


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: May 28, 2006
SUBJECT: Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final Action on IFQ Omnibus V amendments

BACKGROUND

The Council is scheduled to take final action on four proposed amendments to the commercial halibut and sablefish IFQ Program. The analysis has been revised in response to the Council's comments made during its initial review in December 2005. Proposed actions in Omnibus V would allow: (1) non-IFQ species to be frozen onboard while directed fishing for halibut and sablefish; (2) use of pot longline gear in the Bering Sea sablefish fishery during June; (3) withdrawal of halibut and sablefish QS from initial recipients who have never fished any of those shares across all regulatory areas, with an option to allow a lottery for awarding withdrawn halibut QS to qualified crewmen; and (4) temporary transfer of IFQs held by activated reservists. Plan and regulatory amendments to the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs would be needed for Action 1 and regulatory amendments would be needed for Actions 2, 3, and 4. The analysis was distributed to the Council on May 16, 2006. The list of alternatives is attached as Item C-2.

IFQ Omnibus V proposed amendments**Action 1. Use of catcher vessel QS**

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. Allow processing of non-IFQ species on a vessel that is otherwise authorized to process non-IFQ species when any amount of IFQ halibut resulting from quota share assigned to vessel categories B, C, or D are held by fishermen on board a vessel in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands.

Action 2. Sablefish pots

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. Allow use of longline pot gear in the Bering Sea IFQ and CDQ sablefish fisheries during June

Action 3. Inactive IFQ permits

Alternative 1. No action

Alternative 2. All withdrawn QS will be removed from the QS pool.

Alternative 3. All withdrawn halibut QS will be redistributed through a lottery if the amount of withdrawn QS is more than the number of QS units equivalent to 50,000 lb for all IPHC regulatory areas in the year of the lottery, as follows:

1. Lotteries would allocate 5,000 lb per recipient; the final recipient would receive the remaining QS units; QS will be awarded to a single lottery recipient if the amount of QS is less than 5,000 lb in an area.
2. QS retains species and management area designations.
3. All lottery QS would be reissued as blocked, "B" Category.
4. Applicants are limited to applying for QS for one area.
5. Entry level crewmen would be required to provide an affidavit stating that they have the ability and intent to harvest the lottery QS for which they applied and who NMFS can verify that they:
 - have a transfer eligibility certificate to hold QS
 - were not an initial recipient of halibut or sablefish QS
 - do not own QS units equivalent to more than 5000 lb in the year of the lottery
6. Lottery QS recipients will be considered second generation QS holders.
7. Lottery QS must be fished within the first full season after issuance, or it would be withdrawn from the QS pool.
8. Before transfer, lottery QS recipients must fish their QS twice (two seasons).

Action 4. Military exemption for mobilized reservists and guardsmen

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Allow mobilized reservists and guardsmen to temporarily transfer IFQs for the duration of their deployment.

May 29,2006

To: NPFMC

RE: C-6 Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program
Item 2 Use of longline pots in the IFQ and CDQ Bering Sea sablefish fishery

RECEIVED
MAY 31 2006

N.P.F.M.C.

Council members,

For the last four years I have been longlining pots in the Bering Sea for sablefish on the Cascade Mariner.

There have been no gear conflicts with hook and line vessels. We can be contacted by VHF at any time to coordinate with longline and pot vessels to avoid gear conflicts.

Longlining with pots is very effective at catching sablefish in the Bering Sea and there is no fish lost due to whale predation.

We fish outside the three mile limit and are in Federal waters.

There are more than enough fishing grounds for all to catch their fish without gear conflicts.

We see no valid reason for being denied to longline pots for sablefish in the Bering Sea during June. After all the season remains open for everyone else.

