

List of Persons Giving Public Testimony

Sablefish & Halibut Management - Public Hearing 4/20/92

Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak
Jim Ramaglia, Kodiak business owner
Jim Calvin, McDowell Group
Clarence Jackson, SeaAlaska Corporation
Ed Langley, Homer
Arnie Einmo, Dory Seafoods
Bob Younger, Sitka
Scott Cassedy, Sitka
Mark Schonberg, Petersburg
Dennis Hicks, Sitka
Jim Hutchens, F/V Monarch
Rick Weber, False Pass
Carolyn Nichols, Sitka
Anton Bowers, Sitka
Roy Self, Sterling
Mike Reif, Sitka Assembly
Carrie Johnson/Boyd Selanoff, Kodiak High School students
Ron Kuczek, Jr., Anchorage
Floyd Hutchens, Prince William Sound Seiners Assn.
Vic Horgan, Jr., Ocean Beauty Seafoods
George Obert/Richard Dalton/Patrick Mills, Hoonah Tribal Council
Meredith Sandler, Southwest Municipal Conference
Richard Thummel, Paladin Fisheries
Dennis Robinson, City of Unalaska
Susan Richards, FVOA
Jim Richards, FVOA
David Loutrel, Anchorage
Patrick Langan, Kodiak
David Allison, North Pacific Fisheries Protection Assn.
Mary Crowley/John Crowley, Seattle
Barron Rutherford
Paul Frost, Togiak, Alaska
Tom Lakosh, F/V Bodhisahva
Howard Pendell, Sitka
Thorne Tasker, Anchorage
Thor Skolstad, Anchorage
Susan Sturm, Sitka
Marvin Kinberg, Anchorage
John Bruce/Alan Noreide, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union
Arne Lee, Seattle
Art Hodgins, F/V Ahila
Paul Clampitt, F/V Majestic,
Fred Zharoff, Alaska State Senator

Tony Knowles, Anchorage businessman
Kari Johnson-Fish, Sitka
JoAnn/Neal Huff, Sitka
Jack Hill, Kodiak
Bryon Pfundt, Petersburg
Scott Vorath, Cordova
Ron Kuczek, Sr., Alliance Against IFQs
Sigurd Rutter, Sitka
Anna Borland, Homer
Jim Loria, Cordova
Group: HANA, KLVOA, plus several others
Lynn Langford-Walton/Skip Bolton, Alaskans for Responsible Resource Management
Jesse Charbula, Anchorage
Bruce Wick, Fisherman
Jay Cherrier, Dragnet Fisheries
Brian Gregg, DSFU
Laura Cooper, North Pacific Fisheries Protection Assn.
Mark Lundsten, F/V Masonic
Paul Seaton, Anchor Point
Jeff Stephan, United Fishermen's Marketing Assn., Kodiak
Teague Vanek, Anchorage
Bill Sullivan, Homer
Jack Keane, Anchorage
Pete Farris, Anchorage
Mako Haggerty, Homer
Ralph Hoard, Icicle Seafoods
Alvin Osterback, Aleutians East Borough; Peninsula Mktg Assn.
Matt Shadel, Kodiak
Tari Middlesworth, Kodiak
Linda Behnken, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assn.
Nancy Lande, Seward
Kris Norosz, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn.
Drew Scalzi, North Pacific Fisheries Assn.
Scott Landis, Pt. Townsend
Mike Brooks, Fritz Creek
John Rate, Homer
Tracy Akers, F/V Meridian, Kodiak
Lori Adams, F/V Quest
Thane Miller, Eagle River
Wayne Carpenter, Seward Chamber of Commerce
Bob Trumble, International Pacific Halibut Commission
Kevin Sather, F/V Tooner
James Fisk, Kodiak
Matt Donohoe, Kodiak
Norm Stadem, Anchorage
Dean Adams, F/V Quest
Jerry Budd, Anchorage
Dan Falvey, Sitka
Dennis Harvey, Sitka
James Swift, Sitka
Eric Olson; F/V Evening Star

Council Meeting - April 23-16, 1992

Agenda item C-2 Inshore-Offshore - CDQs

David Nanalook, Togiak Natives Ltd.
Moses Kritz, Togiak
Paul Frost, Togiak
Don Nielsen, Bristol Bay Borough Fisheries & Economic Development Commission
Tim Toworak, Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.
James Smith, Good News Bay Tribal Government
Perfenia Pletnikoff
Harold Sparck, Yukon-Kuskokwim Task Force
David Bill, Nelson Island, Qaluyaat Fishermen's Assn.
Wassili Bavilla, Fishermen of Quinahagak
Joe Paniyak, Kokecheck Fishermen's Assn.
Charlie Spud, Nunivak Island Fishermen's Assn
Ted Moses, Nunivak Island
Larson King, Nunivak Fishermen's Assn.
Norman Anderson, Naknek
Kate Graham, American High Seas Fisheries Assn.
John Iani, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn.
Barry Fisher/Fred Yeck/Gary Westman/Steve Hughes, Midwater Trawlers
Bert Larkins, American Factory Trawlers Assn.
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Dave Galloway, Ocean Phoenix Partnership
James Salisbury, Supreme Alaska Seafoods
Dave Fraser, Alaskan Independent Fishermen
Joe Plesha, Trident Seafoods
Tim Tapping, Westward Trawlers
Vern Hall, Kodiak

