Enforcement Committee Minutes
C3 IFQ Sablefish Release Allowance
Committee found the analysis and the discussion helpful

Analysis focused on Alternative 2

- Eliminate regulatory restrictions prohibiting release of sablefish caught by sablefish IFQ vessels and allow for voluntary discards
- At-sea enforcement would include observing fishery operations and ensuring sablefish not retained are returned to sea immediately, with minimum of injury and accurately reported in the logbook
  - Primary compliance tools include at-sea boardings, observed trips, and EM
- Careful release regulations would need to be specific
Committee noted the analysis discussed the potential need for increasing observer/EM coverage to better determine sablefish discard mortality estimates.

Committee noted there could be differential bias due to high value of larger fish and different behavior for observed trips and unobserved trips which suggest a need for increased observer coverage.

The increased observer/EM coverage would aid compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts associated with observer/EM reported violations.
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- Committee discussed potential action the Council might take in authorizing sablefish discards in future iterations of this action, such as size limits.

- This would create additional enforcement concerns due to limited compliance monitoring tools available.
  - Primary tools are limited to at-sea boardings, observed trips, and EM trips.
  - Committee discussed the added cost that would be incurred to review EM video for illegal discards.
    - Currently EM technology is not able to identify illegal discard (size limit) to the accuracy/fidelity required as evidence to support a violation for prosecution.
Committee agreed that risk will need to addressed in a future analysis and be reviewed

Need to ensure regulations or other management structures do not create unintended mismatch between sablefish discard accounting and discard reporting and monitoring mechanisms

Enforcement and management rely on the same monitoring tools (observer, EM, logbooks) to accomplish their mission regarding sablefish discard monitoring/reporting

Potential issues include:

- Accuracy of trip-level discard reporting
- Observer involvement in compliance and observer bias effect at fishery level vs vessel level
- Cost of reviewing EM video
- Ability of EM technology to determine size of discards, and
- Monitoring/reporting requirements mandated by other statutes (e.g., Marine Mammal Protection Act)