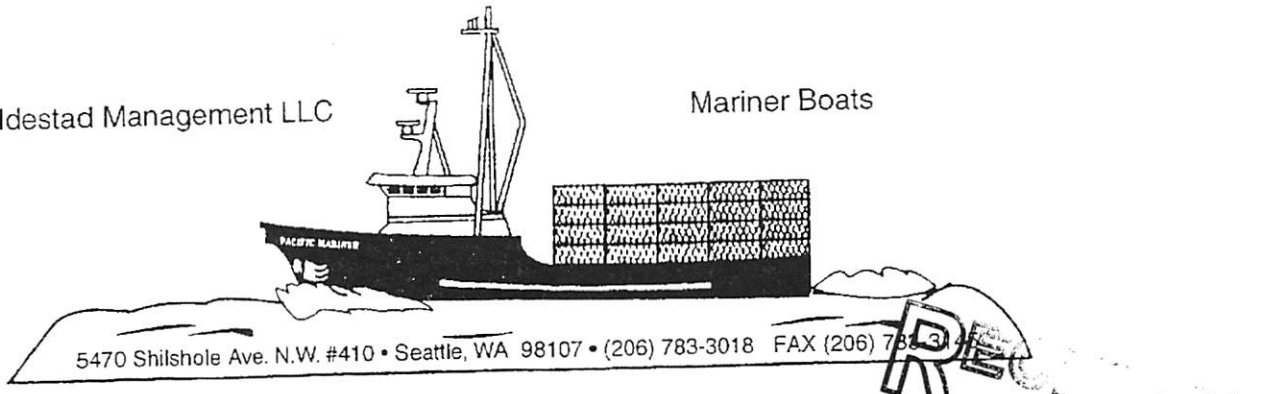
Ronald R Brill

Ronald R. Brill

Captain/Cascade Mariner

Kaldestad Management LLC

Mariner Boats



5470 Shilshole Ave. N.W. #410 • Seattle, WA 98107 • (206) 783-3018 FAX (206) 783-3018

Date: May 29, 2006

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2006
N.P.F.M.C.

Re: C-6 Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program
Item 2: Use of longline pots in the IFQ and CDQ Bering Sea sablefish fishery

Dear Council Members,

Cascade Mariner LLC operates the F/V Cascade Mariner, which has fished IFQ and CDQ sablefish in the Bering Sea with longline pots since 2003.

We request the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to adopt alternative number 2 on Action Item 2, C-6 Agenda Item which would allow for the use of longline pots in the month of June in the Bering Sea.

Currently, the prohibition on the use of longline pots forces our vessel and others, which use longline pot gear, to cease fishing in June. The prohibition interrupts the pot sablefish fishery, which causes increased financial costs on vessels and crews. These include extra fuel and bait for the unbaiting and redeployment of the gear and crew airfare for the lay up period in June.

Vessel operators lose track of productive fishing areas, which decreases efficiency, adds to costs and increases time needed to harvest quota.

There is little gear conflict with other gear types. Any potential conflicts have been and can continue to be resolved by communication and cooperation among vessel operators.

The lifting of this restriction has no detrimental effects on any other gear groups and would aid pot fishers in harvesting their quota.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Kaldestad
Cascade Mariner LLC

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 70 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 Telephone 907.424.3447 Fax 907.424.3430

May 30, 2006

Stephanie Madsen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W 4th Avenue, Suite 306

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2006
N.P.F.M.C.

Final action on IFQ Omnibus V amendments

Dear Madarne Chair and members of the Council,

The Groundfish Division of Cordova District Fishermen United supports the following alternatives under the IFQ Omnibus V amendments:

Action 1. Alternative 2. Allow processing of non-IFQ species on a fishing vessel when IFQ halibut resulting from quota shares assigned to vessel categories B, C, or D are on the board the vessel in the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands.

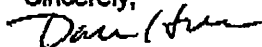
Action 2. Alternative 2. Allow use of longline pot gear in the Bering Sea IFQ sablefish fishery during June.

Action 3. Alternative 2. Remove all unused QS held by completely inactive initial recipients from the QS Pool (i.e., not 1 QS unit in any regulatory area has been harvested or transferred by IFQ permit holder for either species.)

Action 4. Alternative 2. Allow activated National Guardsmen to temporarily transfer IFQs for the duration of their deployment.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,



Dan Hull, Chairman
CDFU Groundfish Division

Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item C-6 Halibut/Sablefish

IFQ
PROGRAM

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Linda Kozak	Alaskan leader Fisheries
2	JACK KNUTSEN	F.V.O.A.
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

Madame Chairman,
The F.V.O.A. supports
Action 3, Alternative 3.

It is an issue of fairness
to those crewman who
never recieved IFQ's,
it doesn't amount to
much, but it would help
them.

Thank you,
Jack Amutser