

IFQ/CDQ Issue

The below document attempts to identify and clarify the observer recording of IFQ and or CDQ on a longline vessel.

Background

IFQ is fished by fixed gear vessels in both the BSAI and GOA. According to regulations, a CV that has an IFQ holder onboard must retain all IFQ species if they have quota remaining. The same is not true for CP's. A CP can discard IFQ species if they want. Regulations allow some IFQ species to be caught under a CDQ permit. Historically this has only been done by CV's. CP's typically only use IFQ for sablefish and or halibut and their CDQ species are only P. Cod or other non-sablefish/halibut species. A vessel is not required to fill out a new logbook page when they fish IFQ and non-IFQ on the same day.

Problem

When an observer determines if a set is IFQ or not, they are only trained to look for the IFQ permit number on the upper left of the logbook. Because a vessel does not need to fill out a new logbook page for IFQ and non-IFQ on the same day, using this method of only looking for the IFQ permit number may lead to some sets being labeled IFQ when they are not. The action of a CV fishing for sablefish and or halibut under CDQ is also problematic. If the CV logbook page is labeled as CDQ and there are no weights recorded for retained sablefish or halibut, then the observer record should not be labeled as CDQ. Because CDQ requires its own page by the record keeping and reporting requirements, this should be easier for the observer to determine.

Solution

In order for the observer to determine if a set is IFQ/CDQ or not the following must happen:

If a longline CP, the logbook must have an IFQ permit number listed AND there must be a weight > 0 in either the CDQ/IFQ Halibut field or the IFQ SABL field. If the CDQ/IFQ Halibut field or the IFQ SABL field is blank or 0, then the set is not IFQ and must be labeled as N for the IFQ observer data field.

If a longline CV the above is also true and the same would be true for CDQ. If a CDQ permit number is listed then there must be a weight in the CDQ/IFQ halibut field. If there is no weight or the weight is 0 in the CDQ/IFQ halibut field then the set can't be labeled as CDQ.

Observer program and AKRO work together to change the regulations so that IFQ is recorded the same as a trawl CDQ. A new logbook page is required when fishing IFQ and non-IFQ on the same day. This is more of a long term solution that most likely will not happen in 2012.