

# C2 IFQ COMMITTEE REPORT



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# IFQ COMMITTEE MEETING

- Met virtually on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>
- Primarily discussed the IFQ Omnibus Package – went through each alternative and element to provide recommendations and discussion
- Report demonstrates where there is consensus versus discussion points on divergent views
- NMFS update on IFQ issues
- Other business



# ALT 2, ELEMENT 1: SLINKY POTS

**Alt 2, Element 1: Clarify that “slinky pots” are a legal gear for the IFQ fishery, and revise regulations to allow the use of biodegradable twine in the door latch or pot tunnel.**

- The clarification that slinky pots are legal gear has been addressed the NMFS “Frequently Asked Questions” webpage.
- The Committee recommends moving forward on the remainder of Element 1.
- The Committee also recommends the clarification that this element apply to the CDQ fishery.



# ALT 2, ELEMENT 2: BUOYS AND FLAGPOLES

**Alt 2, Element 2: Remove buoy configuration and flagpole requirements in regulation but retain “LP” marking requirement.**

- The Committee recommends moving forward on Element 2.
- The Committee also recommends the clarification that this element include removing the requirement for radar reflectors.



## ALT 2, ELEMENT 4: 9-INCH TUNNEL OPENING

**Alt 2, Element 4: Revise the pot gear configuration requirements to remove the 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening so it does not apply when vessel has unfished halibut IFQ onboard.**

- The Committee had mixed views regarding the option to remove the 9-inch maximum width of tunnel opening when there is unfished halibut IFQ onboard. The committee broadly supported the flexibility offered and the potential for efficiency, but some wanted to ensure that a directed halibut fishery with pots did not develop without analysis.



# ALT 2, ELEMENT 5: POT LIMITS

## **Alt 2, Element 5: Pot Limits Option 1: Change the Pot Limit for WY and/or SEO to Suboption a) 180 pots per vessel Suboption b) 300 pots per vessel**

- The Committee recommends increasing pot limits in SEO and WY, but there was divergence in the level of increase that members felt appropriate.
- The Committee thought it would be useful to include data on vessel size and area, the average number of pots used by vessels in each area, and additional information about consolidation of the fleet in a future iteration of the analysis.



# ALT 2, ELEMENT 6: GEAR RETRIEVAL

**Alt 2, Element 6: Gear Retrieval requirements Option 1: Remove the gear retrieval requirement; Option 2: Modify the gear retrieval requirement to 7 days for all GOA areas; Sub-option: 3 days in SEO**

- Members had mixed views on modifying gear retrieval requirements.



# ALT 2, ELEMENT 3: JIG GEAR

**Alt 2, Element 3: Authorize jig gear as a legal gear type for the harvest of sablefish IFQ.**

- The Committee recommends moving forward on Element 3.
- The Committee also recommends staff consider applying this to the CDQ fishery.



# ALT 3: ADAK CQE

**Alt 3: Remove Adak CQE residency requirement for a period of five years.**

- The Committee recommends moving forward on Alternative 3.



# NMFS UPDATE AND OTHER BUSINESS

## NMFS Update

- IFQ temporary transfers,
- Cost recovery notices with an extended fishing season,
- A rulemaking update on removing GOA sablefish IFQ pot tags, and
- Staffing updates.

## Other Business

- The committee acknowledged public testimony received on moving forward on the small sablefish release action forward
- Movement of sablefish and potential impact of delivery requirements
- Using pot data in the stock assessments

