

## 14 Changes in Harvest and Delivery Patterns

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This chapter examines harvest and delivery patterns in the sablefish fishery. The first table shows time-series data which compare deliveries that occurred from 1991 through 1998. There are also tables which show the number of persons who recorded landings, comparing the seasons before and after implementation of the IFQ program. Other tables show quarterly harvest data; the harvest by state of residence of the QS holder; and finally, a table that compares harvests by QS owners with harvests by hired skippers.

### 14.1 Deliveries by State, Census Area, Annual Quarter, and Residency

Tables 14-1 and 14-2 contain Alaska harvest data from 1991 through 1998 by place of delivery. The 1991 through 1994 data were developed from ADFG fish ticket data for shorebased processors and NMFS Weekly Production Reports (WPR) for catcher/processors. The 1995 through 1998 data come from NMFS-RAM IFQ databases and include commercial harvests in the IFQ fishery only.<sup>70</sup> Small amounts of non-commercial catches have been excluded from the tables. All harvests in the CDQ fisheries were also excluded.

Table 14-1 classifies 1991 to 1998 sablefish harvests based upon where the catch was delivered. Harvests attributed to WPR data sources from 1991 to 1994 were placed in the “catcher/processor” category. The remaining 1991 to 1994 harvest was classified depending upon whether the deliveries were made in Alaska or in other states.

Harvest data for 1995-1998 were analyzed similarly to 1991-1994 data even though they come from a different source. Catcher/processor harvest from 1995-1998 was identified from the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyers file, the ADF&G Intent to Operate file, and ADF&G fish tickets.<sup>71</sup> Other 1995-1998 harvest was classified based upon whether the deliveries were made in Alaska or in other states.

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<sup>70</sup> The blend of two types of harvest data for 1991-1994 was necessary because there is no single data source which includes all the sablefish harvest. Therefore, the 1991-1994 sablefish harvest data presented herein may differ from other blended data sources.

The 1991-1994 WPR data for catcher/processors does not include a port of landing. Although the 1995-1996 NMFS-RAM data do include a port of delivery, the 1995-1996 catcher/processor harvest was not assigned to a port in order to provide a consistent time series.

<sup>71</sup> This was a complicated exercise. Information sources from ADF&G were necessary because the NMFS-RAM Registered Buyers file lacks precise characterization of 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 only contains space for one processor type and data entry personnel must make a choice on which processor type is entered. Consequently, there were numerous operations which were labelled 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

Table 14-1 shows small variations in delivery patterns from 1991 to 1998 with respect to the percentage of the sablefish delivered to Alaskan ports, to catcher/ processors, or to ports outside Alaska. However, total harvests over the time period have declined significantly. The 1998 statewide harvest of sablefish was the smallest of any year in the time series; consequently, the pounds of sablefish delivered to Alaskan ports and catcher/processors was considerably lower than other years. Again, the 1995 through 1998 harvest data include only the commercial catch in the IFQ fishery.

Given the problematic nature of the data (the 1991-1994 blend as well as the complicated methodology of assigning the 1995-1998 data to a processing category), these results must necessarily be viewed with caution.

Table 14-2 breaks out the Alaskan deliveries in Table 14-1 and apportions them to reporting areas based upon Alaskan census areas or combinations of census areas.<sup>72</sup> Lower TACs in the sablefish fishery have contributed to an overall decrease in the total amount of pounds of sablefish delivered after 1994. Delivery patterns have also varied since the inception of the IFQ program and these changes may or may not have been related to the program. For example, the percentage of total harvest that was delivered to the Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, Wrangell/Petersburg, Skagway/Yakutat/Angoon, and Kodiak census areas declined after 1994, whereas the percentage of total deliveries in the Sitka/Juneau/Haines and Kenai Peninsula / Anchorage aggregated census areas appears to have increased after 1994.

Quarterly sablefish harvests are examined in Table 14-3. The number of pounds landed, number of persons with landings, and the average pounds landed are given for each area and quarter for 1995 through 1998.

