

D1 Council Motion – GAF Leasing and RQE Transfer Provisions
October 10, 2026

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need:

Since Council final action on Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) program in 2016, International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) allocations in Area 2C and other areas have declined. As conditions have led to more restrictive management measures, the use of Guided Angler Fish (GAF) has increased with GAF transfers in Area 2C currently approaching 10%.

Regulations limit the leasing of GAF in Area 2C such that the sum of IFQ halibut equivalent pounds transferred as IFQ to GAF and the pounds of Recreational Fishing Quota (RFQ) issued to the RQE during a calendar year may not exceed 10% of the total quota share pool in Area 2C. Therefore current regulations will phase out the opportunity to lease GAF as the RQE purchases quota. Harvest measures under a fully funded RQE may not be sufficient to stabilize charter businesses or to meet angler demand. Based on charter business' increased reliance on GAF leasing there may be a need to maintain GAF access for a limited period of time.

The Council is considering whether to allow the RQE to purchase more quota in a year than the annual transfer restrictions of 1% (Area 2C) and 1.2% (Area 3A) specified in regulation. This would reduce the time needed for the RQE to reach its total transfer limits and more immediately provide less restrictive management measures. It is expected that RQE stamp purchases will provide enough funding to provide less restrictive measures if additional annual transfers are permitted.

Alternatives 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive.

Alternative 1: Status Quo

Alternative 2: Decouple the cumulative limit on the transfer of IFQ to GAF and the pounds of RFQ issued to the RQE in Area 2C. The limit on RFQ issued to the RQE would remain in place at 10% of the Area 2C QS pool.

Element 1: Limit on total annual IFQ transfer to GAF (% of the Area 2C QS pool)

- Option 1) 5%
- Option 2) 10%

Element 2: Sunset provision. The cumulative limit of 10% on the transfer of IFQ to GAF and pounds of RFQ would be reimplemented after:

- Option 1) 5 years
- Option 2) 10 years

Alternative 3: Revise the RQE transfer provisions such that the annual QS transfer limit to the RQE would be:

- Option 1) 2% in IPHC Area 2C
- Option 2) 2.4% in IPHC Area 3A