

Council Motion

D-3 Charter Halibut Recreational Quota Entity Funding Mechanism

April 13, 2021

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for initial review.

Purpose and Need

In 2016 the Council took final action to create a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE), as a market-based solution to an ongoing allocation conflict between charter halibut guides and commercial halibut longline fishermen. This market-based solution authorizes commercial halibut quota share transfers between the RQE and a willing seller. Although the regulations to authorize formation of an RQE were implemented, the Council lacked the authority to regulate the funding mechanism for the RQE. Legislation has been proposed by the U.S. Congress, to grant the Council and NMFS the authority to develop and implement a fee collection mechanism for charter vessel operators that could be used by the RQE to fund administrative costs and purchase of halibut quota share as specified in the RQE program.

In anticipation of the potential enactment of this legislation, the Council would begin the analytical process to explore the administrative requirements necessary to implement a fee collection program for charter vessel operators.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action (Status quo).

Alternative 2: Establish a fee collection program for Charter Vessel Operators to fund the recreational Quota Entity

Describe the potential methods to collect a fee from charter vessel operators (e.g., halibut stamps) and mechanisms to subsequently distribute those funds to the RQE. Analysts should explore the range of potential fee collection methods currently used for North Pacific fisheries, including State of Alaska fisheries, and similar programs and provide information on likely administrative costs for collection and disbursement to the RQE.