



C1 IFQ Omnibus Amendments

April 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
- Other Presenters: Abby Jahn (NMFS AKRO SF), Alicia M. Miller (NMFS AKRO SF), Jon McCracken (NPFMC)
- Action Required:
1. Review the EA/RIR draft for final action and select a preferred alternative
 2. Review Enforcement Committee Report

IFQ Omnibus Analysis

Under this agenda item, the Council will review an analysis on several revisions to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program regulations and will also receive the Enforcement Committee Report. This analysis evaluates five elements relevant to pot gear used to fish IFQ, including gear specifications and configuration requirements, pot limits, and gear retrieval requirements, and one element to authorize jig gear as a legal gear type for the harvest of sablefish IFQ. The Council's motion also included an alternative to temporarily remove the Adak community quota entity (CQE) residency requirement for five years, in response to public comment. This is analyzed as a separate alternative in this document.

Pots were implemented as legal gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) in 2017 (Amendment 101), and in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) in 2020 (Amendment 118), due to increasing whale depredation in the HAL fisheries. The Council's motion for GOA Amendment 101 included pot limits, gear retrieval requirements, gear specifications, and a provision to allow the retention of incidentally caught halibut.

At its April 2021 Council meeting, the Council received the [GOA Sablefish Pots Review](#), which summarized 3-4 years of fishery data and highlighted the expanding use of pot gear in the GOA IFQ fisheries. The Council initiated the IFQ Omnibus analysis in response to public testimony and advisory body input that highlighted aspects of fishery management that could be improved within the Program. The Council received the [initial review draft](#) of this analysis at its October 2021 meeting, and while the Council did not select a preliminary preferred alternative at that time, the draft was released for final action with revisions to Alternative 2. Major changes to the analysis are listed in the Executive Summary.

The intent of these proposed actions is to increase operational efficiency in the IFQ fisheries and provide more opportunities for the Adak CQE to fully harvest its IFQ allocation. This analysis highlights the possible environmental and socio-economic impacts of these actions and provides a discussion of management and enforcement considerations relevant to these potential revisions to IFQ regulations.

Enforcement Committee Report

The Enforcement Committee met Tuesday, March 29th via web conference. The Committee meeting's [eAgenda](#) includes all documents. The Committee reviewed the IFQ Omnibus Analysis and provided input to the Council in its report, attached under this agenda item.