Table 14-3 indicates most of the catch is landed in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of each year. Note that these periods, April through June and July through September, contain the best weather months. Also note that the Alaska sablefish seasons have opened on March 15 and closed on November 15, which shortened the available time to make landings in the 1st and 4th quarters. In most areas since 1995, there appears to be a shift away from harvests in the 2nd quarter, and increases in harvests in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

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processor type, and since a number of these entities had large harvests (some 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, 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 to 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.

<sup>72</sup> It is necessary to aggregate some census areas to preserve confidential delivery data.

Table 14-4 classifies 1995-1998 sablefish harvests by area, year, and state of residence of the QS owner. Note that the count of persons with landings in this table represents the number of unique IFQ permit holders with landings. An IFQ permit holder may or may not own the QS they are fishing. For example, a QS owner can hire a skipper to fish their IFQ for them, or they may lease their QS to another person. In Table 14-4, “persons with landings” counts the number of unique IFQ permit holders, and their harvests have been assigned to the residence of the QS owner.

Table 14-4 indicates that in the Southeast, West Yakutat, and Central Gulf areas, the majority of IFQ permit holders with landings were using QS owned by persons from Alaska. The majority of IFQ permit holders with landings in the Western Gulf, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands were using QS owned by persons from Washington. Washington QS holders were also credited with the majority of the pounds harvested in all areas and years except the Central Gulf in 1995 and 1998 and in all years from 1995 to 1998 in Southeast. Persons from states other than Alaska or Washington were credited with relatively small amounts of the harvest in each area.

**Table 14-1. Sablefish Deliveries (pounds), for Alaska, Catcher/Processors, and Other Places**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>Landings in Alaska</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Landings From Catcher/Processors</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Landings in Other States</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
1991	51,209,634	44,901,076	87.7	6,201,521	12.1	107,037	0.2
1992	48,400,987	41,304,153	85.3	6,576,372	13.6	520,462	1.1
1993	49,313,981	38,446,922	78.0	10,522,592	21.3	344,467	0.7
1994	44,827,268	36,362,648	81.1	7,486,969	16.7	977,651	2.2
1995	40,628,028	34,232,337	84.3	5,527,875	13.6	867,816	2.1
1996	33,143,809	27,308,482	82.4	5,228,866	15.8	606,461	1.8
1997	28,630,404	24,978,976	87.2	3,196,302	11.2	455,126	1.6
1998	27,326,697	23,618,690	86.4	3,343,080	12.2	364,927	1.3

Note: Harvest figures from 1995 through 1998 are for commercial harvests in the IFQ fishery. Harvests in the CDQ fisheries are excluded.

**Table 14-2. Sablefish Deliveries (pounds), by Alaska Place of Delivery: 1991-1998**

<b>Alaska Census Area</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Pounds Delivered</b>	<b>Percent of Total Harvest</b>
Ketchikan / Prince of Wales	1991	1,499,252	2.9
	1992	1,084,597	2.2
	1993	1,253,704	2.5
	1994	1,783,025	4.0
	1995	659,842	1.6
	1996	663,452	2.0
	1997	484,246	1.7
	1998	473,457	1.7
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	1991	2,219,025	4.3
	1992	2,923,296	6.0
	1993	3,266,984	6.6
	1994	4,030,771	9.0
	1995	2,024,982	5.0
	1996	1,757,858	5.3
	1997	1,240,980	4.3
	1998	943,670	3.5
Sitka / Juneau / Haines	1991	3,916,241	7.6
	1992	3,842,141	7.9
	1993	3,595,039	7.3
	1994	5,661,772	12.6
	1995	6,030,924	14.8
	1996	5,372,676	16.2
	1997	4,919,060	17.2
	1998	5,340,560	19.5
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area	1991	6,115,837	11.9
	1992	5,993,468	12.4
	1993	7,739,549	15.7
	1994	7,850,543	17.5
	1995	5,548,055	13.7
	1996	3,767,543	11.4
	1997	3,234,288	11.3
	1998	2,570,430	9.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	1991	3,267,057	6.4
	1992	2,555,694	5.3
	1993	2,202,364	4.5
	1994	1,954,723	4.4
	1995	1,709,629	4.2
	1996	1,285,453	3.9
	1997	1,246,654	4.4
	1998	945,608	3.5
Kenai Peninsula / Anchorage	1991	13,291,830	26.0
	1992	10,333,650	21.4
	1993	10,166,782	20.6
	1994	8,226,662	18.4
	1995	10,201,382	25.1
	1996	8,890,290	26.8
	1997	7,803,330	27.3
	1998	8,037,530	29.4

