

E Staff Tasking
Vessel Use Cap
October 11, 2022

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

Action is needed to provide continued flexibility to IFQ participants in IPHC Area 4 while the Council analyzes options for a long-term adjustment to the vessel use caps initiated in June 2022. In recent years, utilization of halibut quota in Area 4 has declined and conditions including limited local markets, increases in operating costs, and reductions from historical TACs have all contributed to fewer vessels participating in the Area 4 fisheries.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Remove vessel cap limitations specified at 50 CFR Section 679.42(h)(1) for IFQ halibut harvested in Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D through the 2027 fishing season. If the Council decides to take subsequent action to permanently modify vessel cap limits in area 4, such action will supersede if taken before 2027.