

**D-3 Halibut IFQ Leasing to CDQ
Council Motion – December 14, 2015**

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis:

The Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program was established to provide an opportunity to eligible western Alaska communities to invest and participate in BSAI fisheries. Among the species CDQ groups are allocated, Pacific halibut is of primary importance to many resident small-boat fishermen for providing employment and income in many of the member communities. Most small vessels fishing halibut CDQ generally do not fish halibut IFQ, and recent years of low abundance have created hardships for participating CDQ halibut fishermen. In times of low halibut catch limits, additional opportunity for CDQ groups to lease and use halibut IFQ for fishing in Areas 4B and 4CDE may benefit resident CDQ fishermen without undermining the goals of the halibut IFQ Program.

Alternative 1. No Action

Alternative 2. Allow CDQ Groups to lease halibut IFQ in Areas 4B, 4C, and 4D in years of low halibut catch limits in regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE. Any IFQ transferred to a CDQ group under this provision would be added to their available halibut CDQ, intended for use by residents with a halibut CDQ permit and a CDQ hired master permit. No vessel over 51 feet LOA would be eligible to harvest the leased IFQ, and vessels would have to comply with IFQ use restrictions. (Options below are not mutually exclusive.)

Option 1. Defining 'low catch limits' for the purpose of allowing leases. Designation of low catch limits is independently determined for Areas 4B and 4CDE. The threshold for designating a year of low halibut catch limit in each area is less than (separate suboptions may be selected for Area 4B and Area 4CDE):

- Suboption 1. 1 million pounds
- Suboption 2. 1.3 million pounds
- Suboption 3. 1.5 million pounds

Option 2. IFQ class designations do not apply when the IFQ is being leased by a CDQ group.

Option 3. Leased Area 4D IFQ may be fished in Area 4E.

Option 4. Any Area 4B, 4C, or 4D catcher vessel QS transferred after December 14, 2015 may not be leased as IFQ to CDQ groups under this action for a period of (suboption: 3 years, 4 years, 5 years).