

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANGEMENT COUNCIL
C7 Area 4 IFQ Leasing: Council motion
October 9, 2016

The Council expands the suite of options for the proposed action to lease halibut IFQ to CDQ groups in low abundance years as follows. These revisions should be incorporated into another initial review draft analysis at a future meeting.

Changes from the December 2015 motion are indicated (deletions are ~~struck out~~ and additions are underlined) and the Council's preliminary preferred alternative is shown in **bold**.

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Allow CDQ groups to lease halibut IFQ in Areas 4B, 4C and 4D in years of low halibut catch limits in regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE. Any IFQ transferred to a CDQ group under this provision would be added to their available halibut CDQ, intended for use by residents with a halibut CDQ permit and a CDQ hired master permit. No vessel over 51 feet LOA would be eligible to harvest the leased IFQ and vessels would have to comply with IFQ use restrictions. (Options below are not mutually exclusive.)

Option 1. Defining 'low catch limits' for the purpose of allowing leases. Designation of low catch limits is independently determined for Areas 4B and 4CDE. The threshold for designating a year of low halibut catch limit in each area is less than (separate sub-options may be selected for Area 4B and Area 4CDE):

Sub-option 1. 1 million pounds (Area 4B)

Sub-option 2. 1.3 million pounds

Sub-option 3. 1.5 million pounds (Area 4CDE)

~~Option 2. IFQ class designations do not apply when the IFQ is being leased by a CDQ group.~~

Option 3. Leased Area 4D IFQ may be fished in Area 4E.

Option 4. Any Area 4B, 4C, or 4D catcher vessel QS transferred after December 14, 2015 may not be leased as IFQ to CDQ groups under this action for a period of:

Sub-option 1. 3 years

Sub-option 2. 4 years

Sub-option 3. 5 years

Option 5. No individual halibut QS holder may lease halibut IFQ to any CDQ group, on a consecutive basis, for more than:

Sub-option 1. 2 years

Sub-option 2. 3 years

Sub-option 3. 4 years

Option 6. Limit the ability to lease Area 4B halibut IFQ to CDQ groups under this action to QS holders that own less than:

Sub-option 1. 2,000 pounds

Sub-option 2. 5,000 pounds

Sub-option 3. 7,500 pounds

The Council requests that the analysis address the SSC recommendations to the extent practicable as well as provide further analysis of the potential impacts on the pool of quota holders who are currently fishing on vessels they do not own in Areas 4B and Areas 4C/4D, and on the walk-on businesses that support these quota holders.