

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C-6 IFQ CQE Fish Up in 3A Motion
April 5, 2019

The Council adopts the following replacement purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis. The Council recommends the analysis be released for public review. New language is underlined; deleted language is in ~~strike through~~.

Purpose and Need Statement:

The ability of fishermen in a remote coastal community to purchase QS or maintain existing QS may be limited by a variety of factors both shared among and unique to each community. Although the specific causes for decreasing QS holdings in a specific community may vary, the net effect is a disincentive to participation by residents of these communities in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries. The substantial decline in the number of resident QS holders and the total amount of QS held by residents of remote coastal communities may have aggravated unemployment and related social and economic conditions in those communities. To remedy these barriers to participation in remote coastal communities, the Council developed the CQE Program to provide these communities with long-term opportunities to access the halibut and sablefish resources. Program regulations that restrict CQE ability to fish “D” class quota on “C” class vessels has, in some circumstances, limited the CQE community’s ability to access to fish CQE halibut, particularly in Area 3A. In these remote communities, public testimony has indicated that fishermen leasing CQE held “D” class quota do not always have “D” class vessels available to harvest the quota. Therefore the Council would like to provide more flexibility to CQE community participants to harvest “D” class quota in Area 3A. Modifying the program to allow CQEs to fish “D” class quota on “C” class vessels in Area 3A will further the Council’s intent of encouraging CQE communities to secure long-term opportunities to access halibut.

Alternative 1: No action (status quo)

Alternative 2: Allow CQEs to transfer “D” class IFQ to eligible participants who may fish the quota on “C” class or “D” class vessels: beginning after:

Option 1: beginning on August 15.

Option 2: beginning on September 1.

Option 3: for the duration of the annual IFQ season.

Alternative 3: Allow CQEs to transfer “D” class IFQ to eligible participants who may fish the quota on “C” class vessels only in a limited number of years:

Option 1: 2 out of 3 years

Option 2: 3 out of 5 years

Option 3: 3 out of 7 years

Note: Alternatives 2 and 3 can be combined.