Agenda C-3 Moratorium

Deming Cowles, Chris Blackburn, John Iani, Kate Graham, Thorn Smith, Paul MacGregor.
Thorne Tasker

Agenda C-4 North Pacific Research Plan

Deming Cowles, Alaska Crab Coalition/Fisheries Conservation Action Group
Michael Lake, Alaskan Observers
Vern Hall, Kodiak
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Jeff Stephan, UFMA
Roger Woods, Data Contractors
Kate Graham, AHSFA
Nancy Munroe, Saltwater Inc.

Agenda D-2 Groundfish Agenda items

Gary Cadd, Kenai
Charles Bronson, F/V American Eagle
Tim Tapping, F/V Viking
Bert Larkins, AFTA
Sinclair Wilt, Alyeska Seafoods
Steve Hughes, Barry Fisher, Midwater Trawlers
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Vince Curry/Dave Benson, AFTA
Beth Stewart, Alvin Osterback, Peninsula Marketing Assn.
Tim Honan, City of Unalaska
Bob Trumble, IPHC
Chris Chavasse, Homer
Thorn Smith, North Pacific Longline Assn.
Kate Graham, AHSFA
Linda Benhken, ALFA
Deming Cowles/Linda Norosz, Fisheries Conservation Action Group
Steve Hughes, Midwater Trawlers
Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Dan Falvey, Alaska Longline Fisheries Assn.
David Fraser, Independent Fishermen's Assn.
Phil McCrudden, Unipak
Charles Bronson, Independent Fishermen's Assn.
Mark Kandianis, F/V Alliance
Gary Westman, Dakota Management, Inc.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO IFQ PLAN:
SITKA BLOCK PROPOSAL
QUOTA SHARE/LICENSE
PROGRAM FOR CATCHER BOAT CLASS

This amendment to the sablefish and halibut IFQ plan is proposed in response to continued concern regarding the socioeconomic impacts of IFQs on coastal communities and the small boat fleet. The amendment preserves the nature of the fleet to the maximum extent possible, while providing the sablefish and halibut resource with much needed protection.

Under the proposed amendment, initial quota share allocations will be attached to a specific license. The amount of the initial quota share allocation will be determined as per criteria specified in the current preferred alternative. Subsequent quota transfers must include transfer of the quota share license (QSL) and all quota shares attached to that license. A persons' total holdings will be restricted by caps specified in the preferred alternative, and include all existing "grandfather" exemptions. Each person may land fish on no more than three licenses per area per year. No more than five licenses may be used on any vessel per area per year.

These provisions will:

1. Ensure the continued existence of a relatively large, diverse fleet.
2. Provide protection to coastal communities. Because small boats tend to be locally based, traditional delivery patterns will continue.
3. Provide an entry level fishery accessible to deckhands and other small, independent operators. The abundance of small quota share "blocks" will reduce the relative cost per pound of these licenses.
4. Simplify implementation, monitoring, and enforcement by eliminating the need for vessel size classes and significantly reduce the number of discreet quota share blocks that may be bought or sold.

By responding to the frequently voiced objections and concerns raised by industry and community members, the proposed amendment has significantly increased the support base for IFQs in southeast Alaska; predictably it will do the same statewide.

LANGUAGE CHANGES / ADDITIONS TO PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Sec 2 (B) : [Initial QS assignment]

- (i) Initial QS allocations for each area shall be permanently attached to a license.
- (ii) In the initial allocation, the IFQs arising from a quota share license (QSL) shall not exceed 1/2 of the specified ownership cap.
- (iii) Those individuals or persons receiving initial allocation in excess of the cap in a management area shall be issued the number of QSLs equal to his/her allocation.
- (iv) QSL shall remain as single licenses and may only be sold or transferred in their entirety unless QSL are combined pursuant to Sec 2 (D) (iv). Portions of the QSL may be leased in accordance with Sec 2 (c) (2) (iii).
- (v) All sales of transfers of QSL shall be free and clear of all control, fiduciary trust and/or future contract.

