

**Status of analytical projects related to the Halibut & Sablefish IFQ Program**  
*Updated November 2018*

Name	Description	Status / Target Date
<b>Projects in Council Review</b> (Council has tasked staff and scheduled review at a future meeting)		
IFQ Medical Lease and Beneficiary Transfer Provisions	<p>In October 2018, the Council identified a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) to broaden the definition of medical providers who can certify a medical IFQ transfer. This action would also establish a maximum number of times (years) that an individual QS holder may utilize the provision over the course of his/her lifetime or during a defined set of years for <i>any</i> medical reason, modifying the regulations that currently state the medical transfer provision may be used in 2 of the 5 most recent years for the <i>same</i> medical condition.</p> <p>The Council's PPA for the beneficiary transfer provision would include "estate" when referencing surviving spouse and immediate family member in regulations, as well as adopting the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's definition of "immediate family member" as its PPA to define that term.</p>	Public Review draft <b>February 2019</b>
IFQ "Fish Up" for CQEs in Halibut Area 3A	The Council will consider alternatives to allow CQEs to fish D-class halibut IFQ on larger C-class vessels (less than or equal to 60' LOA) in Area 3A. This opportunity would only apply after a certain date late in the season (either August 15 or September 1), with the purpose of acting as a fallback mechanism for CQEs to avoid revenue loss in cases of unforeseen vessel breakdown or adverse weather conditions. The ability to "fish up" CQE IFQ could be limited such that the provision could not be used every year over a consecutive set of years.	Initial Review draft <b>April 2019</b>
Small Sablefish Retention	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. This expanded discussion paper will seek to address a set of explicitly stated questions regarding: the ability to produce species- and gear-specific discard mortality rates; potential effect on spawning stock; variable discarding rules depending on stock abundance; likelihood of achieving TAC; effect of discards on whale depredation; gear modifications to avoid small sablefish; catch accounting; enforcement options; and observer coverage requirements.	Expanded discussion paper <b>April 2019</b>
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."	Discussion paper <b>April 2019 (Tentative)</b>

Name	Description
<b>Projects not yet scheduled (**order does not reflect priority**)</b>	
<b>Discussion Paper:</b> 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.
<b>Discussion Paper:</b> 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.
<b>Discussion Paper:</b> 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.

Name	Description
<b>Recent Final Action</b>	
Halibut retention in BSAI pots	<p>The Council took final action to allow retention of legal-size halibut in pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI), provided the operator holds sufficient halibut IFQ or CDQ for the corresponding regulatory area. The Council's preferred alternative includes a PIHCZ closure for pot gear, authority for NMFS in-season management to close IFQ fishing if a groundfish or crab OFL is approached, monitoring requirements (e.g. logbooks and VMS), and an intent to track participation, crab bycatch, gear specifications and design and potential gear conflicts in a 3-yr review.</p> <p>Staff will produce a Secretarial Review Draft document and the action will move into the proposed rule-making stage.</p>