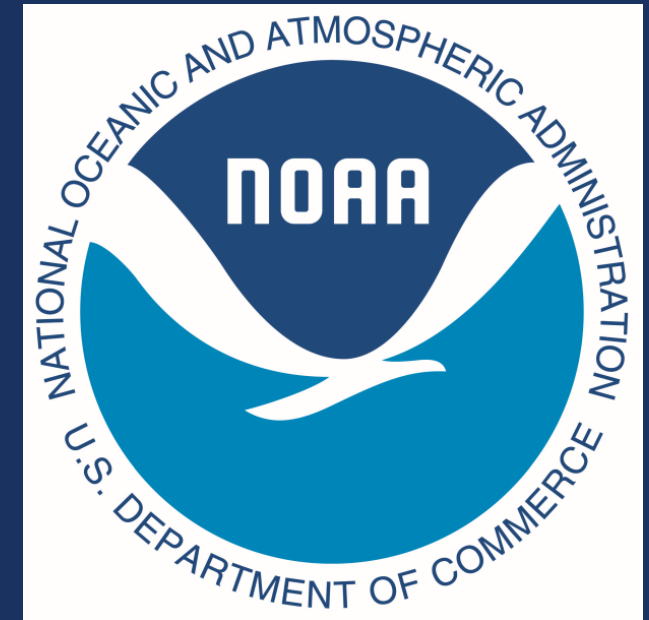


BI REQUEST TO MODIFY IFQ TRANSFER PROVISIONS OF THE HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM

STEPHANIE WARPINSKI, NOAA FISHERIES, 5/15/20



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Request from Industry (Section 1, page 4)
- Options (Section 2.5.2, page 11)
- Brief Description of Fisheries (Section 3, page 14)
- Analysis of Impacts (Section 4.2, page 23)



REQUEST FROM INDUSTRY (SECTION I, PAGE 4)

- On April 7, 2020, NMFS received a letter from IFQ Program participants and representatives requesting emergency action that adds COVID-19 to the limited exceptions for temporary transfer of IFQ.
- In a letter, dated April 16, 2020, NMFS Alaska Region requested input on this request from the Council.
- A number of public health concerns relating to the evolving pandemic of COVID-19, including: crew exposure, limited lodging to fulfill quarantine requirements, limited medical resources.



REQUEST FROM INDUSTRY (SECTION 1, PAGE 4)

- The industry request included several objectives that the emergency action should meet. (Section 1, page 4)
- The industry developed a problem statement that accompanied their requests for emergency action, which can be found in Section 2.4 (page 10) of the analysis.
- The industry developed 3 options. (Section 2.5.2, page 11)



OPTION I (SECTION 2.5.2.1, PAGE 11)

- NMFS could expand their medical transfer template language to include additional criteria that address the health of crew and communities as related to COVID-19, and revise their policy on denying medical transfer to individuals who otherwise qualify for hired masters.
- The proposal requests policy requirements that are more flexible. (Section 2.5.2.1, page 12)



OPTION 2 (SECTION 2.5.2.2, PAGE 12)

- The State of Alaska or the State of Washington could identify the appropriate risk criteria to write to protect public health interests, and identify a state designee from a Department of Health to sign the document as the health care provider of record, which could suffice for NMFS to approve a medical transfer.



OPTION 3 (SECTION 2.5.2.3, PAGE 13)

- Request an Emergency Rule that adds COVID-19 to the limited exceptions for temporary transfer of IFQ .This will allow all QS holders use of the Temporary Transfer of IFQ during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Under this option, vessel size classes, limits on at-sea processing and restrictions on corporate leasing would all remain in place.

