



## **C6 CQE Fish Up in Area 3A**

June 2019 Council Meeting

### **Action Memo**

Staff: Sara Cleaver (NPFMC), Stephanie Warpinski & Doug Duncan (NMFS)

Action Required: 1. Public Review Draft – review  
2. Identify preferred alternative

### **BACKGROUND**

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the public review draft to allow Community Quota Entities (CQEs) in Area 3A to fish category “D” (D class) halibut quota on Category “C” (C class) vessels. Currently in Area 3A, only vessels that are  $\leq 35$  ft LOA can harvest D class IFQ, and vessels that are  $\leq 60$  ft LOA can harvest C class IFQ. The intent of this action is to allow the fish up measure to be used as a fallback mechanism if a situation arises in which the CQE cannot harvest all its D class IFQ fished on smaller D class vessels as planned.

During the April 2019 meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement and alternatives. The Council requested staff recommendations for further revisions to the purpose and need and alternatives to meet the Council’s intent as it was discussed at the meeting. The following alternatives are consistent with those revisions and may be modified if the Council chooses.

Alternative 1 would maintain the current regulations; in IFQ regulatory Area 3A, D class IFQ derived from QS held by a CQE must be fished on vessels  $\leq 35$  ft.

Alternative 2 would allow eligible CQE residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A, either for the duration of the annual IFQ season or after a date specified (options: August 15 or September 1).

Alternative 3 would allow eligible CQE residents in Area 3A to fish halibut IFQ derived from CQE-held D class QS on C or D class vessels in Area 3A in a certain number of years. The options include: 2 out of 3 years, 3 out of 5 years, and 3 out of 7 years.

Alternatives 2 and 3 can also be combined.

At initial review in April, the Council did not choose a preliminary preferred alternative, as it requested specific information be included in the next iteration of the analysis prior to decision-making. The executive summary highlights the incorporation of these changes to the document. This document analyzes possible socio-economic impacts of allowing for this harvest flexibility and provides a discussion of enforcement and management concerns related to the action alternatives.