

Council Final Motion
GOA Amendment 94: Revising Community Quota Entity (CQE) vessel use caps

October 2, 2011

The Council recommends adopting Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative:

Alternative 2. Revise current regulations such that:

- No vessel may be used, during any fishing year, to harvest more than 50,000 lbs of IFQ halibut derived from quota share held by a CQE; and no vessel may be used, during any fishing year, to harvest more than 50,000 lbs of IFQ sablefish derived from quota share held by a CQE.
- The vessel would also be subject to the same vessel use caps applicable in the overall IFQ Program.

The Council also moved the following problem statement:

CQE communities were approved by the Council in 2002 to provide Gulf of Alaska communities with an opportunity to mitigate the migration of halibut and sablefish quota shares from their communities. The Council sought a distribution of benefits among community residents from CQE activities by imposing CQE individual and vessel use caps. The CQE Program currently limits fishing CQE quota to vessels that fish less than 50,000 lbs of quota – both CQE quota and non-CQE quota. The CQE vessel limitation eliminates the opportunity for community residents awarded CQE quota from fishing on a vessel that has or will fish more than 50,000 lbs of quota, even if it is the only vessel available in a community. In addition, the rule restricts the option for several residents awarded CQE quota from combining their quota on a vessel if the cumulative quota, both CQE and non-CQE, exceeds 50,000 lbs. These restrictions limit CQE use opportunities and may inhibit some CQE purchases. Changing the CQE vessel use cap will ease vessel use restrictions and thereby provide additional opportunities for CQE use and purchase.