

16 Consolidation of Permit Holders on Fishing Operations

The sablefish IFQ program was expected to result in a reduction in the number of fishing operations. Reducing the number of fishing operations can result in more fishing time and greater harvests for the remaining operations. A reduction in the number of fishing operations can also reduce total harvesting costs and increase the net economic value that can be generated by the fishery.

The consolidation of QS holdings is one way that the number of fishing operations is reduced under the IFQ program. This topic was examined in previous chapters.

Reductions can also occur on a seasonal basis when IFQ holders combine to fish their IFQ holdings from a single vessel. This chapter examines participation by multiple permit holders upon a single vessel.

Table 16-1 examines harvest and participation over the 1991 to 1997 time period for *catcher vessels* only. Catcher vessels were chosen because data on CFEC permit holders with landings over the 1991 to 1994 time period were only consistently available for catcher vessels. A “catcher vessel only” subset of observations provided a means to compare average permit holders per vessel prior to the IFQ program with average permit holders per vessel under the IFQ program.

Since 1990, ADF&G fish tickets have not captured all the data on the sablefish catch. Some of the catch from catcher/processors in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is only recorded on NMFS's Weekly Production Reports (WPRs). Weekly Production Reports did not collect information on the CFEC permit holders involved in the landings over the 1991 to 1994 period.

To create a file of catcher vessels only, sablefish catcher/processor activity from 1991 to 1994 was identified on WPRs, and any corresponding activity on these vessels that had been recorded on ADF&G fish tickets was identified and eliminated. Counts of persons with landings are counts of unique CFEC permit holders with landings.

NMFS-RAM catch data were used for 1995 through 1997. These data were made consistent with 1991 to 1994 data by identifying catcher/processor harvest data and eliminating those from the NMFS-RAM catch file. Catcher/processors were identified using a combination of the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyer file, the ADF&G Intent to Operate file, and ADF&G fish tickets.¹ The remaining vessels on the NMFS-RAM file were identified as the catcher vessels for Table 16-1. As a result of this methodology,

¹ See Appendix III for more specific details on using these files to create the data set.

the 1995 to 1997 harvest by catcher vessels in Table 16-1 will differ somewhat from the 1995 to 1997 data on catcher vessels presented in Table 16-2.²

For the 1995 to 1997 period, the counts of persons with landings represent IFQ permit holders with landings as identified on the NMFS-RAM catch data. The reader should be aware that these counts may not be strictly comparable to counts of persons with landings over the 1991 to 1994 time period based upon CFEC permit holders.

The harvest in Table 16-1 includes commercial harvests only in the fixed gear sablefish fisheries. Small amounts of non-commercial catch have been excluded. CDQ harvests from 1995 to 1997 also have been excluded.

Table 16-1 indicates that in all areas the ratio of the number of unique persons with landings to the number of unique vessels with landings rose in 1995 over the 1991-1994 average, which provides some evidence that the practice of multiple persons recording landings off a single vessel has increased since inception of the program. Through 1997, this ratio has remained above the 1991-1994 average in all areas.

Table 16-2 examines 1995 to 1997 sablefish commercial harvests by area and vessel category. This table assigns harvest to a vessel category using the QS/IFQ type used to make landings. The table includes freezer-processors, and as noted above, the catcher vessel data will differ somewhat from Table 16-1 due to the different methodologies. Again, CDQ harvests have been excluded.

Table 16-2 shows total and mean harvests, as well as the number of persons who recorded landings. The percent of the total area harvest attributed to each vessel category is given and the percent of total persons with landings in each vessel category is also shown.

Note that some persons have landings in more than one vessel category in an area; therefore, the sum of persons with landings in each vessel category is greater than the overall unique number of persons with landings shown in Table 16-1.

² There is no requirement under the sablefish IFQ program for a person with freezer vessel QS to freeze (process) the person's sablefish harvest. In some cases, freezer vessel catch was landed unfrozen to a floating processor or shore-based processor using freezer vessel IFQ. In Table 16-1, this catch is often counted as catcher vessel catch if the vessel was not otherwise identified as a catcher processor. In Table 16-2 the catch was assigned to freezer-processor vessels based upon the type of QS/IFQ used. Thus the catcher vessel catch in Table 16-2 is slightly different than that reported in Table 16-1.

