

## Explanation of jig gear as an authorized gear in the IFQ Fisheries June 2020<sup>1</sup>

This document includes information regarding the use of jig gear in the IFQ fisheries. The information contained here is an explanation of existing regulations in response to the specific questions of if jig gear is an authorized gear type in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries.

The following table summarizes the conclusions about the use of jig gear to harvest halibut and sablefish IFQ that are explained in further detail below.

	GOA	BSAI
<b>Halibut IFQ</b>	Jig is an authorized gear type for Halibut IFQ (see conclusion 1).	
<b>Sablefish IFQ</b>	Jig is <b>NOT an authorized gear type in the GOA for sablefish IFQ.</b> (Eastern GOA – see Conclusion 2, CGOA and WGOA – see Conclusion 3)	Jig is NOT and authorized gear type in the BSAI for sablefish IFQ. (see Conclusion 4)

### Regulatory Explanation

IPHC regulations limit gear to hook and line gear except as otherwise authorized in regulation at 679. (See 2020 IPHC regulation Section 18) **This allows NMFS to authorize harvest of halibut with a gear not otherwise specified in IPHC regulations.**

NMFS regulations in part 679.42(b)(1) states that authorized fishing gear to harvest IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish is defined in §679.2.

Regulations at § 679.2 specify authorized gear for halibut and sablefish specific to species with some area differences (see 679.2 *Authorized fishing gear* (4), (7), (8), and (9)).

In the definition for *Authorized fishing gear*, paragraph (4)(iii) defines authorized fishing gear for **halibut** harvested from any IFQ regulatory area. This includes **all fishing gear composed of lines with hooks attached**, including one or more stationary, buoyed, and anchored lines with hooks attached.

In the definition for *Authorized fishing gear*, paragraph (8) states that **Jig gear** means a single, non-buoyed, non-anchored line **with hooks attached**, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

Conclusion 1: Therefore, because the definition of jig gear is consistent with the definition of authorized gear for Halibut IFQ in all IPHC regulatory areas, then jig gear is an authorized gear for halibut IFQ in all IPHC regulatory areas off Alaska under existing regulations.

In the definition for *Authorized fishing gear*, paragraph (4)(i) states that *Fixed gear* means, **for sablefish harvested from any GOA reporting area, all longline gear**, longline pot gear, and, for purposes of determining initial IFQ allocation, all pot gear used to make a legal landing.

In the definition for *Authorized fishing gear*, paragraph (9) states that **Longline gear** means hook-and-line, **jig**, troll, and handline or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

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Additional gear restrictions apply to the harvest of sablefish in the *Eastern GOA regulatory area*. Regulations at § 679.24(c) (***Gear restrictions for sablefish***) in paragraph (2) for the *Eastern GOA regulatory area*— subparagraph (A) states that No person may use any gear other than **hook-and-line**, longline pot, and trawl gear when fishing for sablefish in the Eastern GOA regulatory area and subparagraph (B) states No person may use any gear other than **hook-and-line gear** and longline pot gear to engage in directed fishing for IFQ sablefish.

In the definition for Authorized fishing gear, paragraph (7) states that **Hook-and-line gear** means a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line with hooks attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device and paragraph (8) states that **Jig gear** means a single, non-buoyed, non-anchored line with hooks attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

Conclusion 2: Therefore, the definition of jig gear does not meet the definition of hook-and-line gear and jig is not an authorized gear type for the harvest of IFQ sablefish in the Eastern GOA regulatory area.

Regulations at 679.24(c)(3) include additional restrictions for the *Central and Western GOA regulatory areas; sablefish as prohibited species*. Operators of vessels using gear types other than **hook-and-line**, longline pot, and trawl gear in the Central and Western GOA regulatory areas must treat any catch of sablefish in these areas as a prohibited species as provided by §679.21(a).

Conclusion 3: Therefore, because jig gear does not meet the definition of hook-and-line gear, jig is not an authorized gear type for the harvest of IFQ sablefish in the Central and Western GOA regulatory areas.

In the definition for *Authorized fishing gear*, paragraph (4)(ii) states that *Fixed gear* means, for sablefish harvested from any BSAI reporting area, **all hook-and-line gear** and all pot gear.

Conclusion 4: Therefore, because jig gear does not meet the definition of hook-and-line gear and therefore jig is not an authorized gear type for the harvest of IFQ sablefish in the BSAI.