



D2 IFQ Access Opportunities

April 2021 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anna Henry

Action Required:

1. Review expanded discussion paper
2. Review IFQ Committee minutes
3. Determine whether further action is warranted

BACKGROUND

At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Council requested this expanded discussion paper on an IFQ access pool of halibut and sablefish quota share that would facilitate entry level opportunities for crew and owner-operators. This discussion paper outlines potential ways an access pool could function, eligibility breakdown of current QS holders, and identifies outstanding program design questions that need to be specified if moving forward with this action. As proposed, this access pool would target entry level fishermen, defined as those owning less than 5,000 pounds of combined QS in 2019 values (QS:IFQ ratio). Participation in the access pool would be temporary, access pool QS units could not be sold, and fishing of the annual IFQ would be subject to observer and cost recovery fees. The QS in the access pool would be sourced from either: (1) newly created QS units equal to 1% of 2019 QS for halibut and sablefish in all IFQ areas, or (2) a deduction of 0.5% or 1% on all QS transfers. An entity such as a Regional Fishery Association or other existing or newly formed regional association would receive and distribute the access pool allocation based on criteria established by the entity and approved by the Council.

The Council requested this expanded discussion paper after reviewing the first discussion paper on IFQ Access Opportunities, that reviewed Norway's Recruitment Quota and similar global examples of programs that facilitate access opportunities for rural community residents and new entrants within limited access fisheries. That discussion paper provided a brief background on the tradeoffs of limiting access in fisheries, existing provisions in the IFQ Program designed to facilitate access to specific users, and the IFQ access challenges that have been highlighted in the 20-year review of IFQ program and related public testimony. That discussion paper also summarized programs designed to facilitate access in other countries and elsewhere in the United States, noting specifically the target populations for which these programs are designed to promote fisheries access and the mechanisms used to improve access opportunities.