Sec 2 (C) (2) - Delete (ii) (iii)

Sec 2 (D) [Ownership Caps]

- add (iii) For sablefish and halibut any individual or person not grandfathered under Sec 2 (B) (1) (C) may not utilize the IFQs from more than three QSL in a management area in any one year. In the event of sale or transfer of QSL, a person or individual may hold up to 4 QSL for a period of no longer than one hundred and twenty days.
- add (iv) QSL which have yearly IFQ's amounting to less than 1000 pounds for halibut and 3000 pounds for sablefish may be consolidated by an individual or person into a single permanent QSL as long as the resultant QSL does not exceed 1000 pounds for halibut or 3000 pounds for sablefish.
- add (vi) For sablefish and halibut: IFQs from no more than 5 QSLs may be utilized on any one vessel per area per year. *[option: 4 QSLs per vessel per area per year]*

EXPLANATION: HOW TO READ THE GRAPHS

The Block System does not affect in any way the number or amount of pounds allocated to persons qualifying under the Council's approved IFQ plan; it simply creates a "block" out of those initially allocated pounds and limits the number of blocks (or licenses) any person may own or control to three. The following graphs are based on data supplied by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). Any mistakes in the graphs are incidental and solely the responsibility of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association.

HALIBUT FISHERY

Graph 1. HALIBUT QUOTA DISTRIBUTION BY BLOCK SIZE AND AREA

The top line of this graph gives the size of each initially allocated block in pounds--e.g., blocks that are less than 500 pounds, 500-1000 pounds, 1000-2000, 2000-3000; etc.. Along the left-hand side is the halibut areas. The body of the graph gives the number of initially allocated blocks of various sizes (<500 pounds, 500-1000 pounds, etc.) in each area, as well as the number (bottom line) of blocks of each size in the whole fishery.

Examples: In area 2C, 2074 initially allocated blocks will be 500 pounds or less. 337 blocks will be 500-1000 pounds. Skipping across two columns: 248 blocks in area 2C will be 3000-5000 pounds each. Going down a row and across three columns: in 3A, 391 blocks will be 1000-2000 pounds; looking at the 3A row, last column: 42 blocks will be 80,000 pounds or greater.

Graph 2. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSES IF ACCUMULATION IS ALLOWED

Because so many people will receive blocks in the initial allocation that are quite small (e.g., from the graph above, 2003 blocks fishery-wide will be less than 500 pounds), ALFA proposes allowing individuals to combine blocks into one as long as the combined total of the blocks remains less than 1000 pounds. We considered allowing accumulation up to 500, 1000, or 2000 pounds; each of these options is included in Graph 2. After reviewing the data, the 1000 pound accumulation cap was selected as the most appropriate. (Note: in sablefish ALFA selected a 3000 pound accumulation cap) .

In Graph 2, the top line gives the proposed accumulation limits in pounds--i.e., zero (none), 500, 1000, 2000. The left-hand side lists the halibut areas. The graph indicates the extent to which accumulation, or combining of blocks could decrease the number of blocks in each area. Examples: In area 2C, there will be 3702 blocks initially allocated. If accumulation up to 500 pounds is allowed and eventually all blocks less than 500 pounds are combined, there will be approximately 2665 halibut

blocks in area 2C. If the upper limit is set at 1000 pounds, the number of blocks in 2C could be reduced to 2496. Looking at fishery or EEZ-wide numbers, allowing accumulation up to 1000 pounds could reduce the number of blocks from the 6118 initially allocated to 4796.

Graph 3. CUMULATIVE PERCENT DISTRIBUTION

This graph indicates the size distribution of the blocks in each area and, at the bottom, the size distribution on a fishery-wide scale. The top line again is in pounds, defining the upper limit of each poundage class. Along the left-hand side is the halibut areas. The body of the graph gives the percentage of blocks that will be 500 pounds or less, 1000 pounds or less, 2000 pound or less, etc., in each area.

Examples: In area 2C, looking at the second column, 65% of the blocks will be 1000 pounds or less. Conversely, 35% will be greater than 1000 pounds--i.e., the percentage of blocks greater and less than a given poundage add up to 100%. Skipping over a column, 80% of the blocks in 2C will be 3000 pounds or less. Dropping down a row, in the 3A area 73% of the blocks will be 3000 pounds or less. In the bottom row, last column, 95% of the blocks fishery or EEZ-wide will be 30,000 pounds or less, hence 5% will be greater than 30,000 pounds.

BAR GRAPHS AND SABLEFISH DATA

On the next page, Graph 1 is translated into a bar graph, presenting the number of blocks of each size (in pounds) by halibut area. The sablefish tables are read the same way as the halibut tables explained above; again, the information in Graph 1 is also translated into a bar graph.

