
IFQ COMMITTEE STAFF PRESENTATIONS

MAY 26, 2022



EMERGENCY RULE REQUESTS

- IFQ Temporary Transfers for 2022
 - Allow temporary transfer of CV halibut and sablefish IFQ for the 2022 season
 - Status: **DENIED**, March 20, 2022 (see [letter from NOAA Fisheries](#))
- Halibut Vessel Use Caps in Area 4 for 2022
 - Remove vessel use cap for IFQ halibut harvested in IPHC Areas 4ABCD for the 2022 season
 - Status: **PENDING**
 - [Proposed Rule](#) published April 19, 2022

[*NMFS Updates and FAQ Webpage*](#)



IFQ OMNIBUS

Final Action taken at April 2022 meeting

Council adopted Alternative 2 and 3 for the IFQ Omnibus action

Alternative 2 would revise IFQ program regulations for:

- Pot gear configurations (Element 1 and 4)
- Gear marking requirements (Element 2)
- Gear retrieval and tending requirements (Element 5)
- Pot limits (Element 6)
- Jig gear for the harvest of sablefish (Element 3)

Alternative 3 would revise the Adak CQE residency requirement for a period of 5 years

NMFS would clarify DFL regulations for vessels less than 60' LOA using more than one gear type

Tentative implementation planning

- Fall 2022: proposed rule
- Spring 2023: final rule



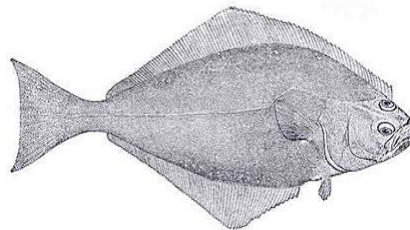
RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY & CATCH SHARING PLAN

Halibut Catch Sharing Plan Allocation Review

- Council motion February 2022: To review and potentially revise the existing halibut allocations in Areas 2C and 3A
- Council's preferred mechanism is compensated allocation using the RQE (see below)

Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) Funding Mechanism

- Council motion April 2022: NMFS shall develop regulations to require a Charter Halibut Stamp; the proceeds used to fund the RQE
- Authorization for the fee collection is necessary by Congressional legislation



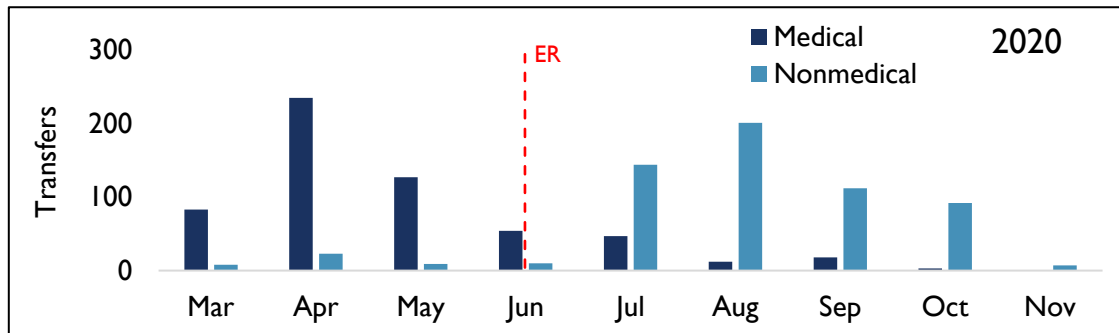
MEDICAL TRANSFER LIMIT WAIVER: 2020-2022

- **Medical Transfer Provision**

- Allows IFQ transfer when a medical conditions prevents participation
- Limitation: not allowed if used in any 3 of the past 7 calendar years

- **2020-2021**: high rate of medical transfers during COVID-19

- Emergency rules authorized widespread use of temporary transfers



- **April 2022 Council Meeting**: NMFS informed Council of intent to analyze benefits and costs of waving medical transfers approved in 2020 and 2021