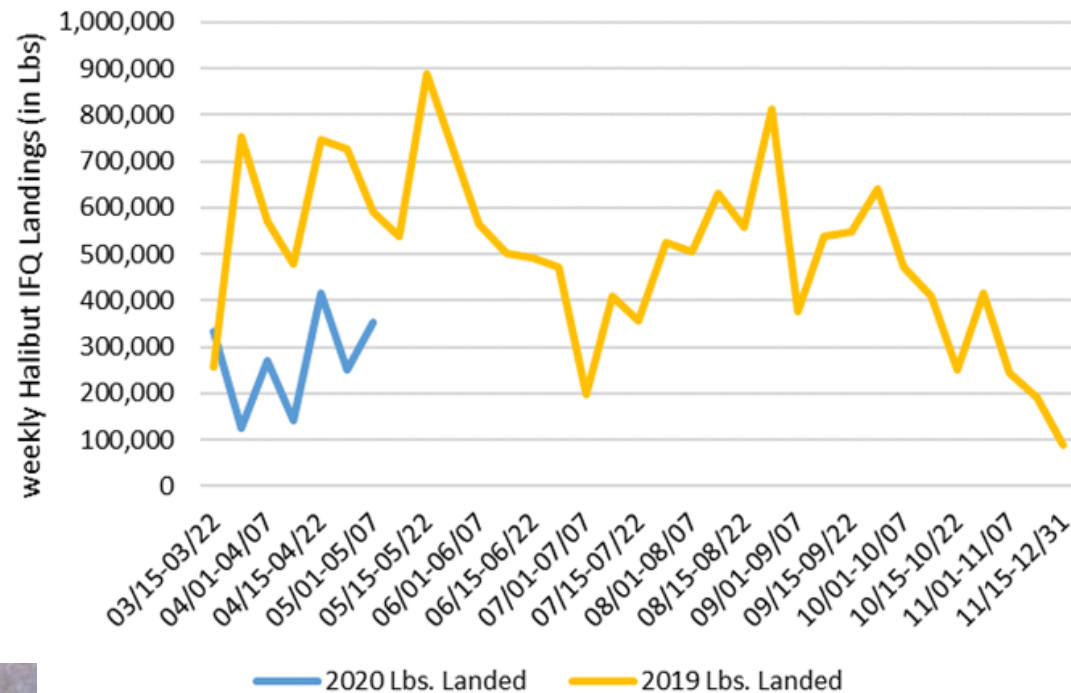


OPTION 3 (SECTION 2.5.2.3, PAGE 13)

- ***If the Council were to recommend an emergency rule, NMFS would recommend Option 3 be used to reduce potential administrative burden and to provide the most flexible method for temporarily transferring IFQ.***
- This option would be the most straightforward and would allow anyone with IFQ regardless of eligibility to hire a master, to temporarily transfer their IFQ to an eligible fishery participant.
- This option could be implemented the fastest through simple modifications to existing administrative processes and would allow the broad flexibility to the fleet.
- A temporary rule may be effective for up to 180 days, and could be extended for up to 186 more if the conditions of the emergency continue to persist.
- The travel restrictions and local requirements have been rapidly evolving and it is unpredictable when they may be lifted.



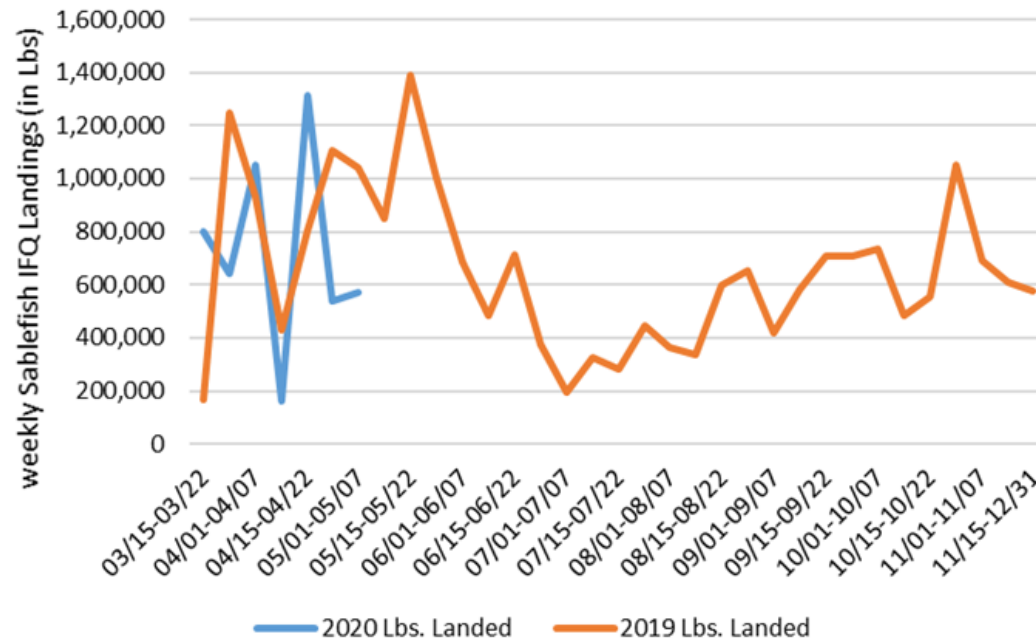
DESCRIPTION OF FISHERIES (SECTION 3, PAGE 17): WEEKLY HALIBUT IFQ LANDINGS



- This is a comparison of weekly halibut landings from 2019 to 2020
- 54% lower- 1.89 million lbs. in 2020 vs. 4.12 million lbs. in 2019



