

Dated: December 16, 2003.

Rebecca Lent,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 991207325-0063-02; I.D.
100699A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; North Pacific Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Cost Recovery Program

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of standard prices and
fee percentage for North Pacific halibut
and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota
(IFQ) cost recovery program.

SUMMARY: The National Marine
Fisheries Service publishes IFQ
standard prices and notification of
adjustment of the IFQ fee percentage for
the IFQ Cost Recovery Program in the
halibut and sablefish fisheries of the
North Pacific. This action is required by
regulations and is intended to provide
holders of halibut and sablefish IFQ
permits information to calculate the
payments required for IFQ cost recovery
fees due by January 31, 2004.

DATES: Effective December 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jennifer Hayes, Fee Coordinator, 907-
586-7344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS, Alaska Region, administers
the halibut and sablefish IFQ programs
in the North Pacific. The IFQ Programs
are limited access systems authorized by
section 303(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens
Fishery Conservation and Management
Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the
Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982.
Fishing under the IFQ Programs began
in March 1995. Regulations

implementing the IFQ Program are set
forth at 50 CFR part 679.

In 1996, the Magnuson-Stevens Act
was amended (by Pub. L. 104-297) to
require the Secretary of Commerce to,
among other things, "collect a fee to
recover the actual costs directly related
to the management and enforcement of
any . . . individual fishing quota
program" (section 304(d)(2)(A)). Section
304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
specifies an upper limit on these fees,
when the fees must be collected, and
where the fees must be deposited.
Section 303(d)(4) of the Magnuson-
Stevens Act allows NMFS to reserve up
to 25 percent of the fees collected for
use in an IFQ loan program to aid in
financing the purchase of IFQ or quota
share (QS) by entry-level and small-
vessel fishermen.

On March 20, 2000, NMFS published
regulations implementing the IFQ Cost
Recovery Program (65 FR 14919), which
are set forth at 50 CFR 679.45. Under the
regulations, an IFQ permit holder incurs
a cost recovery fee liability for every
pound of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish
that is landed on his or her IFQ
permit(s). The IFQ permit holder is
responsible for self-collecting the fee
liability for all IFQ halibut and IFQ
sablefish landings on his or her
permit(s). The IFQ permit holder is also
responsible for submitting a fee liability
payment to NMFS on or before the due
date of January 31 following the year in
which the IFQ landings were made. The
dollar amount of the fee due is
determined by multiplying the annual
IFQ fee percentage (3 percent or less) by
the ex-vessel value of each IFQ landing
made on a permit and summing the
totals of each permit (if more than one).

Fee Percentage

Three percent of the ex-vessel value of
IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish harvested
is the maximum fee amount allowed by
section 304(d)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-
Stevens Act. Regulations at § 679.45(d)
allow the Administrator, Alaska Region,
NMFS (Regional Administrator) to
reduce the fee percentage if actual
management and enforcement costs
could be recovered through a lesser
percentage. In this event, the Regional
Administrator will publish a
notification of any adjustment of the
IFQ fee percentage in the **Federal
Register** pursuant to § 679.45(d)(4).

For 2003, the Regional Administrator
has determined that a fee of 1.4 percent
is necessary to recover the actual
management and enforcement costs.
Therefore, the Regional Administrator is
adjusting the cost recovery fee
applicable to year 2003 IFQ landings
from 3.0 percent to 1.4 percent.

Standard Prices

The fee liability is based on the sum
of all payments of monetary worth made
to fishermen for the sale of the fish
during the year. This includes any retro-
payments (e.g., bonuses, delayed partial
payments, post-season payments) made
to the IFQ permit holder for previously
landed IFQ halibut or sablefish.

For purposes of calculating IFQ cost
recovery fees, NMFS distinguishes
between two types of ex-vessel value:
"actual ex-vessel value" and "standard
ex-vessel value." "Actual ex-vessel
value" is the amount of all
compensation, monetary or non-
monetary, that an IFQ permit holder
received as payment for his or her IFQ
fish sold. "Standard ex-vessel value" is
the default value on which to base fee
liability calculations. However, IFQ
permit holders have the option of using
"IFQ actual ex-vessel value" if they can
satisfactorily document those values.

Regulations at § 679.45(c)(2)(i) require
the Regional Administrator to publish
IFQ standard prices during the last
quarter of each calendar year. These
standard prices are used, along with
estimates of IFQ halibut and IFQ
sablefish landings, to calculate standard
values. The standard prices are
described in U.S. dollars per IFQ
equivalent pound for IFQ halibut and
IFQ sablefish landings made during the
year. IFQ equivalent pound(s) means the
weight amount, recorded in pounds, for
an IFQ landing and calculated as round
weight for sablefish and headed and
gutted ("net") weight for halibut. NMFS
calculates the standard prices to reflect,
as closely as possible, by month and
port or port-group, the variations in the
actual ex-vessel values of IFQ halibut
and IFQ sablefish landings. The
standard prices for IFQ halibut and IFQ
sablefish are listed in the following
table. Data from ports are combined as
necessary to protect confidentiality of
data submissions.