- Today: Seeking input from IFQ Committee and Council on draft analysis



MEDICAL TRANSFER LIMIT WAIVER: ANALYSIS

- **Alternative 1:** No action
- **Alternative 2:** Waive medical transfers in the following years:
 - **Option 1:** 2020 (326 participants)
 - **Option 2:** 2021 (67 participants)
 - **Option 3:** 2022 (unknown)
 - 351 participants used in *either* 2020, 2021
 - 42 participants used in *both* 2020, 2021
 - If used a 3rd time in 2022, will be unable to use in 2023

		Year									
		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Prior Years Identical Permits Used	2021	67									
	2020	42	326								
	2019	19	125	187							
	2018	15	83	112	164						
	2017	12	55	71	84	118					
	2016	9	37	47	53	68	112				
	2015	9	27	34	37	42	59	78			
	2014	7	21	25	26	27	34	39	58		
	2013	4	12	15	16	16	18	20	22	39	
	2012	4	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	17	36



MEDICAL TRANSFER LIMIT WAIVERS

- **NMFS Recommendation:** Options 1 (2020), 2 (2021), and 3 (2022)
 - Would benefit at least 351 total individuals
 - Most benefit to at least 42 individuals
- Proposed under section 305(d) of Magnuson-Stevens Act
 - Authorizes Secretary to develop regulations necessary to implement FMPs
- Not necessary for the Council to make a recommendation for this action to move forward, but feedback is welcome, and the Council may request the review of a later draft of the analysis or draft regulations
 - If no further review requested, questions and concerns from the Council and/or public would be addressed in a draft proposed rule



AREA 4 HALIBUT VESSEL USE CAPS

- Similar to 2022 Emergency Rule request (pending); removes annual uncertainty and burden to meet emergency criteria
- Written comment and testimony in April 2022
- There are 2 vessel cap regs. relevant to Area 4
 - 0.5% of coastwide Alaska catch limit
 - 50,000 lbs. limit for vessels harvesting CQE IFQ
- Vessel cap applies across all areas, so impact of rising or falling cap level varies by area (e.g. catch limit in a specific area relative to coastwide, #vessels available, logistics of harvesting)
- #Vessels is down in 2020-21; Could be temporary flex. measures and/or COVID logistics
- Proposal:
 - Cap based on Area 4 catch limits
 - In consideration of harvesting and processing capacity
 - Periodic reevaluation of fleet capacity, processor availability, and catch limits
 - Proposal changed from 4CD → 4ABCD



AREA 4 HALIBUT VESSEL USE CAPS

- Themes from April public testimony
 - Unharvested halibut CDQ affecting communities
 - Uncertain local processing; high operating costs → no small-scale options
 - Remoteness → combined-area trips are necessary
 - Lower availability of vessels & crew
 - Also affects availability of CDQ harvest partners
 - Area 4 has a different landscape in terms of new entrants seeking opportunity
- **IFQ Committee...**
 - Can recommend whether the Council should initiate action for a reg. change
 - Consider how this could apply to vessels fishing in AND out of Area 4
 - Is not confined to the stakeholder proposal as presented in April (e.g. in terms of areas where the vessel cap would change)



IFQ TASK LIST

List was largely cleaned up by IFQ Omnibus and April 2021 motion to remove 2 items from to-do/not-yet-scheduled list

Current list:

- 2 items past Final Action; 2 emergency rules (coming off the list)
- Halibut CSP Revised Allocations: on hold pending RQE legislation
- Small Sablefish Release: March 2021 IFQ Cmte categorized as high priority but complex/controversial; Council has not scheduled Initial Review

Items automatically going on list or that don't need to be on list:

- IFQ Program Review (2023)
- Medical transfer limit waiver RE: COVID years
- Pot gear regulation consistency (NMFS discussion paper)

Candidates for list:

- Area 4 vessel use caps
- Sablefish B&C shares – processing onboard
- Other?

