



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

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Dan Hull, Chairman
David Witherell, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

IFQ Committee - Report on Proposals

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Cunningham (NPFMC)

ACTION REQUIRED:

- Review Committee minutes
- Consider future tasking based on Committee recommendations

BACKGROUND:

The IFQ Committee meets on Monday, February 5 at the Seattle Renaissance Hotel. The meeting agenda is posted as an attachment under C6 on the Council's electronic agenda. Meeting minutes will be prepared during the Council week and presented to both the Council and the AP.

The Committee will review staff discussion papers on the IFQ Program medical lease provision and on the process for designating IFQ holder survivorship beneficiaries who are eligible to temporarily lease IFQ. Both papers were tasked after the Committee and the Council received the IFQ Program 20-Year Review in 2016.

- The Committee requested further analysis of the increased utilization of the medical lease provision after regulatory changes to the use of hired masters were implemented in 2014. The Committee will consider recommending alternatives for analysis that could refine limits on how often a quota share holder may use the medical lease provision and could also revise the definition of qualified medical providers.
- The Committee recommended an assessment of the beneficiary lease provision at NMFS's request. The agency was increasingly finding itself in the position of determining familial relations in the absence of a will and noted that Federal and state definitions of "immediate" family had changed since the IFQ Program was implemented.

The Committee will receive a presentation from University of Alaska - Fairbanks researcher, Jesse Coleman, about the application of a recently published study, *Turning the Tide: How can Alaska address the 'graying of the fleet' and loss of rural fisheries access?* That document is available on the Council's electronic agenda and on the IFQ Committee's webpage at www.npfmc.org.

Finally, the Committee will review a set of proposals for IFQ Program amendments offered by committee members. The Council invited Committee members to bring forward proposals that relate to fishery access, entry-level opportunities, rural community participation, and the Program's objective of maintaining an owner-operated fleet. The proposals offered by the Committee are compiled in a single document that is available on the Council's electronic agenda and the Committee's webpage. The proposals are grouped into three topics: (1) the Federal loan program and cost recovery, (2) hired masters and transfer eligibility requirements, and

(3) community quota entities (CQE), entry-level quota pools, and quota share use caps.