

Council Motion
D2 IFQ Committee Report
June 13, 2022

The council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

In recent years, utilization of halibut quota in Area 4 has declined and conditions including lack of processing capacity, COVID-19 concerns in communities with limited medical infrastructure, increased killer whale predation, increases in operating costs, and reductions from historical TACs have all contributed to fewer vessels participating in the Area 4 fisheries. The council is considering adjusting the vessel cap for Area 4 halibut to recognize these conditions and increase utilization of quota in the region.

Alternative 1: Status Quo

Alternative 2: Create a halibut vessel cap for Area 4 of:

Option 1: 4, 5, or 6% of the Area 4 halibut TAC

Option 2: 150% of the coastwide halibut vessel cap

Sub-options: (Can apply to either option)

1. Specify that halibut IFQ held by an Area 4B CQE does not accrue towards the Area 4 vessel cap.
2. This action will be reviewed (a. three or b. five) years after implementation or this action will be included in the next halibut/sablefish IFQ Program Review

The council requests NMFS evaluate options for extending the temporary rule to waive vessel use caps in Area 4 while the Council considers permanent changes to this provision.