



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**HAL 15-031

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**Agenda Date**12/7/2015

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**

Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program Review - Review Outline

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sarah Marrinan

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Review outline for IFQ Program review and comment appropriate

**BACKGROUND:**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Council and NMFS to review all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) that have been approved by the Secretary of Commerce, including those programs approved prior to the enactment of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2007. The halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program was implemented in 1995, prior to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It has not been subject to the mandatory review process of LAPPs under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This document describes the proposed scope of the IFQ program review. The objective of this document is to serve as a starting point for a discussion of what should be included in the review. In the 20 years since implementation of the IFQ program, this will be the first formal and comprehensive review of the program.

While the review of the program does not have a check-list of required elements that must be included, there are a number of authoritative sources and guidance documents that can assist in defining the policy scope for evaluation. The document looks to the goals of a LAPP under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Catch Share Policy document, and other program reviews previously conducted and currently underway. Additionally, this document draws focus from the Council's ten original policy objectives for the IFQ program. With this guidance, agency and Council staff proposes an annotated table of contents outlining specific sections to cover in a review. The intention for the review is to evaluate the impacts of the program with respect to the Council's ten stated policy objectives. Specifically, the review will use quantitative and qualitative analyses to focus on the present status of the fisheries in relation to the ten objectives and to changes since the implementation of the program.

The Council and its advisory bodies may wish to provide additional guidance on the outline in order to meet the current needs of the program, its participants, as well as stakeholders and communities affected by the program. Once the policy scope is determined, this framework will be presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for discussion on the methodological approach to program evaluation at a Council meeting in the near future.