(Continued)

**Table 14-2 (con't). Sablefish Deliveries (pounds), by Alaska Place of Delivery: 1991-1998**

<b>Alaska Census Area</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Pounds Delivered</b>	<b>Percent of Total Harvest</b>
Kodiak Island Borough	1991	7,560,370	14.8
	1992	6,423,037	13.3
	1993	7,642,884	15.5
	1994	5,523,117	12.3
	1995	4,235,964	10.4
	1996	2,654,164	8.0
	1997	3,635,076	12.7
	1998	3,051,421	11.2
Aleutians / Alaska Peninsula	1991	5,774,578	11.3
	1992	4,927,040	10.2
	1993	1,985,665	4.0
	1994	1,160,320	2.6
	1995	3,821,559	9.4
	1996	2,917,046	8.8
	1997	2,415,342	8.4
	1998	2,256,014	8.3
Floating Processor	1991	1,256,886	2.5
	1992	3,221,230	6.7
	1993	593,951	1.2
	1994	171,715	0.4

**Table 14-3. Sablefish Harvest (pounds), by Area, Year, and Quarter: 1995 to 1998**

Area	Year	Quarter	Total Quarterly Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Quarterly Harvest
Southeast	1995	1	1,148,242	9.7	40	6.3	28,706
		2	6,469,053	54.4	287	45.5	22,540
		3	2,657,686	22.4	189	30.0	14,062
		4	1,614,437	13.6	115	18.2	14,039
				-----			
				11,889,418			
	1996	1	1,380,903	14.1	66	10.4	20,923
		2	5,676,818	58.0	307	48.3	18,491
		3	2,185,055	22.3	185	29.1	11,811
		4	547,667	5.6	77	12.1	7,113
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				9,790,443			
	1997	1	730,609	9.2	38	7.1	19,227
		2	4,488,967	56.3	292	54.2	15,373
		3	2,092,721	26.2	146	27.1	14,334
		4	663,257	8.3	63	11.7	10,528
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				7,975,554			
	1998	1	407,254	5.5	35	6.7	11,636
		2	3,728,237	50.2	242	46.1	15,406
3		2,454,679	33.1	174	33.1	14,107	
4		833,257	11.2	74	14.1	11,260	
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			7,423,427				
W. Yakutat	1995	1	493,896	6.2	15	4.7	32,926
		2	5,709,347	71.7	180	56.6	31,719
		3	1,273,897	16.0	81	25.5	15,727
		4	489,448	6.1	42	13.2	11,654
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				7,966,588			
	1996	1	456,710	7.5	20	6.3	22,836
		2	4,085,552	67.0	181	57.5	22,572
		3	1,125,511	18.5	79	25.1	14,247
		4	427,596	7.0	35	11.1	12,217
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				6,095,369			
	1997	1	346,081	7.0	7	2.5	49,440
		2	3,208,654	64.8	160	57.1	20,054
		3	913,053	18.4	76	27.1	12,014
		4	482,657	9.7	37	13.2	13,045
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				4,950,445			
	1998	1	250,015	5.4	11	4.3	22,729
		2	2,855,435	61.3	139	54.1	20,543
3		1,284,291	27.6	81	31.5	15,855	
4		269,811	5.8	26	10.1	10,377	
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			4,659,552				
C. Gulf	1995	1	54,825	0.4	11	2.0	4,984
		2	9,867,708	70.7	263	48.1	37,520
		3	2,774,351	19.9	157	28.7	17,671
		4	1,268,496	9.1	116	21.2	10,935
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			13,965,380				

(Continued)

