

Bering Sea Flatfish Specifications Flexibility

Revised alternatives, based on Council motion, February 7, 2013

The alternatives and options adopted by the Council in June 2012, and modified in February 2013, are listed below.

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Allocate ABC surplus (the difference between ABC and TAC) for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole among the Amendment 80 cooperatives and the CDQ Program, using the same formulas as are used in the annual harvest specifications process. Entities may exchange their yellowfin sole, flathead sole, and/or rock sole quota share for an equivalent amount of their allocation of the ABC surplus for these species. Quota share that is exchanged for ABC surplus may be credited back to the entity's allocation of the surplus if unused.

Alternative 3: For flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, the Council shall annually establish a harvest limit that is equal to ABC, or reduced from ABC for social, economic, or ecological considerations, and allocate the harvest limit surplus (the difference between the harvest limit and TAC) for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, among the Amendment 80 cooperatives and the CDQ Program, using the same formulas as are used in the annual harvest specifications process. Entities may exchange their yellowfin sole, flathead sole, and/or rock sole quota share for an equivalent amount of their allocation of the harvest limit surplus for these species. Quota share that is exchanged for harvest limit surplus may be credited back to the entity's allocation of the surplus if unused.

Option 1: Each entity is limited to 3 exchanges per calendar year.

Option 2: Only allocate the ABC (or harvest limit) surplus for flathead sole and rock sole. Entities may, however, still exchange their yellowfin sole quota share to access their allocation of the rock sole or flathead sole ABC (or harvest limit) surplus.

Option 3: No entity may access more than [5,000 mt to 25,000 mt] of additional yellowfin sole.

Note: The three options may apply either to Alternative 2 or Alternative 3. Options 2 and 3 are mutually exclusive.