

North Pacific Fishery Management Council motion on the hired skipper provision
March 31, 2011

It was moved that the Council adopt the problem statement and Alternative 2 with Options 1 and 2 as follows:

Problem Statement:

A key element of the IFQ program is the requirement for catcher vessel QS holders to be on board the vessel during harvest and offloading of IFQ halibut and sablefish. The Council did not wish to constrain existing small business practices and therefore created an exception for initial recipients of catcher vessel QS. The Council is concerned about the apparent consolidation and reduced opportunities for new entrants/second generation fishermen to enter the fishery. This reduced opportunity may be attributable to provisions that allow initial recipients to harvest not only their initially issued quota, but also new quota acquisitions without having to be onboard the vessel. Amending the hired skipper privileges for catcher vessel quota in the halibut/sablefish IFQ program to extend these privileges only to current QS holdings is not expected to be disruptive to existing hired skipper arrangements, but would prevent further consolidation of QS to initial recipients using hired skippers and the associated extraction of rents from the fishery.

Alternative 2. Prohibit the use of hired skippers of halibut and sablefish B, C, and D class QS transferred after February 12, 2010.

Option 1. Allow the hired skipper provision to be retained for those QS swept up into blocks after the February 12, 2010 control date and before the effective date of the amendment.

Option 2. Allow initial recipients of QS to sweep up additional QS units to the amounts they hold after the effective date, but these sweep up blocks would not retain the hired skipper privilege (i.e., the QS holder must be on board when the IFQs are harvested.)