

Council Motion
C3 Crab C share recent participation requirement
June 9, 2023

The Council adopts the following revised purpose and need and suite of alternatives for public review.

Purpose and Need

The CVC and CPC shares have an active participation requirement to receive annual IFQ and retain QS. The combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 through 2023 and the recent and substantial decline in crab abundance and fishery closures have substantially reduced opportunities for crew to participate in crab fisheries in recent years. The Council is also concerned about future diminished opportunities for crew if crab stocks remain low. Action is needed to modify the active participation requirements to provide opportunity for C share holders to receive annual IFQ and retain QS in periods of low crab abundance.

Alternative 1 - No action

Alternative 2 - Modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recency requirement

Option 1: Restart the recent participation requirement when the final rule is implemented and reissue all revoked CVC and CPC QS starting in 2019 and until final rule is implemented.

Option 2: Authorize the Regional Administrator to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS active participation requirement in years when the combined BBRKC, BSS, WBT, and EBT crab combined TAC is below a certain threshold. If the TAC threshold was not met, NMFS would not count this year for C share holders that did not provide evidence of active participation. Threshold options:

Suboption 1: 25 MIb

Suboption 2: 15MIb

Suboption 3: 10 MIb

Option 3: Revise the eligibility requirements for CVC and CPC QS holders to receive annual IFQ and retain QS holdings to be the same for initial recipients and new entrants.

Alternative 3 - Remove the active participation requirements at 680.40 for existing CVC and CPC QS holders to receive annual IFQ and retain QS. Maintain eligibility requirements at 680.41(c) to receive CVC or CPC QS by transfer. Reissue all revoked CVC and CPC QS starting in 2019 and until final rule is implemented.