

COUNCIL MEMBER PROPOSAL ON SABLEFISH GEAR SWITCHING

Summary: This alternative is based on Alternative 1 but would use the current Alternative 3 Qualification Criteria Option 2, to determine who qualifies for the any-gear QS. Further, anyone that did not qualify for any-gear QS would have their QS converted to trawl-only QS. The following are the specifications for this alternative.

Trawl-Only and Any-Gear Quota Share (QS)

The current northern sablefish QS (valid for use with any gear) will be converted to trawl-only QS and any-gear QS (see procedure below).

Gear Switching Participation Criteria: To qualify for any-gear QS, a QS owner must own a permit that landed northern sablefish QPs with non-trawl gear totaling at least 30,000 lbs. per year in at least 3 years during the period January 1, 2011 – September 15, 2017 (control date). The permit must have been owned as of and since the control date and only the amount of QS owned as and since the control date will be eligible for conversion to any-gear QS.

Procedure for Converting Northern Sablefish QS holdings to Trawl-Only and Any-Gear QS:

NMFS will categorize current individual owners of sablefish north QS based on the participation criteria listed above and convert QS based on the steps listed below. The end result will be that each QS holder would receive the same percentage of the total sablefish QP after the conversion that they would have if the conversion had not been carried out, except designated as trawl-only or any-gear QP.

- QS owners **meeting the gear switching participation criteria** will have their eligible QS converted to any-gear QS (QS in amounts up to their control date holdings).
- QS owned by those **meeting the gear switching participation criteria but in excess of what they owned on the control date** will be converted to trawl-only QS.
- QS owners that **do not meet the gear switching criteria** and will have 100 percent of their QS converted to trawl-only QS.
- AMP QP will be distributed to each QS account as any-gear and trawl-only QP in proportion to the any-gear and trawl-only QS in the account.

Individual Approach to Allocation:

In general, these criteria will be applied to individuals (taking into account their ownership interest in QS accounts as reported to NMFS), including individuals within ownership group. For this purpose, trusts, non-governmental entities, and governments will be treated as individuals.

Accumulation Limits: The existing QS control limit (3.0 percent) and annual vessel use limit (4.5 percent) will continue to be applied for northern sablefish quota as a whole (without distinction by gear type).