



D6 IFQ Eligibility Criteria

April 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Anna Henry

Action Required:

1. Review Discussion paper
2. Review IFQ committee minutes
3. Determine whether further action is warranted

BACKGROUND

At the February 2018 meeting the Council tasked staff to develop a discussion paper that considers replacing the existing Transfer Eligibility Certificate to hold halibut and sablefish quota share, with an eligibility requirement that applies to both prospective and existing quota shareholders and which is based on *recent* participation in any U.S. commercial fishery. The Council is considering this issue after receiving public testimony and information in the 20-year IFQ Program Review which identifies arrangements that do not reflect the original program objective of maintaining an owner-operated fleet. The Council is interested in considering potential sea day recency requirements of 30, 60 or 90 days over a fixed three or five-year period (not a rolling number of years).

This discussion paper outlines outstanding questions regarding how a recent sea day requirement would function, unique harvesting situations for which applying the proposed eligibility requirement may not be straightforward, and data limitations regarding tracking an individual's participation across all commercial fisheries. Given limited existing data, the paper describes potential distributions of impacts on IFQ participants and prospective quota shareholders based on the specifics of their operations and business models.