

D3 RQE FUNDING MECHANISM

PRESENTATION TO THE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 2021

Sarah Marrinan, NPFMC

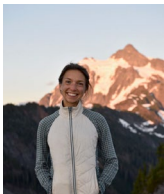
Angela Forristall, NPFMC Sea Grant Fellow

Kurt Iverson, NMFS



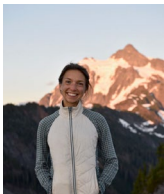
HISTORY OF ACTION AND STATUS OF RQE

- **December 2016**, the Council took **final action to approve a regulatory program that would authorize a charter halibut RQE** to purchase and hold commercial halibut quota share on behalf of the charter halibut anglers in Area 2C and 3A, which could relax annual management measures
- Management measures would **apply to all charter halibut anglers - no option to opt out**
- **March 27, 2019 Senate Bill S.906-Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act** was introduced but vetoed.
 - **Reintroduced** February 8, 2021
- March 4, 2020, NMFS approved an application for the CATCH Association (Catch Accountability through Compensated Halibut) to serve as the RQE



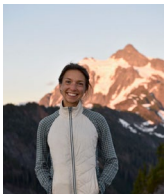
DISCUSSION PAPER

- Design specifications and implementation of numbered stamps used to harvest animals or fish – king salmon, duck or deer tags for example.
- Amount of revenue that could be generated by the sale of the stamps for guided halibut trips in regulatory areas 2C and 3A based on past participation.
- The amount of potential fees collected by the RQE from charter operators, and how fees would be used to purchase halibut QS and would also be used to fund administrative costs of the RQE program, and all other purposes as dictated by Federal law
- A NMFS approval process for the design specifications of the stamps, and an annual financial review of the stamps sold and other related RQE expenses.
- **Monitoring and enforcement provisions if all guided halibut fishermen are required to be in possession of a valid RQE halibut stamp when harvesting charter halibut.**



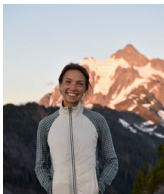
PROPOSED ENFORCEMENT OF A HALIBUT STAMP

- Federal action isn't required for the RQE to design a fee collection program
 - RQE seeking Federal action to have help with monitoring and enforcement
- Potential on-the-water enforcement?
 - Ensure anglers have stamp
 - Requires unfalsifiable stamp identifiers
- Potential off-the-water enforcement?
 - Review of logbook data
 - ADF&G cautions against using logbook data
- Role of State Wildlife Troopers not established



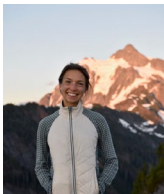
OLE CONCERNS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- RQE program halibut stamp would be a civil, contractual relationship between a non-profit organization (the RQE) and the private entities it represents (charter operators)
 - Breach of contracts should be dealt with in civil courts
- Extensive Federal and State resources necessary for enforcement
- Charter operator accountability for informing anglers about a new stamp
- Council should reconsider other concepts, such as a straight annual operator fee
 - Potential for burden to not be proportionately distributed relative to angler effort



FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS?

- Council will be considering discussion paper, will either develop alternatives or ask for an expanded discussion paper
- Opportunity for enforcement committee to highlight additional questions, concerns, or suggestions before the meeting
 - Stamp design specifics
 - Enforcement in practice



Thank you

To all reviewers and contributors

Questions?

Sarah Marrinan

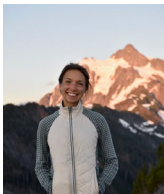
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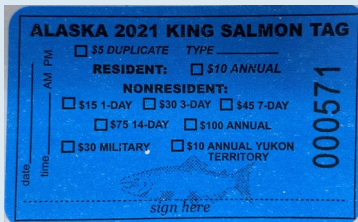
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ENFORCEMENT IN OTHER STAMP PROGRAMS

Alaska King Salmon Stamp



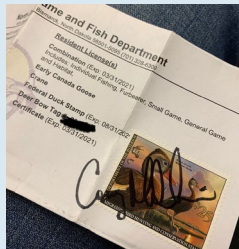
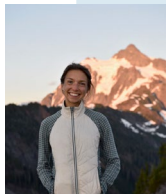
- Endorsement number** on electronically purchased stamps linked to fishing license number
- Sticker** layer from physical vendor book affixed to fishing license
- Signature**
- Enforcement officers can easily detect falsified stamps
- Verbal warning** most typical, can be fine of up to \$100 plus \$150 per salmon

Alaska Big Game Locking Tags

- Metal band** with number, very difficult to duplicate
- Verbal warning** and retroactive tag purchase most common
- Fines of up to \$1,000 and 6 months in prison in more serious instances



Federal Duck Stamp



- Printed by an approved security printer**
- Microprint, embossing, and fluorescent added**
- Refuge law enforcement and USFWS office receive a **packet of information indicating where indicators are located**
- Penalties up to the discretion and judgement of officer**