



C6 CQE Fish Up in Area 3A

April 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Sara Cleaver (NPFMC), Stephanie Warpinski & Doug Duncan (NMFS)

Action Required:

1. Initial Review Draft – review
2. Review IFQ & Enforcement Committee minutes
3. Identify preliminary preferred alternative

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the initial review draft to allow Community Quota Entities (CQEs) in Area 3A to fish category “D” (D class) halibut quota on Category “C” (C class) vessels. Currently in Area 3A, only vessels that are ≤ 35 ft LOA can harvest D class IFQ, and vessels that are ≤ 60 ft LOA can harvest C class IFQ. During the June 2018 meeting the Council adopted a purpose and need statement and alternatives for the proposed action.

Alternative 1 would maintain the current regulations; in IFQ regulatory Area 3A, D class IFQ derived from QS held by a CQE must be fished on vessels ≤ 35 ft.

Alternative 2 would allow CQE communities to fish D class quota on C class vessels after a date specified, either August 15 or September 1.

Alternative 3 would allow CQE communities to fish D class quota on C class vessels in a limited number of years. The options include: 2 out of 3 years, 3 out of 5 years, and 3 out of 7 years.

Alternatives 2 and 3 can also be combined.

Since the implementation of the IFQ Program, numerous amendments have lifted the original vessel length landing restrictions of the QS vessel class designations. The ability to fish certain classes of QS on a larger vessel (known as “fishing up”), varies depending upon regulatory area and whether the QS is held by an individual or a CQE. The proposed alternatives would allow CQEs in Area 3A to fish D class IFQ on C class vessels either after a date specified in regulation (Alternative 2), in a limited number of years (Alternative 3), or both (Alternatives 2 and 3 combined). The intent of the action is to allow the fish up measure to be used as a fallback mechanism if a situation arises in which the CQE cannot harvest all its D class IFQ fished on D class vessels as planned.

This analysis highlights the possible socio-economic impacts of allowing for this harvest flexibility and provides a discussion of enforcement and management concerns related to the action alternatives.