



## D3 IFQ Program Review Workplan

October 2023 Council Meeting

### Action Memo

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham  
Other Presenters: Marcus Hartley (Northern Economics; lead)  
Action Required: 

1. Review workplan
2. Review IFQ Committee minutes
3. Provide any feedback to the proposed scope or content of the workplan

### BACKGROUND

The Council approved the Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program in 1991 and the program was implemented for the 1995 fishing season. The IFQ Program was developed to address issues associated with the race-for-fish that had resulted from the open-access and effort control management of the halibut and sablefish fisheries. Specifically, the Council identified several problems that emerged in these fisheries due to the previous management regime, including increased harvesting capacity, decreased product quality, increased conflicts among fishermen, adverse effects on halibut and sablefish stocks, and unintended distributions of benefits and costs from the fisheries. The fundamental component of the IFQ Program is quota share (QS), issued to participants with a history of harvest in the fishery, which is translated into annual IFQ allocations in the form of fishable pounds.

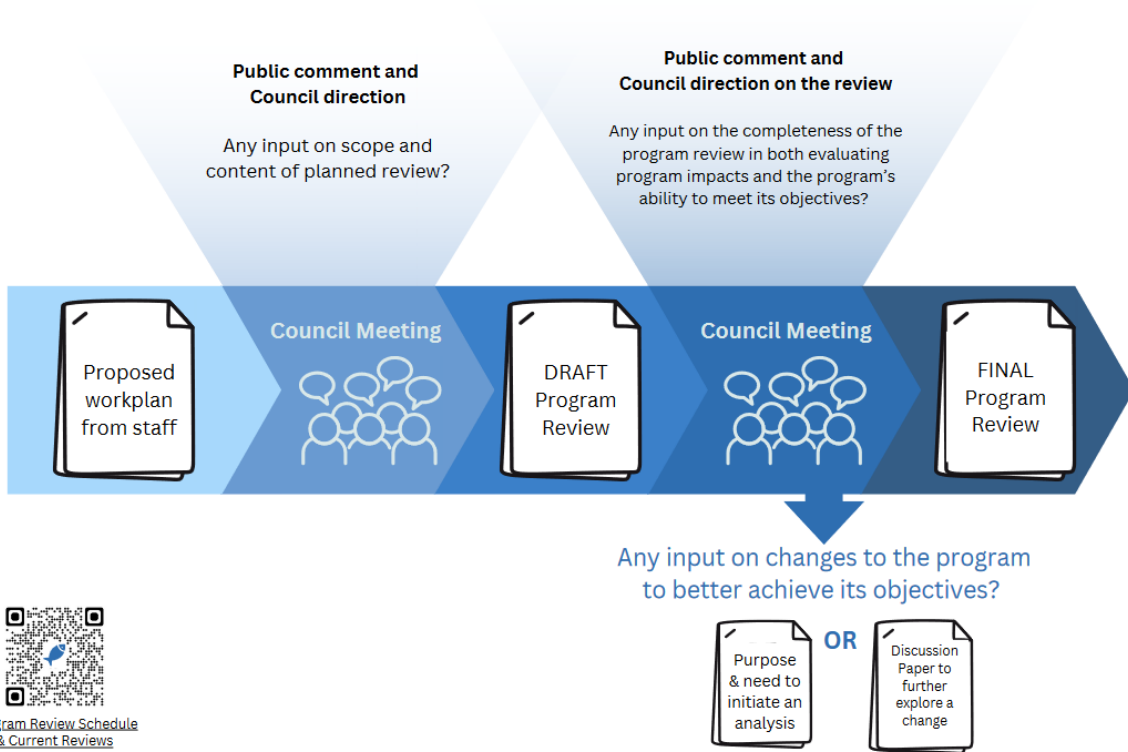
Section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requires the Council and NMFS to review all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs), including those programs approved prior to the enactment of the reauthorized MSA in 2007. Reviews are intended to evaluate the program's performance in meeting its goals and objectives as outlined in the MSA, including the impact on harvesting and processing sectors, and fishery dependent communities. The MSA also specifies that reviews of these LAPPs should occur no less frequently than once every seven years. The most recent Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program Review was finalized in December 2016 and the Council is scheduled to begin another review of the IFQ Program in 2023.

For this stage of the process, a workplan has been prepared by staff (see figure below). **The purpose of a program review workplan is to detail the legal requirements and guidance for the review, outline the proposed scope and content and, perhaps most importantly, provide an opportunity for the SSC, AP, Council, and public to weigh in on this proposed scope and content.** This feedback will inform the development of the review. The completed review will be considered at a separate Council meeting in early 2024. At that point, the SSC, AP, Council, and public may provide feedback on the review's evaluation of the program objective and impacts as well as any changes recommended before the document is finalized. A program review is not an "action document"; any changes to the program that may be warranted and are highlighted during the review will be considered for action separately from the review. This could occur through the initiation of a discussion paper or an analysis.

Based on the approach detailed in the Program and Allocation Review Workplan<sup>1</sup> and approved by the Council in April 2023, this IFQ Program review will also satisfy the requirements for reviewing halibut and sablefish allocations that are required by NOAA allocation policy directive 01-119.

## NPFMC Program Reviews

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act requires program reviews initially after the first 5 years and then every 7 years for all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs).



<sup>1</sup> <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=56436ad5-c8d8-4383-b42d-7646f3811912.pdf&fileName=E%20Program%20and%20Allocation%20Review.pdf>