IFQ BLOCK DIST

SABLEFISH QUOTA DISTRIBUTION BY BLOCK SIZE AND AREA

BLOCK SIZE (lbs)	<1,000	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-60	60-80	80-100+
SE/E YAK	145	33	32	49	112	113	65	33	32	16	16
W YAK	91	41	20	21	71	51	31	20	21	10	30
C GULF	192	48	32	32	48	80	32	32	32	32	80
W GULF	27	18		10	37	38	18	10	9		18
AL ISLANDS	13	7	7	7	28	20	14	7	14		20
BERING SEA	38	8	8	7	16	31	15	8	8	8	7
EEZ * OWNERS	310	84	57	28	141	113	84	28	57	56	169

ESTIMATED # OF LICENSES IF ACCUMULATION IS ALLOWED

ACCUMULATION lbs	NONE	1000	2000	3000	4000
SE/E YAK	647	574	558	542	517
W YAK	407	361	339	329	319
C GULF	640	544	520	504	488
W GULF	185	161	152	152	147
AL ISLANDS	137	130	126	122	118
BERING SEA	154	135	131	127	123
EEZ WIDE	1127	972	930	902	888

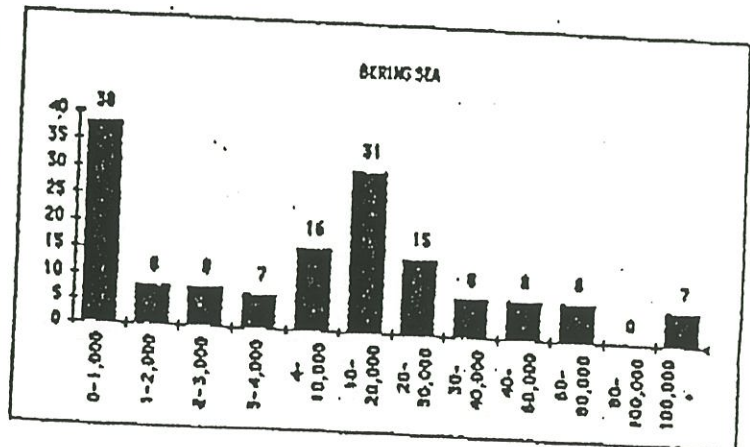
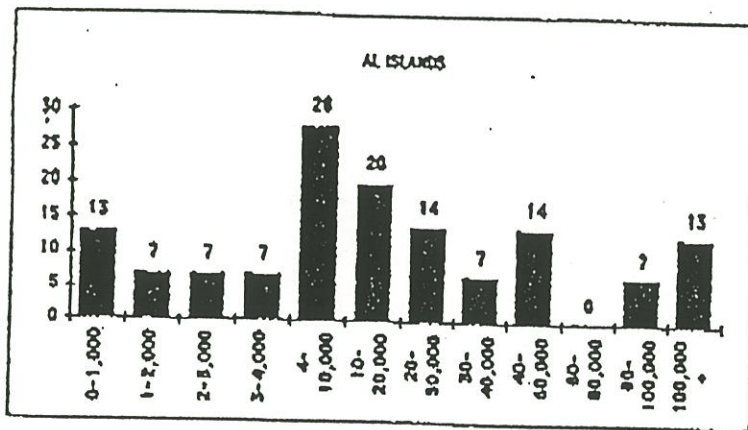
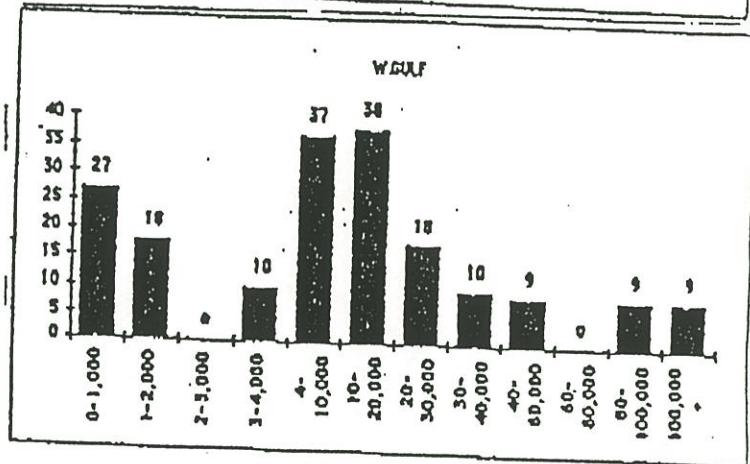
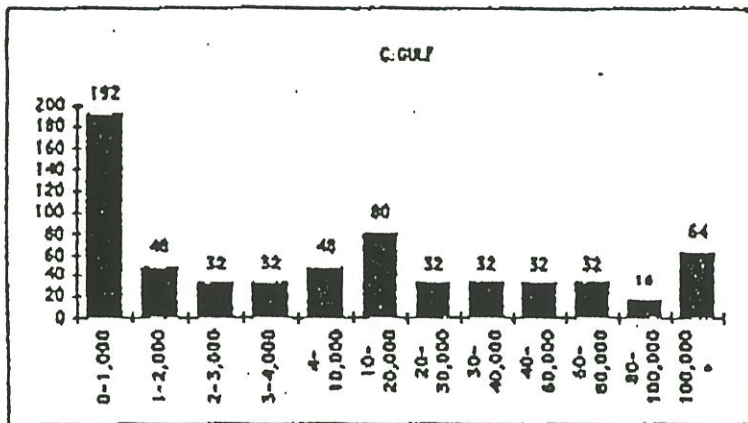
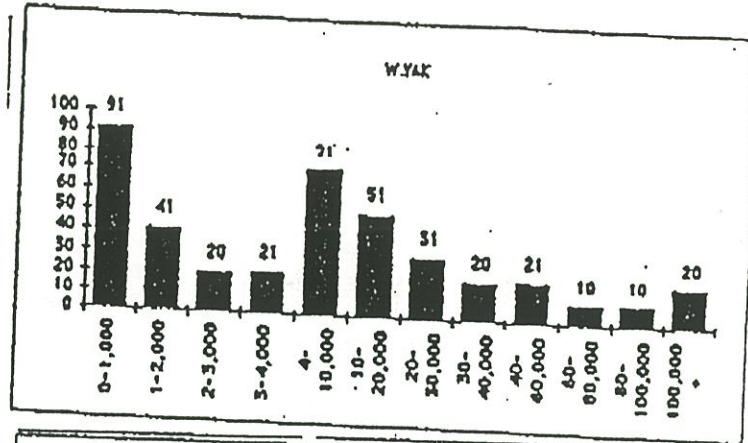
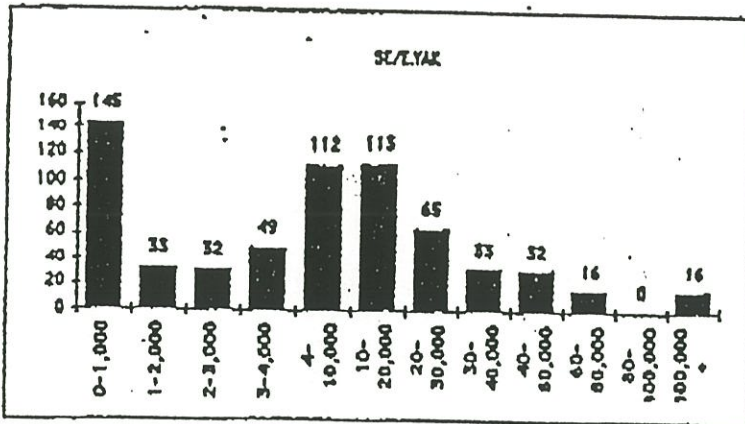
CUMULATIVE % DISTRIBUTION