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2003 IFQ SEASON

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE
CORDOVA	March 31	\$2.72	\$2.34
	April 30		

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2003 IFQ SEASON—
Continued

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE
DUTCH HARBOR	May 31	\$2.68	\$2.36
	June 30	\$2.87	
	July 31	\$2.97	
	August 31	\$3.14	
	September 30		
	October 31		\$2.09
	November 30		
	March 31		
	April 30	\$2.70	
	May 31	\$2.58	
	June 30	\$2.67	
HOMER	July 31	\$2.80	
	August 31	\$2.89	
	September 30	\$2.84	
	October 31	\$2.84	
	November 30	\$2.84	
	March 31	\$2.95	
	April 30	\$2.84	
	May 31	\$2.88	
	June 30	\$2.94	
	July 31	\$2.48	\$2.37
	August 31	\$3.19	
KETCHIKAN	September 30	\$3.25	
	October 31	\$3.25	
	November 30	\$3.25	
	March 31		
	April 30		
	May 31		
	June 30		
	July 31		
	August 31		
	September 30	\$3.07	
	October 31	\$3.07	\$2.37
KODIAK	November 30	\$3.07	
	March 31	\$2.76	
	April 30	\$2.68	
	May 31	\$2.55	
	June 30	\$2.67	
	July 31	\$2.84	
	August 31	\$3.01	
	September 30	\$3.06	
	October 31	\$3.06	
	November 30	\$3.06	
PETERSBURG	March 31		
	April 30	\$2.82	
	May 31	\$2.74	
	June 30	\$2.89	
	July 31	\$2.94	
	August 31	\$3.06	
	September 30	\$3.09	
	October 31	\$3.09	
	November 30	\$3.09	
	March 31	\$2.68	\$1.96
SEWARD	April 30	\$2.77	
	May 31	\$2.65	
	June 30	\$2.82	
	July 31	\$2.78	
	August 31		
	September 30		\$2.38
	October 31		
	November 30		
	March 31		
	April 30		
SITKA	May 31		
	June 30		
	July 31	\$2.96	
	August 31	\$3.03	
	September 30	\$3.07	
	October 31	\$3.07	

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2003 IFQ SEASON—
Continued

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE
¹ BERING SEA	November 30	\$3.07	
	March 31	\$2.62	\$1.99
	April 30	\$2.61	\$1.95
	May 31	\$2.56	\$2.41
	June 30	\$2.64	\$2.39
	July 31	\$2.81	\$2.42
	August 31	\$2.89	\$2.29
	September 30	\$2.95	\$2.25
	October 31	\$2.95	\$2.25
	November 30	\$2.95	\$2.25
² CENTRAL GULF	March 31	\$2.80	\$2.20
	April 30	\$2.76	\$2.33
	May 31	\$2.67	\$2.31
	June 30	\$2.90	\$2.38
	July 31	\$2.78	\$2.14
	August 31	\$3.08	\$2.35
	September 30	\$3.17	\$2.32
	October 31	\$3.17	\$2.32
	November 30	\$3.17	\$2.32
	March 31	\$2.93	\$2.35
³ SOUTHEAST	April 30	\$2.92	\$2.34
	May 31	\$2.80	\$2.39
	June 30	\$2.95	\$2.40
	July 31	\$2.99	\$2.41
	August 31	\$3.08	\$2.41
	September 30	\$3.11	\$2.56
	October 31	\$3.11	\$2.56
	November 30	\$3.11	\$2.56
	March 31	\$2.83	\$2.26
	April 30	\$2.82	\$2.32
⁴ ALL	May 31	\$2.68	\$2.33
	June 30	\$2.84	\$2.39
	July 31	\$2.83	\$2.28
	August 31	\$3.01	\$2.36
	September 30	\$3.10	\$2.42
	October 31	\$3.10	\$2.42
	November 30	\$3.10	\$2.42

¹Landing locations Within Port Group—Bering Sea: Adak, Akutan, Akutan Bay, Atka, Bristol Bay, Chefnak, Dillingham, Captains Bay, Dutch Harbor, Egegik, Ikatan Bay, Hooper Bay, King Cove, King Salmon, Kipnuk, Mekoryuk, Naknek, Nome, Quinhagak, Savoonga, St. George, St. Lawrence, St. Paul, Togiak, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Beaver Inlet, Ugadaga Bay, Unalaska.

²Landing Locations Within Port Group—Central Gulf of Alaska: Anchor Point, Anchorage, Chignik, Cordova, Eagle River, False Pass, West Anchor Cove, Girdwood, Chinitna Bay, Halibut Cove, Homer, Kasilof, Kenai, Kenai River, Alitak, Kodiak, Port Bailey, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Old Harbor, Palmer, Sand Point, Seldovia, Resurrection Bay, Seward, Valdez, Whittier.

³Landing Locations Within Port Group—Southeast Alaska: Angoon, Baranof Warm Springs, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Excursion Inlet, Gustavus, Haines, Hollis, Hoonah, Hyder, Auke Bay, Douglas, Tee Harbor, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Klawock, Metlakatla, Pelican, Petersburg, Portage Bay, Port Alexander, Port Graham, Port Protection, Point Baker, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Wrangell, Yakutat.

⁴Landing Locations Within Port Group—All: For Alaska: All landing locations included in 1, 2, and 3. For California: Eureka, Fort Bragg, Other California. For Oregon: Astoria, Aurora, Lincoln City, Newport, Warrenton, Other Oregon. For Washington: Anacortes, Bellevue, Bellingham, Nagai Island, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Ilwaco, La Conner, Port Angeles, Port Orchard, Port Townsend, Ranier, Fox Island, Mercer Island, Seattle, Standwood, Other Washington. For Canada: Port Hardy, Port Edward, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Haines Junction, Other Canada.

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