



D2 IFQ Committee Report

June 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham (NPFMC)
Other Presenters: Alicia M. Miller (NMFS)
Action Required: Review report; Action as necessary

BACKGROUND

The Council's IFQ Committee held a virtual meeting on May 26, 2022. NPFMC and NMFS staff gave joint presentations on six topics. The Committee heard public testimony from seven individuals, then proceeded to Committee discussion and recommendations. The Committee offered the Council three recommendations. The IFQ Committee generally requires unanimous consent to make a recommendation. Issues, or aspects of issues, that were either not unanimous or not offered as a recommendation are described in the report and can still be considered for action at the will of the Council. The Council may consider motions to initiate or prioritize future actions under this agenda item or under Staff Tasking.

Four of the six presentation topics were informational: status update on 2022 emergency rule requests; implementation timing for the IFQ Omnibus amendment package; legislative update on the RQE funding mechanism and pending analysis of halibut catch sharing plan revision; and NMFS's analysis of waiving IFQ medical transfers used from 2020 through 2022. NPFMC staff laid out the public record of proposals to modify the halibut vessel use cap for IPHC Area 4, and highlighted aspects that would benefit from Committee and/or Council input. Finally, NPFMC staff overviewed the IFQ Task List, noting items that had graduated from the list and items of interest that do not need to appear on the list, and setting up the Committee's discussion of future priorities. The IFQ Task list – last updated in March 2022, as it appeared to the Committee – is attached to the Council's eAgenda under this item.

The Committee's three recommendations were:

- Place the small sablefish release initial review on the Council agenda for action
- Initiate an analysis of modified vessel use caps for Area 4 halibut IFQ
- Support NMFS's progress on rulemaking to waive IFQ medical transfers occurring from 2020-2022

Other topics of interest to the IFQ Committee included allowing sablefish category B and C IFQ to be processed onboard catcher vessels; considering entry-level access and intergenerational quota share transfer in the 2023 Program Review (example: divisibility of quota blocks); extending the sablefish IFQ season; the inability of vessel owners who can use a hired skipper to utilize a medical transfer; fishermen's access to observe offloads and grading at shore-based processing plants; and full retention of sablefish in (non-IFQ) pot gear.