POUNDS	<1000	2000	3000	4000	10	20	30	40	60	80	100+
SE/EYAK	22%	27%	32%	40%	57%	75%	85%	90%	95%	98%	100%
W YAK	22%	32%	37%	42%	60%	72%	80%	85%	90%	92%	100%
C GULF	30%	37%	42%	47%	55%	67%	72%	77%	82%	87%	100%
W GULF	15%	25%	-	30%	50%	65%	75%	80%	85%	-	100%
AL ISLANDS	20%	25%	30%	35%	50%	60%	70%	75%	85%	-	100%
BERING SEA	25%	30%	35%	40%	50%	70%	80%	85%	90%	95%	100%
EEZ WIDE (OWNERS)	27%	34%	39%	42%	54%	64%	72%	74%	81%	84%	100%

SABLEFISH

NUMBER OF LICENSES BY AREA AND FISHING

SABLEFISH



HALIBUT IFQ BLOCK DIST

HALIBUT QUOTA DISTRIBUTION BY BLOCK SIZE AND AREA

BLOCK SIZE (lbs)	<500	500-1	1-2	2-3	3-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-60	60-80	80-100+
2C	2074	337	340	217	248	300	152	28	6			
3A	3016	333	391	265	305	412	346	131	76	76	35	42
3B	778	30	68	46	69	122	93	45	32	21	18	12
4A	257	25	54	30	28	40	33	13	4	5		
4B	81	13	16	12	17	24	22	5	3	7	6	
4C	57	6	4	6	11	16	12	2		4		
4D	46	3		1	5	8	9	6		5		
4E	285	15	5	4	6	4						
EEZ * OWNERS	2003	642	699	452	544	718	536	184	93	95	54	25

ESTIMATED # OF LICENSES IF ACCUMULATION IS ALLOWED

ACCUMULATION (lbs)	NONE	<500	1000	2000
2C	3702	2665	2496	2326
3A	5428	3920	3753	3557
3B	1334	945	930	896
4A	469	350	337	310
4B	206	165	158	150
4C	118	89	86	84
4D	83	60	58	58
4E	319	176	168	165
EEZ WIDE	6118	5117	4796	4446

