



## **D5 IFQ Access Opportunities**

June 2019 Council Meeting

### **Action Memo**

Staff: Anna Henry, Sarah Marrinan, Sam Cunningham

Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper  
2. Determine whether further action is warranted

### **BACKGROUND**

At the June 2018 Council meeting, the Council received a presentation of a research report titled “Turning the Tide: How can Alaska address the ‘graying of the fleet’ and loss of rural fisheries access.”<sup>1</sup> In response to this report, information from the IFQ program review and public testimony regarding access challenges in the IFQ Program, the Council requested a discussion paper to review 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 and how these programs may apply to the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program. This discussion paper first provides 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 previously been highlighted. Next the discussion paper summarizes 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. Focusing on Norway’s Recruitment Quota, this paper considers the functionality, benefits and challenges of such a program within the North Pacific management framework including a preliminary assessment of legal requirements that would need to be addressed.

Should the Council move forward with this action it is important to identify the specific objective of an access program including target population and mechanism(s) for increasing access opportunities and to define how an access program would be considered successful.

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<sup>1</sup> Cullenberg, P., Donkersloot, R., Carothers, C., Coleman, J., and Ringer, D. 2017. Turning the Tide: How can Alaska address the ‘graying of the fleet’ and loss of rural fisheries access? <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/pubs/M-215.html>, presented at the June 2018 Council meeting by Dr. Courtney Carothers and Dr. Rachel Donkersloot.