

**Status of analytical projects related to the Halibut & Sablefish IFQ Program**  
*Updated April 2019*

Name	Description	Status / Target Date
<b>Projects in Council Review</b> (Council has tasked staff and scheduled review at a future meeting)		
IFQ “Fish Up” for CQEs in Halibut Area 3A	The Council will consider alternatives to allow CQEs located within Area 3A to fish D-class halibut IFQ on larger C-class vessels (less than or equal to 60’ LOA) in Area 3A. This opportunity would apply either (a) after a certain date late in the season (August 15 or September 1), (b) for the duration of the season, or (c) for a certain number of years. These options could also be combined. The purpose would be to provide a fallback mechanism for CQEs to avoid revenue loss in cases of unforeseen vessel breakdown or adverse weather conditions.	Public Review <b>June 2019</b>
Global Examples of IFQ Access Programs	Review existing programs that facilitate access to IFQ-type fisheries for rural communities and new entrants. Consider those programs’ successes and failures in their own context, and how they may or may not function in the North Pacific management framework.	Discussion Paper <b>June 2019</b>
Use of Hired Master Provision	Given the increasing use of hired masters in the IFQ fishery, assemble data on hired master use and describe business arrangements between vessel owners, QS holders, and crew to the extent possible. The Council is scoping for potential modifications to hired master regulations that would promote the original program objected of an owner/operator fleet.	Discussion Paper <b>December 2019 (Tentative)</b>
GOA Sablefish Longline Pot Fishery 3-Year Review	The Council requested a review paper on the functioning of the GOA sablefish longline pot gear fishery to be conducted after three years of implementation. The fishery was implemented for the 2017 fishing year, so the review will cover 2017 through 2019. Staff will include – but is not limited to – information about participation, catch, bycatch, observer coverage, gear loss, and gear conflict. Economic performance data will be included for the 2017 through 2019 fishing years based on what is available at the time the review is scheduled. Staff will also consider any available information that relates to the Council’s policy objectives, including mitigation of whale depredation, safety at sea, and cooperation among fishermen to avoid gear conflict.	Fishery Review <b>June 2020 (Tentative)</b>

Name	Description
<b><i>Projects not yet scheduled (**order does not reflect priority**)</i></b>	
<b>Discussion Paper:</b> QS Transfer Mechanisms	Explore regulatory and non-regulatory options that promote willing transfers of QS from initial QS recipients to hired masters and crew, including but not limited to the Right of First Offer concept used in crab cooperatives. Also scope potential for changes to the Federal loan program that would increase use by individuals looking to purchase QS.
<b>Expanded Discussion Paper:</b> Small Sablefish Discards	Continued exploration of issues related to creating an allowance for sablefish discarding in the IFQ longline and pot fisheries. Although initially brought up as a response to the 2014 year-class, stakeholders now see this as a tool they would like to have indefinitely. Topics to be addressed in the paper include mandatory vs. optional release, varying minimum size limits by area, accounting for discards within ABC and TAC, specific options for proxy discard mortality rates (DMR), DMR variability by gear, discard estimation methods, the associated monitoring and enforcement concerns, and impacts of discarding on sablefish abundance and how that affects allocations to IFQ and trawl sectors.