Offer concept used in crab cooperatives. Also scope potential for changes to the Federal loan program that would increase use by individuals looking to purchase QS.
Rank	Discussion Paper: Global Examples of IFQ Access Programs	Review existing programs that facilitate access to IFQ-type fisheries for rural communities and new entrants. Consider those programs' successes and failures in their own context, and how they may or may not function in the North Pacific management framework.