

AP motion, December 2020

Allow jig gear for IFQ sablefish

The AP recommends the Council initiate a discussion paper to consider identifying jig gear as legal gear for IFQ sablefish

Motion passed 17-5

Rationale in favor:

- This issue has been brought before the AP for several meetings as a request from the public.
- When legal fixed gear was defined for sablefish IFQ, jig gear may have been inadvertently left out of the legal definition for fixed gear.
- Many of the larger longline boats in the sablefish fleet have transitioned to pot gear in an effort to avoid whale depredation and increase efficiency, but the cost and safety issues associated with switching to pots (even the new slinky pots) can be prohibitive to small boats that participate in the sablefish fishery. The small-scale boats participating in the sablefish fishery are looking for ways to remain viable in the fishery and recognize that jig machines offer a workable alternative (jig machines have been used with success in the guided sport fishery for sablefish and provide a lower cost alternative gear type).

Rationale in opposition:

- Consideration of this issue should be put on the IFQ Committee's next meeting agenda as the appropriate first step.