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# AP MOTIONS

C3, C4, C5, D1, D2, D3, E



## C3 SMALL SABLEFISH (SLIDE 1/5)

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council initiate another review draft of the IFQ Sablefish Release Allowance paper. This analysis should include the two additional elements listed below **in bold** and the SSC's recommendations.

### PURPOSE AND NEED

Large year classes of sablefish result in significant catches of small sablefish in the IFQ fixed gear fisheries. Small sablefish have low commercial value and current regulations require IFQ holders to retain all sablefish. Available data suggest that survival rates for carefully released sablefish are high. Operational flexibility to carefully release sablefish may increase the value of the commercial harvest and allow small fish to contribute to the overall biomass.



# C3 SMALL SABLEFISH (SLIDE 2/5)

## ALTERNATIVES

### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action alternative, all regulations and FMP language related to a prohibition on discarding sablefish would remain intact. Those regulations include 50 CFR 679.7(d)(4)(ii) and 50 CFR 679.7(f)(11). Additionally, discarding is prohibited in both the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs in the fourth provision under General Provisions section 3.7.1.7, prohibiting discarding of sablefish.

### Alternative 2, Allow Voluntary Release of Sablefish in the IFQ Fishery

This alternative would eliminate the regulatory restrictions that prohibit release of sablefish caught by sablefish IFQ vessels as well as the FMP provision prohibiting discarding.

**<sup>3</sup>Option 1: minimum retention size of 59 cm**

*Amendment<sup>3</sup> to add Option 1 passed 18-2*



## C3 SMALL SABLEFISH (SLIDE 3/5)

Element 1: DMRs Apply a DMR to discarded sablefish of:

- a) 5%
- b) 12%
- c) 16%
- d) 20%

Sub-option: Select different DMRs for pot gear and hook and line gear

Element 2: Catch Accounting

Option 1: Sablefish discards will be estimated using observer and EM data with a DMR applied annually as part of the specifications process.

Option 2: Sablefish discards will be estimated pre-season based on AFSC longline survey encounter rates of sub-three pound sablefish with the DMR applied annually as part of the specifications process.



## C3 SMALL SABLEFISH (SLIDE 4/5)

### Element 3: Discard Mortality Accounting

Sablefish discard mortality associated with the IFQ fishery will be accounted for in the stock assessment. The analysis should describe the potential implications of voluntary discards on the sablefish stock assessment and specifications process.

### Element 4: Monitoring and Enforcement

The analysis should describe potential monitoring and enforcement provisions that could improve estimates of voluntary and regulatory discards.



## C3 SMALL SABLEFISH (SLIDE 5/5)

**Element 5: Include a scheduled program review <sup>1</sup>~~in (8, 10, 12)~~ after an option of 3 or 5 years <sup>2</sup>and have an annual update report**

**Element 6: Require careful release of all released sablefish (fish returned to the water immediately with minimum of injury)**

*Amendment<sup>1</sup> passed 19-1*

*Amendment<sup>2</sup> passed 17-3*

*Main Motion as amended passed 14-5*



## C4 CRAB PSC LIMITS (SLIDE 1/3)

The AP recommends the Council identify Alternative 2 as the PPA with the following revisions (in red) and move forward to final action.

### Draft Purpose and Need

At present, most Bering Sea crab stocks are experiencing low productivity and small population sizes, leading to large reductions in directed harvest levels. These problems appear to be ongoing and lead the council to examine existing PSC limits to determine whether both directed harvest and bycatch measures are responsive to these adverse conditions.

This action would increase the linkage between controls on crab bycatch in groundfish fisheries and the harvest controls on the directed crab fishery by establishing explicit reductions in allowable bycatch levels when the directed fishery is closed. **The need for this action is to better help the crab stock grow to levels to again support a directed fishery.** This action is intended to ensure there is consistency in management measures between directed fisheries and bycatch in groundfish fisheries, making more explicit the balance of impacts to all the fisheries and communities that are affected by the status of depressed stocks.



# C4 CRAB PSC LIMITS (SLIDE 2/3)

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Reduced PSC limits for BSAI trawl CDQ and non-CDQ groundfish fishing, **for the upcoming fishing year**, when the corresponding directed crab fishery is closed.

When no Crab Rationalization Program individual fishing quota (IFQ) is issued in a season for BBRKC, bairdi, or opilio, set the crab PSC limit for that stock at the lowest abundance-based level. As described in regulation at 50 CFR 679.21(e)(1), the PSC limits for the groundfish fisheries would be as follows under this alternative when the directed crab fishery is closed:

- Bairdi Zone 1 – **the lower of (1) 0.5% of total abundance minus 20,000 animals or (2) 730,000 animals**
- Bairdi Zone 2 – **the lower of (1) 1.2% of the total abundance minus 30,000 animals or (2) 2,070,000 animals**
- BBRKC Zone 1 - 32,000 red king crab
- Opilio - 4.350 million animals





## C4 CRAB PSC LIMITS (SLIDE 3/3)

The Council requests that the analysis include source numbers for the crab abundance estimates used to calculate the PSCs and clearly state whether they are from raw numbers.

*a Substitute Motion failed 7-12*

*Main motion passed 14-6*



## C5 BSAI CRAB

The AP acknowledges the receipt of the CPT report and SAFE document. The AP recommends the Council approve the 2021 OFL and ABC for NSRKC as recommended by the SSC.

*Motion passes 19-0*



# D1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council adopt the recommendations of the Community Engagement Committee from the January 2021 meeting.

*Motion passed 20-0*



# D2 EFP APPLICATIONS

The AP recommends the Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC) EFP application be approved by NMFS.

*Motion Passed 20-0*



# D3 BS FEP/TASKFORCE

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council approve the Climate Change Task Force work plan.

*Motion passed 20-0*



# E STAFF TASKING – MOTION 1

The AP recommends that the Council request the Secretary:

1. Promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow the temporary transfer of halibut and sablefish IFQ for all quota shareholders for the 2021 fishing season; and

Use of this emergency regulation in 2021 to transfer QS will not be counted as one of the eligible years to utilize the IFQ medical transfer provision.

2. Promulgate emergency regulations to remove vessel use cap regulations under 50 CFR Section 679.42(h)(1) for IFQ halibut harvested in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D for the 2021 IFQ fishing season.

These actions do not modify other aspects of the IFQ Program.

*Motion Passed 18-2*



## E STAFF TASKING – MOTION 2

The AP recommends that the Council task staff to explore the possibility of having a member of the SSC report out to the AP on issues where the scientific assessment of the SSC would assist AP understanding of the issues and deliberations.

*Motions passed 19-1*



# E STAFF TASKING – MOTION 3

The AP recommends NMFS suspends the residency requirements applicable to the Adak CQE program for 2021.

*Motion passed 20-0*