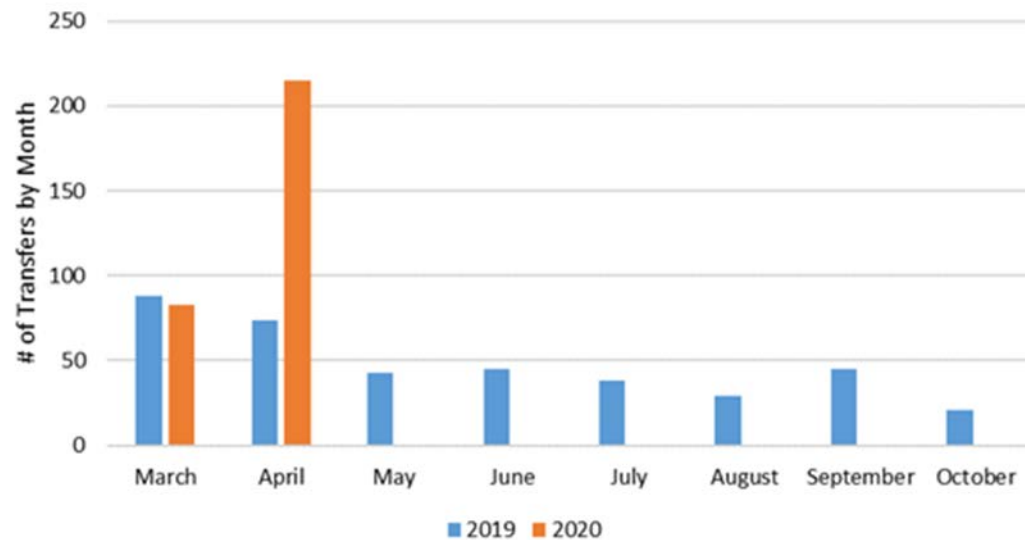
DESCRIPTION OF FISHERIES (SECTION 3, PAGE 18): WEEKLY SABLEFISH IFQ LANDINGS



- This is a comparison of weekly sablefish landings from 2019 to 2020
- 11% higher- 5.08 million lbs. in 2020 vs. 5.74 million lbs. in 2019



DESCRIPTION OF FISHERIES (SECTION 3, PAGE 20): MEDICAL TRANSFERS BY MONTH



- This is a comparison monthly medical transfers from 2019 to 2020.
- In the month of April alone, NMFS RAM received 215 applications.
- NMFS approved 383 medical transfers total in 2019. NMFS has approved 298 medical transfers in 2020 (through the months of March and April).



DESCRIPTION OF FISHERIES (SECTION 3, PAGE 14)

Snapshot of QS Holders in 2020

- 2,303 QS holders that hold CV QS
- 1,248 QS holders that are second generation (or have purchased quota they can't hire a master to harvest)
- If an initial issuee does not own at least 20% of a vessel, they are eligible to use a medical transfer

Snapshot of Initial Issuees in 2020

- 1,055 QS holders who are initial issuees
- 657 initial recipients who can use a hired master
- 418 initial recipients hold at least 20% of a vessel and are eligible to use a hired master
- 239 initial recipients do not appear to own a vessel and would not be eligible to use a hired master (thus could use a medical transfer if needed).

ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS: OPTION 3 (SECTION 4.2, PAGE 23)

- If the Council recommends emergency action to implement this option:
 - It would ease restrictions for 418 initial issues (18.2% of QS holders) that own 20% or more of a vessel who are currently not eligible to use the existing medical transfer provision.
 - It would provide a mechanism for the 239 initial issues who may not be eligible to use the medical transfer to transfer their IFQ.
 - It would allow those who may not meet the medical transfer requirements to transfer their IFQ.



COUNCIL DISCUSSION

*Should emergency action be recommended?
How should the flexibility to transfer IFQ be modified?*

QUESTIONS?

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