**Table 14-3 (con't). Sablefish Harvest (pounds), by Area, Year, and Quarter: 1995 to 1998**

Area	Year	Quarter	Total Quarterly Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Quarterly Harvest
C. Gulf (con't)	1996	1	266,680	2.3	22	4.7	12,122
		2	8,347,677	70.7	241	51.4	34,638
		3	2,500,721	21.2	135	28.8	18,524
		4	700,274	5.9	71	15.1	9,863
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			11,815,352				
	1997	1	231,947	2.1	22	4.9	10,543
		2	7,613,604	69.5	235	52.1	32,398
		3	2,459,441	22.5	125	27.7	19,676
		4	644,755	5.9	69	15.3	9,344
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			10,949,747				
	1998	1	141,078	1.3	15	3.5	9,405
		2	6,552,839	60.9	192	44.4	34,129
		3	2,914,768	27.1	139	32.2	20,970
		4	1,145,739	10.7	86	19.9	13,323
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		10,754,424					
W. Gulf	1995	2	2,180,324	55.6	56	42.1	38,934
		3	1,500,120	38.3	59	44.4	25,426
		4	240,913	6.1	18	13.5	13,384
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			3,921,357				
	1996	2	1,891,749	53.0	58	41.4	32,616
		3	1,412,371	39.5	64	45.7	22,068
		4	268,247	7.5	18	12.9	14,903
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			3,572,367				
	1997	1	43,751	1.4	2	1.6	21,876
		2	1,571,522	51.6	60	46.9	26,192
		3	1,179,195	38.7	45	35.2	26,204
		4	250,518	8.2	21	16.4	11,929
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			3,044,986				
1998	2	1,035,318	34.3	50	43.1	20,706	
	3	1,709,743	56.7	55	47.4	31,086	
	4	269,813	8.9	11	9.5	24,528	
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		3,014,874					
Bering Sea	1995	1	29,578	3.0	2	2.5	14,789
		2	459,817	46.8	38	47.5	12,100
		3	244,280	24.9	31	38.8	7,880
		4	248,496	25.3	9	11.3	27,611
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			982,171				
	1996	2	397,932	56.6	43	48.9	9,254
		3	232,827	33.1	35	39.8	6,652
4		72,330	10.3	10	11.4	7,233	
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		703,089					

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**Table 14-3 (con't). Sablefish Harvest (pounds), by Area, Year, and Quarter: 1995 to 1998**

Area	Year	Quarter	Total Quarterly Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Quarterly Harvest	
Bering Sea (con't)	1997	2	397,245	69.4	43	60.6	9,238	
		3	122,620	21.4	23	32.4	5,331	
		4	52,714	9.2	5	7.0	10,543	
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			572,579					
	1998	2	278,508	48.0	27	46.6	10,315	
		3	218,619	37.7	21	36.2	10,410	
		4	82,670	14.3	10	17.2	8,267	
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			579,797					
	Aleutians	1995	2	825,221	43.4	31	39.2	26,620
			3	861,011	45.2	39	49.4	22,077
4			216,882	11.4	9	11.4	24,098	
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			1,903,114					
1996		2	480,061	41.1	31	39.2	15,486	
		3	507,880	43.5	37	46.8	13,726	
		4	179,248	15.4	11	13.9	16,295	
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			1,167,189					
1997		2	396,697	34.9	32	42.7	12,397	
		3	606,064	53.3	29	38.7	20,899	
	4	134,332	11.8	14	18.7	9,595		
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		1,137,093						
1998	2	278,072	31.1	23	46.0	12,090		
	3	535,381	59.8	23	46.0	23,277		
	4	81,170	9.1	4	8.0	20,293		
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		894,623						

