

C-5 CQE Halibut/Sablefish Block Restrictions

The Council moves the following modified Purpose and Need statement and Alternative 2, Option 1 as its preferred alternative.

Responsive to National Standard 8, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program to encourage sustained participation in the Halibut and Sablefish Quota Share Program by residents of smaller Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent communities. CQEs were prohibited from purchasing smaller "sweep up" blocks of quota shares because of concerns that CQE quota purchases could negatively impact quota share price and availability. Concerns about CQE purchase and market impacts on price and availability have not been realized and participation by CQEs in the marketplace has been limited. The purpose of lifting block restriction for "B" and "C" class quota is to incrementally allow more CQE access to QS and thereby facilitate for the sustained participation by CQE community residents in the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program. The need for this amendment is to further address the problem of continued decline in the number of halibut and sablefish IFQ holders in small GOA fishery dependent coastal communities and to incrementally provide for better access for these fishermen through their local CQE to halibut and sablefish resources.

Alternative 2

Option 1 Allow CQE communities to purchase any size block of halibut and sablefish quota share.