

Council's Preferred Alternatives for halibut and sablefish IFQ and halibut CDQ Program Amendments

Halibut IFQ/CDQ in Area 4C/4D Amendment

Alternative 2 Allow holders of Area 4C IFQ and CDQ to harvest such IFQ/CDQ in Area 4D. At the end of the 3rd year after implementation, the action will be evaluated.

Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program Amendments

Action 1 Allow the use of medical transfers

Alternative 2 Allow medical transfers

Evidence of qualifying medical conditions: Option 2: Licensed medical doctor or nurse practitioner, or their local representative

Limits to medical transfer: Option 2: 2 out of 5 years

Action 2 Tighten the criteria allowing the use of hired skippers

Alternative 2, suboption (b) To use the hired skipper exception, a QS holder must demonstrate at least a 20% vessel owner interest in the vessel to be used and have continuously owned the vessel as documented by the contemporary abstract of title for the previous 12 months. Allow for replacement vessel in the event of a constructive loss

Action 3 Add vessel clearance requirements to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands sablefish fisheries

Alternative 2 Add vessel clearance requirements to the BS and AI sablefish regulations. Participants must comply with either Option 1 or Option 2.

Option 1. Add check-in/check-out for the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery (Dutch Harbor, Adak, St Paul, St George, Atka, Akutan)

Option 2. Require VMS when fishing in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea sablefish fishery

Action 4 Amend the sablefish product recovery rate for bled sablefish

Alternative 2 Change product recovery rate from 0.98 to 1.0.

Action 5 Amend the halibut block program

Alternative 2, suboption (a) In Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D, increase the block limit to 3 blocks, unless unblocked QS is held in which case the limit is one block.

Alternative 3 In Areas 3B and 4A, for all QS blocks that yield more than 20,000 lb, divide into one block of 20,000 lb with the remainder to be unblocked QS.

Alternative 5 In Areas 2C and 3A, increase the halibut sweep-up level to the 5,000 lb equivalent in 1996 QS units.

Action 6 Amend halibut quota share categories

Alternative 2 In Areas 3B and 4C, allow IFQ derived from D category QS to be fished on category C vessels.

Action 7 Amend fish down regulations

Alternative 2 Eliminate the exception to the fish down regulations for Area 2C halibut and Southeast area sablefish, and allow all category B QS to be fished on a vessel of any size.