**Table 14-4. Sablefish Harvest (pounds) by Area, Year, and State of QS Owner: 1995-1998**

Area	Year	State of Residence of QS Owner	Total Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Annual Harvest
Southeast	1995	Alaska	7,841,621	66.0	319	67.2	24,582
		Washington	3,427,926	28.8	135	28.4	25,392
		Other	619,871	5.2	21	4.4	29,518
			-----				
				11,889,418			
	1996	Alaska	6,599,180	67.4	321	67.3	20,558
		Washington	2,682,861	27.4	133	27.9	20,172
		Other	508,402	5.2	23	4.8	22,104
			-----				
				9,790,443			
	1997	Alaska	5,215,966	65.4	281	65.3	18,562
		Washington	2,331,771	29.2	128	29.8	18,217
Other		427,817	5.4	21	4.9	20,372	
		-----					
			7,975,554				
1998	Alaska	4,737,668	63.8	247	64.5	19,181	
	Washington	2,264,455	30.5	115	30.0	19,691	
	Other	421,304	5.7	21	5.5	20,062	
		-----					
			7,423,427				
W. Yakutat	1995	Alaska	2,726,073	34.2	150	53.4	18,174
		Washington	4,605,397	57.8	105	37.4	43,861
		Other	635,118	8.0	26	9.3	24,428
			-----				
				7,966,588			
	1996	Alaska	2,064,312	33.9	147	52.3	14,043
		Washington	3,605,995	59.2	113	40.2	31,911
		Other	425,062	7.0	21	7.5	20,241
			-----				
				6,095,369			
	1997	Alaska	1,696,122	34.3	135	52.9	12,564
		Washington	2,921,421	59.0	105	41.2	27,823
Other		332,902	6.7	15	5.9	22,193	
		-----					
			4,950,445				
1998	Alaska	1,612,739	34.6	118	52.2	13,667	
	Washington	2,694,728	57.8	90	39.8	29,941	
	Other	352,085	7.6	18	8.0	19,560	
		-----					
			4,659,552				
C. Gulf	1995	Alaska	5,586,565	40.0	263	59.8	21,242
		Washington	6,827,064	48.9	134	30.5	50,948
		Other	1,551,751	11.1	43	9.8	36,087
			-----				
				13,965,380			
	1996	Alaska	4,946,704	41.9	230	60.1	21,507
Washington		5,953,167	50.4	125	32.6	47,625	
Other		915,481	7.7	28	7.3	32,696	
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			11,815,352				

(Continued)

**Table 14-4 (con't). Sablefish Harvest (pounds) by Area, Year, and State of QS Owner: 1995-1998**

Area	Year	State of Residence of QS Owner	Total Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Annual Harvest
C.Gulf (con't)	1997	Alaska	4,627,198	42.3	211	59.8	21,930
		Washington	5,549,763	50.7	115	32.6	48,259
		Other	772,786	7.1	27	7.6	28,622
			-----				
			10,949,747				
	1998	Alaska	4,855,073	45.1	199	61.6	24,397
		Washington	5,106,747	47.5	102	31.6	50,066
		Other	792,604	7.4	22	6.8	36,027
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			10,754,424				
W. Gulf	1995	Alaska	809,122	20.6	42	35.0	19,265
		Washington	2,607,130	66.5	62	51.7	42,050
		Other	505,105	12.9	16	13.3	31,569
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			3,921,357				
	1996	Alaska	835,011	23.4	44	37.0	18,978
		Washington	2,303,369	64.5	63	52.9	36,561
		Other	433,987	12.1	12	10.1	36,166
			-----				
			3,572,367				
	1997	Alaska	692,750	22.8	44	38.3	15,744
		Washington	2,005,476	65.9	61	53.0	32,877
		Other	346,760	11.4	10	8.7	34,676
			-----				
			3,044,986				
	1998	Alaska	714,040	23.7	39	37.1	18,309
Washington		1,963,287	65.1	53	50.5	37,043	
Other		337,547	11.2	13	12.4	25,965	
		-----					
		3,014,874					
Bering Sea	1995	Alaska	365,720	37.2	27	33.8	13,545
		Washington	565,099	57.5	45	56.3	12,558
		Other	51,352	5.2	8	10.0	6,419
			-----				
			982,171				
	1996	Alaska	292,755	41.6	27	36.0	10,843
		Washington	371,832	52.9	41	54.7	9,069
		Other	38,502	5.5	7	9.3	5,500
			-----				
			703,089				
	1997	Alaska	228,855	40.0	25	40.3	9,154
		Washington	313,804	54.8	33	53.2	9,509
		Other	29,920	5.2	4	6.5	7,480
			-----				
			572,579				
	1998	Alaska	213,867	36.9	21	37.5	10,184
Washington		340,909	58.8	31	55.4	10,997	
Other		25,021	4.3	4	7.1	6,255	
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		579,797					

(Continued)

