

## Appendix III

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### **Sablefish “Catcher Vessels Only” File**

Tables in Chapter 16 examine sablefish harvest and participation by sablefish catcher vessels only. A “catcher vessel only” subset of harvest data provides a means to compare average CFEC permit holders per vessel prior to the IFQ program with average NMFS-RAM permit holders per vessel under the IFQ program. Building this file required a blend of data from several sources.

#### **1991 - 1994 Catcher Vessels**

Since 1990, ADF&G fish tickets have not been required for sablefish or other groundfish harvested in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) if the catch is not processed in waters controlled by the State of Alaska; therefore, some of the catch from catcher/processors in the EEZ is only recorded on NMFS's Weekly Production Reports (WPRs). Weekly Production Reports do not collect information on the CFEC permit holders involved in the landings.

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.

#### **1995 - 1996 Catcher Vessels**

Catcher vessels were identified using a combination of the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyer's file, the ADF&G Processor Intent to Operate file, and ADF&G fish tickets.

NMFS-RAM requires a Registered Buyer's permit for businesses to purchase IFQ halibut or sablefish. Persons who sell IFQ halibut or sablefish dockside must also obtain a Registered Buyer's permit. Catcher/processors are somewhat identified on the Registered Buyer's file; however, the file lacks precise characterization of some buying operations, especially catcher/sellers and catcher/processors. For example, registered buyers are allowed to indicate several processor types on their permit form, but the corresponding electronic data entry form contains space for only one processor type; therefore, data entry personnel must make a choice on which processor type is entered.

Consequently, there were numerous operations which were labeled as catcher/sellers (catchers who sell *unprocessed* fish) on the NMFS-RAM system, but which were classified as catcher/processors on the ADF&G system. Since the ADF&G system has a more strict methodology of assigning processor type, and since several of the entities

classified as “catcher sellers” by NMFS-RAM had harvests exceeding 300,000 pounds, it was deemed prudent to use the ADF&G data to identify catcher/processors.

State processor codes from fish ticket data were also used to augment the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyers file. Most processors on the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyers file have been assigned state processor codes; however, some processor codes are missing because individuals sometimes do not list their state processor codes when they fill out their Registered Buyers permit forms. When state processor codes were missing from the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyers file, it was possible to find state processor codes for some of the registered buyers by linking specific fish tickets with NMFS-RAM IFQ harvest data by pre-printed fish ticket number.

The final step in this procedure was to hand review the names and addresses and harvest amounts of each processor within each category.

### **1997 Catcher Vessels**

In 1997, the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyer’s file appeared to do a somewhat better job of differentiating between catcher/processors and catcher/sellers. However, there were still problems due to the reporting ambiguities noted above.

Catcher/processors were identified and excluded from the data by three criteria:

- 1) All NMFS-RAM harvest records that indicate they were taken by catcher/processors.
- 2) All NMFS-RAM harvest records that match to ADFG fish tickets where the state processor code indicates a catcher/processor.
- 3) All NMFS-RAM harvest records from vessel category “A” that indicated they were catcher/sellers.