CUMULATIVE % DISTRIBUTION

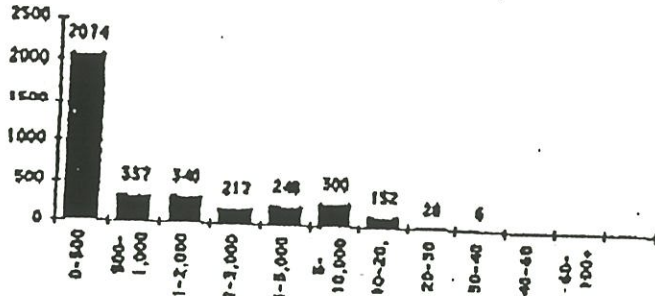
POUNDS	<500	1000	2000	3000	5000	10	20	30	40	60	100+
2C	56%	65%	74%	80%	86%	94%	98%	99%	100%		
3A	55%	61%	69%	73%	79%	86%	93%	95%	97%	98%	100%
3B	58%	60%	65%	69%	74%	83%	90%	93%	96%	98%	100%
4A	50%	55%	67%	73%	79%	88%	95%	98%	99%	100%	
4B	39%	45%	53%	59%	67%	79%	89%	92%	93%	97%	100%
4C	48%	53%	56%	61%	71%	84%	94%	96%	96%	100%	
4D	55%	59%	59%	60%	66%	75%	86%	93%	93%	100%	
4E	89%	94%	95%	96%	98%	100%					
EEZ WIDE (OWNERS)	32%	43%	54%	62%	67%	82%	91%	95%	96%	97%	100%

* DUE TO CONFIDENTIALITY RESTRICTIONS, INDIVIDUALS AT UPPER AND LOWER END OF GRAPH ARE GROUPED INTO THE FIRST OR LAST CATEGORY; E.G., ANY INDIVIDUALS IN 2C WITH 30,000 LBS OR GREATER ARE GROUPED INTO THE 30,000-40,000 LB CATEGORY.