**Table 14-4 (con't). Sablefish Harvest (pounds) by Area, Year, and State of QS Owner:  
1995-1998**

Area	Year	State of Residence of QS Owner	Total Harvest	Percent of Area Harvest	Persons With Landings	Pct. of Total Persons	Average Annual Harvest
Aleutians	1995	Alaska	401,147	21.1	19	26.0	21,113
		Washington	1,132,752	59.5	43	58.9	26,343
		Other	369,215	19.4	11	15.1	33,565
			-----				
			1,903,114				
	1996	Alaska	306,462	26.3	24	32.9	12,769
		Washington	798,807	68.4	41	56.2	19,483
		Other	61,920	5.3	8	11.0	7,740
			-----				
			1,167,189				
	1997	Alaska	305,726	26.9	19	29.2	16,091
		Washington	674,078	59.3	38	58.5	17,739
Other		157,289	13.8	8	12.3	19,661	
		-----					
		1,137,093					
1998	Alaska	295,727	33.1	17	36.2	17,396	
	Washington	572,255	64.0	24	51.1	23,844	
	Other	26,641	3.0	6	12.8	4,440	
		-----					
		894,623					

## 14.2 Harvests by QS Owners and Hired Skippers

Table 14-5 provides data on harvests by QS owners and hired skippers. The IFQ program rules allow some QS holders to employ a “hired skipper” to harvest the IFQ associated with their QS.

For example, in all management areas except Southeast, an individual who received an initial QS allocation in the catcher vessel categories does not have to be on board the vessel and sign IFQ landing reports if that individual has at least a 20% ownership interest in the vessel on which the IFQ are harvested, and the individual is represented on the vessel by a hired skipper.<sup>73</sup> Because this exemption is confined to initial issues only, the number of fishing operations where hired skippers are allowed should decrease over time as initial issues transfer their QS holdings.

Persons who hold freezer vessel QS may use hired skippers to operate the vessels and sign IFQ landing reports in any management area, and they do not have to own the vessel that’s used in the fishing operation.<sup>74</sup>

Corporations or partnerships that received an initial catcher vessel QS allocation may use their IFQ if they own the vessel on which the IFQ is fished and they are represented on the vessel by a “master,” or skipper, who is an employee of the corporation or partnership. In the Southeast area the corporation or partnership can use a hired skipper to fish only those QS that were received as an initial allocation.<sup>75</sup>

A hired skipper is defined in this analysis as a person who makes a landing and signs an IFQ report for the harvest of someone else’s IFQ. It is a common practice in the sablefish fishery for two or more IFQ holders to fish together and harvest each person’s IFQ from a single vessel, which is usually owned by one of the partners. If each partner records their delivery using their own IFQ permit card then this does not constitute a “hired skipper” in this analysis.

Some “hired skippers,” as identified herein, may actually be *de facto* QS lease arrangements. The regulatory requirement that the initial QS holder own at least 20% of the vessel that is being used to harvest the IFQ was meant to discourage leasing of QS. However, this regulation was only implemented by NMFS-RAM in 1998. In prior years, the regulation was not specific concerning the percentage ownership interest that the QS holder needed to have.

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<sup>73</sup> See 50 CFR 679.42(i). These new minimum ownership regulations were first implemented by NMFS-RAM in 1998. They also provide for some “grandfathered” privileges whereby some initial QS holders who had used a hired skipper prior to April 17, 1997 can continue to do so, even if their ownership interest is less than 20%.

<sup>74</sup> CFR 679.42 (c) and (i).

<sup>75</sup> See 50 CFR 679.42 (j).

There apparently have been cases where an initial catcher vessel QS holder has purchased a small percentage ownership interest in a vessel and then the skipper of that vessel fished all of the person's IFQ.

While the Council wanted to provide for hired skippers, it did not want to expand the leasing privilege. The Council adopted a proposed regulation for a 20% minimum vessel ownership percentage in September, 1997 in order to constrain this practice. NMFS-RAM, acting on the Council's intent, implemented the rule in 1998.<sup>76</sup>

The data indicate a substantial amount of the sablefish harvest was taken by hired skippers, especially in the westward management areas. Note that more restrictive rules in the Southeast area probably kept the number of operations with hired skippers lower than other areas. In the other management areas there has been a considerable increase between 1995 and 1998 in the amount of harvest taken by hired skippers. For example, in 1995 in the Central Gulf, 65 hired skippers were credited with taking 15.4% of the catch. In each following year, the number of hired skippers and their percentage of the catch increased until 1998 when 134 hired skippers took 62.3% of the area catch.

