

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
October 3-7, 2023 - Anchorage, AK

D3 IFQ Program Review

The AP recommends that the IFQ program review be expanded to include a Social Impact Assessment.

[1] Further, the AP recommends the SIA specifically cover the information requested in written public comments from Sealaska under this agenda item.

[2] Address the following regulatory changes and their impacts to the IFQ Program:

- **Inclusion of the IFQ directed halibut fishery into the restructured partial coverage observer program in 2013**
- **Full retention requirement of all species of rockfish for fixed gear catcher vessels**
- **Use of streamer lines for birds**

[2] Incorporate a Bycatch section in the annotated outline that includes:

- **Trends of halibut bycatch (including halibut mortality in the directed fishery and halibut bycatch in the sablefish fishery)**
- **Fleet compliance with rockfish retention regulations by gear type (longline and pot gear)**
- **Interaction of longline gear with seabirds and effectiveness of streamlines**

Amendment 1 passed 15-0

Amendment 2 passed 15-0

Main Motion as amended passed 15-0

Rational in Favor of Amended Main Motion:

- *The AP heard in both written and public comment that there has yet to be substantive discussion of the impacts of the IFQ program on entry level opportunities, underserved communities, and the ability of residents of fishery dependent communities to reestablish participation in these fisheries.*
- *Rural communities, especially indigenous communities, have continued to see an outmigration of IFQ, for some up to 100%. "All told, between 1996-2015, villages along the Gulf coastline lost an aggregate of 54% in IFQ fisheries' earnings." Loss of access to the sablefish and halibut fishery due to low initial QS allocation or inability to buy IFQ has had serious impacts on the social and cultural health of these communities.*
- *There were concerns expressed that this review will be outsourced and prepared by an economics firm rather than Council staff who have access to a broader lens to include social scientists experienced in assessing the social and cultural impacts of this program.*

Advisory Panel

D3 Motion

October 2023

- *Under the new NOAA Environmental Economic Justice Strategy, NOAA is obligated to “assess impacts of management decisions” in a manner which “prioritizes the social, cultural and economic research and monitoring needed” to determine how its actions affect underserved communities. The current work plan for the IFQ Review did not include this information.*
- *Many aspects of the IFQ review should be displayed on a community level rather than designating effects by rural and non-rural. Some examples of community level breakdown could include:*
 - *Initial allocations and ownership*
 - *Amount of allocation and ownership*
 - *Pre IFQ participation*
 - *Processor impacts*

Rational in Favor of Amendment 1:

- *During public comment and AP deliberation, Council Staff made the suggestion to be specific in the information that should be addressed in the SIA.*
- *The comment letter and public comments from Sealaska, as well as other public comments reflected specific points of concern regarding the social and cultural health of the rural GOA villages and the AP felt that their concerns were best met through their specific outline of analysis provided in their written comment.*

Rational in Favor of Amendment2:

- *There were specific regulatory changes not mentioned in the IFQ Review Work Plan presentation including: inclusion of the IFQ directed halibut fishery into the restructured partial coverage observer program in 2013, full retention requirement of all species of rockfish for fixed gear catcher vessels, and use of streamer lines for seabird avoidance. Describing the impacts of these regulatory changes on the IFQ program should provide better data and information in other Council tasks, including cost efficiencies in the partial coverage ADP and impacts of breaking out demersal shelf rockfish from other rockfish in the C/WGOA and W Yakutat regions.*
- *Addressing bycatch is a significant public concern at this time and it is important to address bycatch in the work plan to demonstrate transparency in the Council process and show statistical changes through time in the IFQ program bycatch data.*