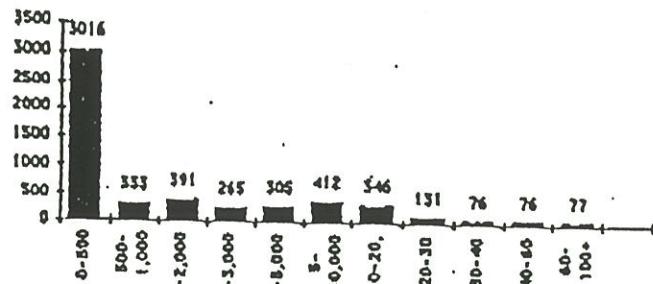
NUMBER OF LICENSES BY AREA AND POWER

HAZIBET

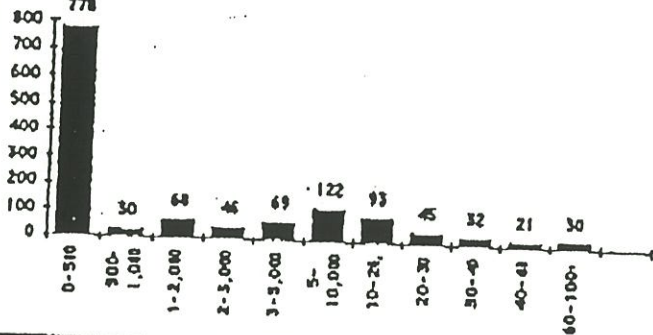
AREA 2C



AREA 3A

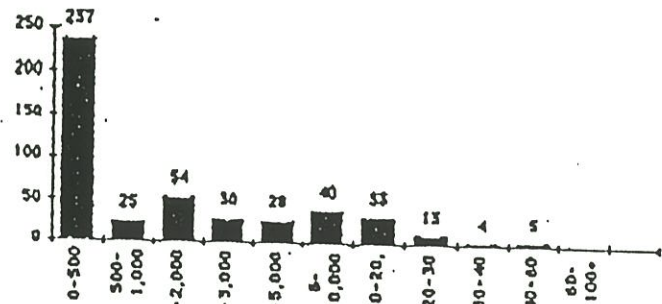


AREA 3B

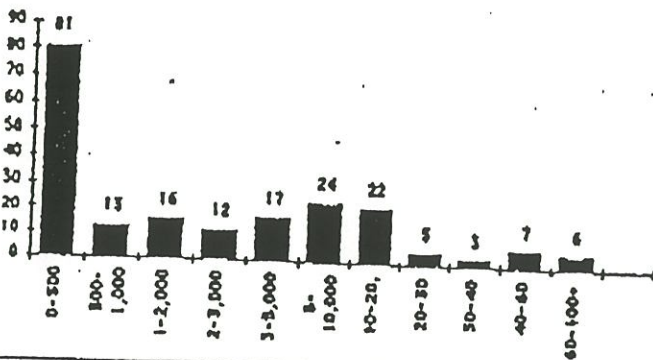


HAZIBET LICENSES BY POWER

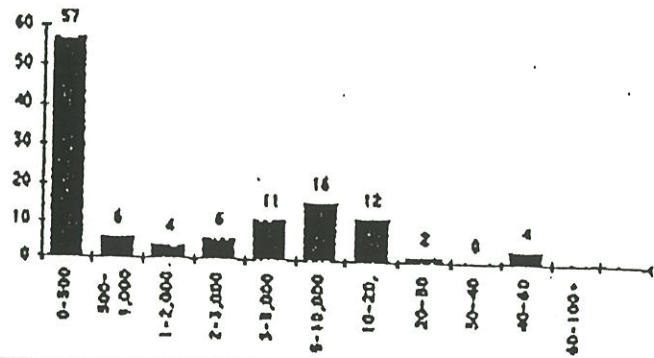
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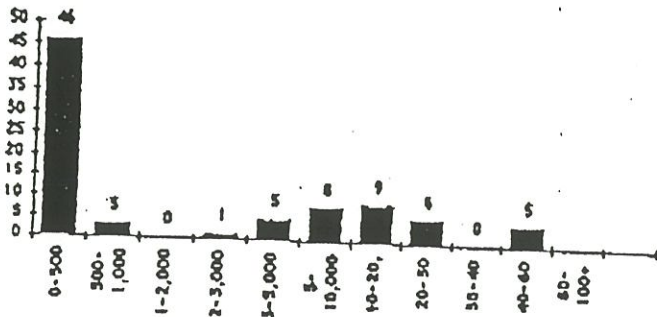
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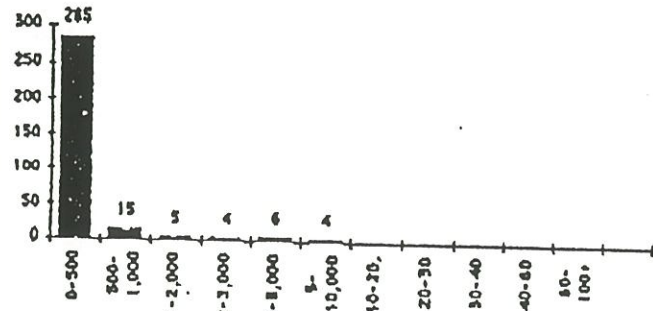
AREA 4C



AREA 4D



AREA 4E



The Case for IFQs

Prepared for Sitka Chamber of Commerce

by Dennis Hicks

There is an honest and sincere debate on the IFQ issue and as the controversy heats up, there is the inevitable questioning of motives.

Am I for IFQs only because having a long history in the fishery, I'll do well? Is Matt Donohoe against IFQs only because having crewed instead of outfitting his own boat he'll be left out? Are there gear store operators who are against IFQs because of the \$2-3 million dollars in lost gear each season?

I hope you can transcend these questions and concentrate on those concerns actually germane to the issue at hand.

1. Are there problems with longline fisheries?
2. Are there sufficient tools in the traditional management arsenal to address the problems?
3. Were options, other than IFQs, considered to address the problems?
4. Did the Council have enough information to reach a decision?
5. Are IFQs good or bad for Sitka and other coastal communities in Alaska?

History

November, 1978 - Council picks 12/31/78 as cut-off date for eligibility for halibut in the eventuality that limited access is imposed in succeeding two or three years.

February, 1982 - International Pacific Halibut Commission proposes a moratorium on new halibut entries.

March, 1982 - Council approves moratorium

June, 1983 - Moratorium disapproved by director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Late 1983 - Council contracts with Northwest Resource Analysis of Seattle to prepare a study of limited access options in the halibut fishery. The report concluded that an IFQ system held the most potential for resolution of the problems in the fishery.

September, 1985 - Council has 9/26/85 published in the Federal Register as the cut-off date past which participation in the sablefish fishery might not qualify a person for eligibility in a limited access program if one is adopted.

March, 1986 - Sablefish Management Committee recommends to Council that all groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea should be considered for alternative management, not just sablefish.

September, 1987 - Council adopts statement of commitment to develop license

limitation and IFQ management alternatives for sablefish.

February and March, 1988 - Council holds public workshops on limited access in Sitka, Kodiak, Homer, Seattle and Petersburg. The majority of participants in Sitka, Petersburg and Homer favored IFQs. The Seattle participants favored a license limitation system. The Kodiak group favored using traditional tools within the status quo.

December, 1988 - Council passes resolution by a vote of eight to three stating that the status quo is unacceptable for managing the longline fisheries.

January, 1989 - Council begins consideration of limited access for all fisheries under its jurisdiction.

Spring of 1989 - Council holds public scoping meetings in Sitka, Seattle, Kodiak, Dillingham and Anchorage on halibut and sablefish limited access.

November, 1989 - Council publishes analysis of sablefish management options (SEIS/RIR/IRFA).

By now Council has had limited access on its agenda at fifteen meetings: December 1985, March 1986, four meetings in 1987, all five meetings in 1988, and first four meetings in 1989. Public testimony was received at all meetings.

January, 1990 - Council determines that the license limitation option and the annual fishing allotment option are unacceptable in terms of adequately addressing the ten problems identified in the sablefish fishery.

April, 1990 - A final decision for sablefish limited access (IFQs) is scheduled for 6/90 with a target date of 1992.

