
D5 IFQ Committee Report

Anna Henry, December 2024



The IFQ Committee met December 2, 2024, to provide feedback on the IFQ Program Review and the Committee Draft Terms of Reference

IFQ Program Review

The Committee expressed appreciation to the authors for all the work that went into the document and for providing a complete program review. The Committee had comments or requests for clarity on the following specific issues:

- Questions about trends on product form
- Suggestion to look at effort (fishing days) in relation to catch or pounds landed and to display these trends by area
- Request for clarity regarding definitions of crew members
- Expanded discussion of the processor participation section 2.6
- Expanded discussion of the HHI and Gini Coefficient
- Concern regarding the substantial loss of QS holdings in CQE Communities



IFQ Program Review- NMFS Recommendations

The Committee had the following discussion regarding the NMFS recommendations:

Minimum age policy

- Concern that an 18 year minimum age requirement could present challenges
- Supported NMFS request for guidance to consider a range of options for what the minimum age should be

Beneficiary Transfer Provision

- One Committee member supported returning QS held by a beneficiary beyond 3-years to the overall QS pool

Extended Season

- Suggested NMFS staff attend the IPHC conference board and processor advisory board meetings
- Other solutions outside of limiting the length of the fishing season which would be particularly challenging considering full catch limits are currently not being harvested

The Committee also noted that in an environment with limited capacity for development of Council analyses and regulatory packages, these more policy-oriented issues may not be the highest priority for regulatory work.



IFQ Program Review

The Committee supported further work to address the following proposals for changes to the IFQ Program:

- Allow freezing on board vessels
- Allow targeting of halibut with pots in the Gulf of Alaska
- Allow the harvest of 4D IFQ in Area 4C
- Consistent gear tending requirements in all GOA regulatory areas
- Greater in-season flexibility for CQE IFQ transfer between community residents
- Reducing the TEC requirement from 150 days

The Committee did not prioritize these issues because this may not be a complete list but highlighted the importance of any solutions related to the reduction in processing capacity, the ability to target halibut with pots in the Gulf of Alaska, and increased flexibility to meet the goals of the CQE program.



Draft Terms of Reference

Committee discussion focused on the expectation that Committee members attend all meetings and that repeated absences may be cause for dismissal and replacement.

- Concern about ability of active fishermen to participate when meetings occur during the fishing season
- Recommended that the TOR language reflect an expectation that members communicate their availability and notice staff if they are unable to attend scheduled meetings
- Some members requested proxies or substitutes
- Encouraged meetings to be scheduled outside or on the “shoulder” of the fishing season
- Suggested the TOR include language specifying that meetings are facilitated to allow virtual attendance