**Table 16-1. Summary of 1991-1997 Sablefish Harvest and Participation
For All Vessels Other Than Catcher/Processors**

Area	Year	Total Harvest (pounds)	Persons With Landings	Vessels With Landings	Person Landing Days	Vessel Landing Days	Pounds per Person	Pounds per Vessel	Persons per Vessel
Southeast	1991	10,628,875	458	449	966	961	23,207	23,672	1.02
	1992	10,554,259	499	507	1,078	1,079	21,151	20,817	0.98
	1993	12,576,981	390	391	852	852	32,249	32,166	1.00
	1994	14,042,432	488	488	1,272	1,272	28,775	28,775	1.00
	1995	11,271,987	462	378	1,013	930	24,398	29,820	1.22
	1996	9,320,028	460	358	994	889	20,261	26,034	1.28
	1997	7,595,320	420	333	889	800	18,084	22,809	1.26
W. Yakutat	1991	9,104,355	211	205	350	347	43,149	44,411	1.03
	1992	8,795,861	267	266	466	466	32,943	33,067	1.00
	1993	7,556,136	198	196	344	343	38,162	38,552	1.01
	1994	10,476,642	246	249	470	470	42,588	42,075	0.99
	1995	7,500,726	266	228	406	371	28,198	32,898	1.17
	1996	5,567,743	253	211	350	317	22,007	26,387	1.20
	1997	4,715,335	244	198	338	305	19,325	23,815	1.23
C. Gulf	1991	19,625,278	469	455	1,143	1,142	41,845	43,132	1.03
	1992	16,583,538	618	588	1,541	1,538	26,834	28,203	1.05
	1993	16,808,127	470	462	1,127	1,120	35,762	36,381	1.02
	1994	11,660,920	572	562	1,164	1,162	20,386	20,749	1.02
	1995	12,307,979	411	326	820	761	29,946	37,755	1.26
	1996	9,674,187	351	290	717	673	27,562	33,359	1.21
	1997	9,886,607	334	279	710	655	29,601	35,436	1.20
W. Gulf	1991	2,849,541	104	102	143	143	27,399	27,937	1.02
	1992	3,973,089	110	103	223	223	36,119	38,574	1.07
	1993	602,266	29	29	42	42	20,768	20,768	1.00
	1994	297,563	18	19	25	26	16,531	15,661	0.95
	1995	2,470,384	99	86	149	143	24,953	28,725	1.15
	1996	2,336,261	95	83	136	131	24,592	28,148	1.14
	1997	2,085,415	98	81	151	139	21,280	25,746	1.21
Bering Sea	1991	1,372,901	87	84	163	163	15,780	16,344	1.04
	1992	753,239	77	72	120	120	9,782	10,462	1.07
	1993	597,064	41	40	133	133	14,563	14,927	1.03
	1994	289,080	32	31	63	63	9,034	9,325	1.03
	1995	728,660	65	55	87	85	11,210	13,248	1.18
	1996	446,943	52	47	80	77	8,595	9,509	1.11
	1997	423,468	48	45	85	84	8,822	9,410	1.07
Aleutians	1991	1,427,163	48	47	71	71	29,733	30,365	1.02
	1992	1,164,629	27	27	63	63	43,134	43,134	1.00
	1993	650,815	32	33	52	52	20,338	19,722	0.97
	1994	573,662	33	33	56	56	17,384	17,384	1.00
	1995	820,417	56	53	71	69	14,650	15,480	1.06
	1996	569,781	54	50	64	63	10,552	11,396	1.08
	1997	736,224	56	50	80	76	13,147	14,724	1.12

Table 16-2. Summary of 1995-1997 Sablefish Harvest and Participation by Vessel Category. The Totals Include Catches by Catcher/Processors

Area	Year	Vessel Category	Total Harvest (pounds)	Percent Area Harvest	Mean Harvest	Persons With Landings	Percent Total Area Persons	
Southeast	1995	Freezer	1,035,543	8.7	41,422	25	5.2	
		GT 60 ft.	2,480,434	20.9	29,529	84	17.5	
		LE 60 ft.	8,373,441	70.4	22,570	371	77.3	

				11,889,418			480	
	1996	Freezer	907,844	9.3	34,917	26	5.4	
		GT 60 ft.	2,025,220	20.7	24,110	84	17.5	
		LE 60 ft.	6,857,379	70.0	18,584	369	77.0	