January, 1991 - Council goes on record as considering a combined IFQ system for halibut and sablefish. Council directs staff to prepare an analysis comparing the status quo to four forms of an IFQ system.

April, 1991 - Council sets June meeting as final decision on sablefish and September meeting as final decision on halibut. If both plans are approved, they would be concurrent and would begin with the 1993 season.

July, 1991 - Council releases in-depth analysis of IFQs for halibut (EIS/RIR/IRFA).

September, 1991 - Council takes preliminary vote on IFQs for halibut and sablefish. Motion passes by vote of nine to two.

December, 1991 - Council takes final vote on IFQ proposal. IFQ plan passes seven to four.

Why IFQs?

In December of 1988 the Council passed a resolution stating the obvious fact that the status quo was unacceptable for managing the longline fisheries. Even though the staff listed twenty-seven different changes that could be made within the framework of traditional management, from gear restrictions and trip limits to safety classes and biodegradable gear, the Council could see that it wasn't enough.

They voted eight to three against traditional management. The Council considered several management plans and combinations of management plans. In January of 1990 they settled on two options as the best choices for managing the fisheries, the IFQ plan and a license limitation system similar to the state plan. After in-depth analysis by the staff, public testimony, expert testimony, and town meetings, the Council settled on the IFQ plan as the best solution. They felt that to make a license limitation plan work they would have to cut out too many people.

Has enough Analysis been done?

The Council's history of considering limited access goes back to 1978. The current work goes back to 1985. By the spring of 1989, almost three years ago, the council was holding public meetings in Sitka and other towns discussing limited access for halibut and sablefish. In the last four years, the Council staff has done a complete analysis of IFQs and other management systems, including using traditional tools within the status quo. The Council itself has had this question on its agenda at almost every meeting for four years. The main tool the people opposed to the program are using is to question whether enough study has been done. The work has been done. What needs to be done now is to get the program in place and let the Council manage the fisheries. This many-year consideration of the issue has bogged down management and pushed even more people into the overcrowded fisheries.

Are Adequate Safeguards in the IFQ Plan?

Many safeguards for the small fisherman, and for the coastal communities are written into the plan.

1. The catcher boat/freezer boat split. Quota shares allocated to boats that haven't frozen their catch must always be traded among boats that will not be allowed to freeze their catches. These fish will have to be sold unfrozen to a registered buyer.
2. Vessel size categories. For sablefish catcher boats there are two size categories: over 60' and under 60'. For halibut, there are three size categories: less than 35', 35'-60', and over 60'. Having these size categories will keep quota shares from going just to large vessels, as quota shares may not be sold outside the vessel size category they were originally issued to.
3. No leasing. People won't be able to lease out their catcher boat quota shares. This will keep the ownership and management of the shares in the fishing communities.
4. Ownership cap. There is a 1% ownership cap for sablefish in the gulf plus a separate 1% cap for Southeast. There is a .5% cap for halibut. Originally the Council was talking about a 3% cap.
5. Retention of bycatch. Rockfish will have to be retained, at least up to a bycatch percentage. This will cut down the wastage and since rockfish cannot be held on ice as long as halibut or sablefish can, boats will be more likely to sell locally.

Problems in the Longline Fisheries

The Council has identified ten problems in the fisheries. The staff analysis clearly shows that the IFQ plan addresses these problems better than any other approach.

1. Allocation conflicts
2. Gear conflict
3. Deadloss
4. Bycatch loss
5. Discard mortality
6. Excess harvesting capacity
7. Product wholesomeness
8. Safety
9. Economic stability in the fishery and communities
10. Rural coastal community development of a small boat fishery

Will the IFQ Plan Help Sitka?

When I started longlining twenty years ago, the halibut season was five-six months; now under present management it is two days. What will it be in ten years? Ten hours? Six hours with a 1500 lb. limit?

Sitka has a strong history in the longline fisheries. Almost every boat has become a combination boat. Under the IFQ plan, lots of quota shares will go to Sitka fishermen. Instead of one or two days for halibut and a week or so for sablefish, there will be a nine-month longline season. Boats will be coming and going. Crews will have safer, more stable jobs of longer duration. Cold storages will be busy more of the time. This past summer I fished one day of halibut and two short sablefish trips in Southeast and then I went to the other side of the gulf for the rest of the season. Instead of this, under an IFQ plan, I would choose to fish for several months out of Sitka, where I live. Many fishermen have indicated to me that they would do the same.

Conclusion

The Alaskan fishermen and the Alaskan coastal communities need the IFQ plan to stabilize the fisheries and to save the share of the fisheries that they have now. Southeast residents will receive over 85% of halibut shares in Area 2C (Southeast). Over 70% of total state-wide halibut shares will go to Alaskans. About 88% of all halibut quota share recipients will be Alaskans. As they stamp out factory longliners, as the fisheries off Washington, Oregon and California continue to deteriorate, and as more and more large Washington crabbers and trawlers switch to longlining, Alaskans' share of the fishery will decline dramatically without IFQs.