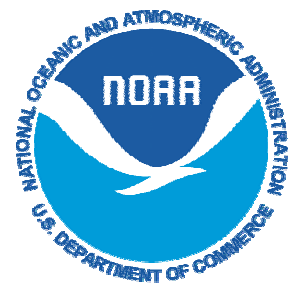


National Marine Fisheries Service BSAI Crab Rationalization



Crab Harvesting Cooperatives

What is a Crab Harvesting Cooperative?

A group of four or more QS holders (not affiliated with the other members in that cooperative) can voluntarily form a crab harvesting cooperative for the purpose of applying for and fishing under a crab harvesting cooperative IFQ permit issued by NMFS.

What happens if I get more QS or IFQ later in the year?

A crab harvesting cooperative member that gets more IFQ after the cooperative application has been filed can use that IFQ independently outside the cooperative.

Can I join more than one Cooperative?

YES, a QS holder may join one cooperative per crab fishery. If a QS holder joins a crab harvesting cooperative for a fishery, all of that QS holder's IFQ for that fishery will be submitted to the crab harvesting cooperative.

Are there limits on how much cooperative IFQ a boat can fish?

NO. If a boat is fishing only cooperative IFQ, then IFQ vessel use caps do not apply to that boat.

Who fishes the cooperative IFQ?

Only an individual with a crab IFQ hired master permit issued by NMFS can harvest a crab harvesting cooperative's IFQ. A crab IFQ hired masters can a crab harvesting cooperative member.

When do I join?

If you decide to join a cooperative, you must join before the cooperative applies to NMFS to receive a crab harvesting cooperative IFQ permit. The application is due to NMFS by **August 1** each year.

Can cooperatives process crab?

Yes, but they cannot hold PQS or IPQ.

Can cooperatives trade IFQ?

YES, but just among other cooperatives. These trades have to be approved by NMFS.

Small Entity Compliance Guide: NMFS has provided this small entity compliance guide to satisfy the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, which requires a plain language guide to assist small entities in complying with this rule. This synopsis provides a general overview as a public service. For exact regulatory language, please refer to the final rule at www.fakr.noaa.gov.