

D5 Council Motion
IFQ Program Review
December 10, 2024

The Council accepts the IFQ Program review, after revisions recommended by the IFQ committee and AP, or Council discussion, as practicable. The Council recommends addition of a suggestion in Section 3.5, as follows: Examine the economic and management effects of the current IPHC minimum size regulation on participants in the IFQ program.

The Council requests a discussion paper to consider the following changes to the IFQ Program:

1. Explore options to allow the automation of in-season transfers of CQE-held quota share between eligible residents.
2. Potential changes to the criteria to be eligible to receive QS or IFQ by transfer (Transfer Eligibility Certificate):
 - a. Waive or reduce the transfer eligibility requirements for CQE eligible community residents fishing CQE-held quota share.
 - b. Allow time as crew on a tender vessel operating in support of a commercial fishery managed by the State of Alaska or in a Federal commercial fishery in the EEZ off Alaska to count towards the 150 days of sea time required for a Transfer Eligibility Certificate.
 - c. Establish a regulatory minimum age to be eligible to receive IFQ or QS by transfer. Discuss administrative and legal considerations of establishing a minimum age less than the interim policy of 18 years old (e.g. 16 years old).

The paper should also include information on the amount of QS held by beneficiaries beyond the 3-year period during which the NMFS Regional Administrator will approve an application for transfer of IFQ. This would allow the Council to assess the scope of retention of QS by beneficiaries who do not have a Transfer Eligibility Certificate and whether changing the survivorship transfer privilege regulations at 50 CFR 679.41(k) may be warranted.