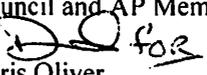


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP Members
FROM: 
Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: February 1, 2011
SUBJECT: Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS (all C-1 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Initial review of Hired Skipper RIR/IRFA

BACKGROUND

In February 2010 the Council approved a problem statement and alternatives for analysis of a stakeholder proposal submitted to the Council during its 2009 call for IFQ proposals. The Council expressed its concern about apparent consolidation and reduced opportunities for new entrants/second generation fishermen to enter the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries. This action would promote an owner/operator catcher vessel fleet in the halibut and sablefish fixed gear fisheries off Alaska.

This analysis considers two alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative. Alternative 2 would prohibit the use by a hired master for QS transferred after a control date of February 12, 2010. The proposed action would apply to all (corporation and individual) initial recipients. For non-individual (corporate) QS holders, the effect of the proposed action would be a prohibition on transfers of additional QS, as NMFS would not process transfers that would be prohibited for use, except by operation of law. For individual initial recipients, the effect of the proposed action would be a requirement that the QS holder fish the IFQs themselves or transfer them to another QS holder (who also would be required to fish them).

NMFS staff has noted the high administrative burden for revising regulations (and administration of transfers) for a date in the past. The Council may wish to revise the control date to one coincident with the effective date of the final rule.

The analysis was distributed on January 18, 2011. Final action could be scheduled for the April 2011 meeting, depending on Council action at this meeting.