



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:HAL 16-003

Agenda Date2/1/2016

Agenda Number:D3

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program Review - Review Workplan

STAFF CONTACT: Sarah Marrinan

ACTION REQUIRED:

Review outline for IFQ Program review and comment appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Council and NMFS to review all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) that have been approved by the Secretary of Commerce, including those programs approved prior to reauthorization in 2007. The halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program was implemented in 1995, prior to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, but to date, has not been subject to the mandatory review process. This document describes the proposed scope of the IFQ program review. The objective of this document is to serve as a starting point for a discussion of what should be included in the review. In the 20 years since implementation of the IFQ program, this will be the first formal and comprehensive review of the program.

There are a number of authoritative sources and guidance documents that can assist in defining the policy scope for evaluation. The document looks to the goals of a LAPP under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Catch Share Policy document, and other program reviews previously conducted and currently underway. Most centrally, this document focuses around the Council's ten original policy objectives for the IFQ program. With this guidance, agency and Council staff proposes an annotated table of contents outlining specific sections to cover in a review. The intention for the review is to evaluate the impacts of the program with respect to the Council's ten stated policy objectives. Specifically, the review will use quantitative and qualitative analyses to focus on the present status of the fisheries in relation to the ten objectives and to changes since the implementation of the program.

In December, the Council and its IFQ Implementation Committee had a chance to provide comments and guidance on the scope of the program review. For this meeting, the workplan has been updated to incorporate that feedback, as well as a more thorough discussion of the methodological approach to program evaluation. This updated document will be presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Advisory Panel (AP) for discussion and comments on the methods and content included in the program evaluation. The Council will have a chance to hear the SSC and AP report on this agenda item, with time for any additional questions or discussion appropriate for initiating the program review.