


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: December 1, 2010
SUBJECT: Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS (all C-4 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (d) Initial Review/Final action to allow IFQ derived from Category D QS to be fished on Category C vessels in Area 4B.

BACKGROUND

In February, the Council tasked staff to provide a reanalysis of a regulatory amendment to allow IFQ derived from Category D QS to be fished on Category C vessels in Area 4B, also known as “fish-up.” This action would relieve a restriction placed on IFQ halibut fishery participants and would further program goals by increasing the amount of IFQs that may be harvested by the small boat fleet and increasing safety at sea for that fleet. The proposed action would make minor changes in this fishery, affecting up to 12 Area 4B Category D QS holders, who hold < 3 percent of IFQs in one area, and a few owners of larger vessels.

This action was first proposed in a 2003 call for IFQ proposals. In December 2004, the Council took no action for Area 4B when it adopted a similar “fish-up” action in Areas 3B and 4C. The final rule for implementing the fish-up amendment for those areas was published in August 2007.

A new proposal for Council reconsideration was submitted by an industry stakeholder during a 2009 request for IFQ proposals. It was unanimously recommended for analysis by the IFQ Implementation Team in September 2009. The analysis for this action is scheduled for both initial review and final action at this December Council meeting, due to the straightforward nature of the action. The analysis was mailed on November 5.

The alternatives included in the analysis are:

- Alternative 1 No action
- Alternative 2 Allow IFQ derived from Category D QS to be fished on Category C vessels in Area 4B