				9,790,443			479	
	1997	Freezer	699,651	8.8	26,910	26	5.9	
		GT 60 ft.	1,626,048	20.4	21,681	75	17.2	
LE 60 ft.		5,649,855	70.8	16,815	336	76.9		

			7,975,554			437		
W. Yakutat	1995	Freezer	634,647	8.0	35,258	18	6.4	
		GT 60 ft.	4,900,973	61.5	49,505	99	35.1	
		LE 60 ft.	2,430,968	30.5	14,733	165	58.5	

				7,966,588			282	
	1996	Freezer	501,956	8.2	25,098	20	7.0	
		GT 60 ft.	3,726,626	61.1	34,506	108	37.6	
		LE 60 ft.	1,866,787	30.6	11,741	159	55.4	

				6,095,369			287	
	1997	Freezer	379,744	7.7	21,097	18	6.7	
		GT 60 ft.	3,023,482	61.1	30,235	100	37.5	
LE 60 ft.		1,547,219	31.3	10,384	149	55.8		

			4,950,445			267		
C. Gulf	1995	Freezer	1,975,033	14.1	59,849	33	7.6	
		GT 60 ft.	6,994,775	50.1	44,838	156	35.8	
		LE 60 ft.	4,995,572	35.8	20,225	247	56.7	

				13,965,380			436	
	1996	Freezer	1,687,897	14.3	51,148	33	8.5	
		GT 60 ft.	5,746,890	48.6	41,345	139	35.9	
		LE 60 ft.	4,380,565	37.1	20,375	215	55.6	

				11,815,352			387	
	1997	Freezer	1,481,073	13.5	52,895	28	7.6	
		GT 60 ft.	5,368,246	49.0	37,540	143	38.8	
LE 60 ft.		4,100,428	37.4	20,709	198	53.7		

			10,949,747			369		

(Continued)

Table 16-2 (con't). Summary of 1995-1997 Sablefish Harvest and Participation by Vessel Category. The Totals Include Catches by Catcher/Processors

Area	Year	Vessel Category	Total Harvest (pounds)	Percent Area Harvest	Mean Harvest	Persons With Landings	Percent Total Area Persons	
W. Gulf	1995	Freezer	1,567,172	40.0	68,138	23	19.2	
		GT 60 ft.	1,758,312	44.8	27,910	63	52.5	
		LE 60 ft.	595,873	15.2	17,526	34	28.3	
			-----	3,921,357			120	
	1996	Freezer	1,398,067	39.1	55,923	25	20.3	
		GT 60 ft.	1,582,571	44.3	25,525	62	50.4	
		LE 60 ft.	591,729	16.6	16,437	36	29.3	
			-----	3,572,367			123	
	1997	Freezer	1,155,478	37.9	50,238	23	18.1	
		GT 60 ft.	1,329,160	43.7	21,790	61	48.0	
		LE 60 ft.	560,348	18.4	13,031	43	33.9	
			-----	3,044,986			127	
Bering Sea	1995	Freezer	405,858	41.3	21,361	19	24.4	
		GT 60 ft.	471,282	48.0	12,084	39	50.0	
		LE 60 ft.	105,031	10.7	5,252	20	25.6	
			-----	982,171			78	
	1996	Freezer	266,216	37.9	13,311	20	26.0	
		GT 60 ft.	345,928	49.2	8,236	42	54.5	
		LE 60 ft.	90,945	12.9	6,063	15	19.5	
			-----	703,089			77	
	1997	Freezer	224,862	39.3	13,227	17	27.9	
		GT 60 ft.	285,816	49.9	8,932	32	52.5	
		LE 60 ft.	61,901	10.8	5,158	12	19.7	
			-----	572,579			61	
Aleutians	1995	Freezer	1,109,897	58.3	52,852	21	28.8	
		GT 60 ft.	710,778	37.3	19,210	37	50.7	
		LE 60 ft.	82,439	4.3	5,496	15	20.5	
			-----	1,903,114			73	
	1996	Freezer	610,711	52.3	30,536	20	26.7	
		GT 60 ft.	451,538	38.7	11,578	39	52.0	
		LE 60 ft.	104,940	9.0	6,559	16	21.3	
			-----	1,167,189			75	
	1997	Freezer	656,313	57.7	36,462	18	26.9	
		GT 60 ft.	424,430	37.3	11,790	36	53.7	
		LE 60 ft.	56,350	5.0	4,335	13	19.4	
			-----	1,137,093			67	