

Mark Cooper
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RE: Sablefish Gear Switching

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on gear switching. My family owns 4 IFQ trawl permits, we have 3 vessels that participate in the trawl fishery and have been an active trawler since 1978 I have commented on this issue several times. I believe that it's been a mistake to allow gear switching in the Trawl IFQ program because there is very little associated catch in gear switching. Gear switchers have caught some where around 30% of the sable fish, leaving about 30% of the other IFQ fish uncaught. I am in support of ALTERNATIVE 3 with the following options: 1. Endorsement qualifying options: I would pick OPTION 3. OPTION 2 plus ownership of a vessel that gear switched as of and since the control date. 2. Endorsement limited options: QS Owned 3. Trawl permits without a gear endorsement: I am not in support of a low gear switching activity for any vessels. 4. Gear switching limited overages: Overages could be deducted from the persons quota the following year. 5. Endorsement expiration: Expires on transfer to new owner or owners added. The total amount of gear switching for endorsed permits will not exceed 6.5% Thank you