

Council Motion  
C-6 IFQ Committee Proposals  
2/11/18

At the outset of the halibut/sablefish program, and through program revisions, the Council has worked to promote owner/operated fisheries. This has resulted in some quota share holders hiring a vessel and crew to harvest their IFQ while they are onboard but not actively participating. This practice occurs for many reasons; however, is inconsistent with the Council's objective that the fishery is dominated by owner/operators. The Council has three concerns with respect to this practice; 1) that it works against the objective of an owner/operated fleet, 2) the effects of uneven distribution of rents between the walk-on and vessel, and 3) that the walk-on arrangements may be exacerbating the lack of access to the fishery for second generation fishermen and new entrants. The Council intends to examine whether the program's participation and eligibility requirements should be improved to further promote the original objective of the halibut and sablefish program being dominated by owner/operator operations.

The Council tasks staff to develop a discussion paper that considers replacing the existing Transfer Eligibility Certificate (TEC) to hold halibut/sablefish quota share, with an eligibility requirement that applies to both prospective and existing QS holders that is based on recent participation in any US commercial fishery. The discussion paper should focus on sea day requirements of 30, 60 or 90 days over a fixed three or five-year periods (not a rolling number of years).

This discussion paper should also focus on the tradeoffs and benefits of how this would fulfill the Council's original objective of promoting an owner/operator fleet, and concerns of the Council. Staff should consider how a sea day requirement based on recent participation may impact:

- Existing second generation participants, initial recipients, and new entrants
- Participants with small amount of quota vs large amounts of quota
- Vessel owners, non-vessel owners and crew
- Participants utilizing walk-on arrangements and hired masters