NMFS-RAM landing records for corporations or partnerships should show IFQ permit identifiers for hired skippers. However, in some instances, landings records on the NMFS-RAM database show IFQ identifiers for corporations or partnerships rather than employed "masters," or skippers. Although it is not possible for a non-human corporate entity to actually skipper a vessel, this anomaly makes counting hired skippers on the NMFS data difficult. Therefore, the actual number of hired skippers is probably underestimated in Tables 14-5 and 14-6.

Table 14-6 illustrates the same information as Table 14-5, except it is broken out by vessel category. The table shows that the rate of use of hired skippers and the percent of harvest taken by operations with hired skippers increased from 1995 to 1998 in nearly all vessel categories. Freezer vessels have high rates of use of hired skippers, which is likely related to the more liberal program rules for hired skippers aboard freezer vessels.

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<sup>76</sup> At their September 1997 meeting in Seattle, the Council adopted a proposal requiring initial recipients of catcher vessel QS who wanted to use a designated skipper to hold a 20% ownership interest in any vessel used by their hired skipper. Some "grandfathered" privileges are included in the new rule that will allow some initial QS holders who had used a hired skipper prior to April 17, 1997 to continue to use a hired skipper on a vessel where they have a smaller ownership interest. NMFS-RAM began implementing the Council's intent in 1998. (See page 6, *The IFQ Program: 1998 Report To The Fleet* published by NMFS-RAM in February 1998.) These rules were incorporated into regulations as 50 CFR 679.42 9(i)(1) and 50 CFR 679.42(j).

**Table 14-5. Sablefish Harvest by QS Owners and Hired Skippers, 1995 to 1998**

Area	Year	QS Owners With Landings	Harvest by QS Owners	Owner Harvest % of Total	Hired Skippers With Landings	Harvest by Hired Skipper	Skipper Harvest % of Total	Total Harvest
Southeast	1995	453	11,184,466	94.1	25	704,952	5.9	11,889,418
	1996	439	8,804,283	89.9	43	986,160	10.1	9,790,443
	1997	394	6,986,876	87.6	50	988,678	12.4	7,975,554
	1998	346	6,369,249	85.8	52	1,054,178	14.2	7,423,427
W. Yakutat	1995	252	7,359,101	92.4	33	607,487	7.6	7,966,588
	1996	223	4,491,856	73.7	66	1,603,513	26.3	6,095,369
	1997	185	2,762,060	55.8	76	2,188,385	44.2	4,950,445
	1998	159	2,164,952	46.5	79	2,494,600	53.5	4,659,552
C. Gulf	1995	374	11,818,775	84.6	65	2,146,605	15.4	13,965,380
	1996	285	6,899,237	58.4	101	4,916,115	41.6	11,815,352
	1997	242	5,238,065	47.8	121	5,711,682	52.2	10,949,747
	1998	203	4,058,081	37.7	134	6,696,343	62.3	10,754,424
W. Gulf	1995	86	3,124,314	79.7	32	797,043	20.3	3,921,357
	1996	72	1,917,676	53.7	49	1,654,691	46.3	3,572,367
	1997	53	939,615	30.9	66	2,105,371	69.1	3,044,986
	1998	44	773,867	25.7	61	2,241,007	74.3	3,014,874
Bering Sea	1995	56	707,927	72.1	23	274,244	27.9	982,171
	1996	31	208,247	29.6	44	494,842	70.4	703,089
	1997	23	158,548	27.7	40	414,031	72.3	572,579
	1998	18	152,818	26.4	37	426,979	73.6	579,797
Aleutians	1995	49	1,021,128	53.7	24	881,986	46.3	1,903,114
	1996	37	458,001	39.2	38	709,188	60.8	1,167,189
	1997	24	278,451	24.5	42	858,642	75.5	1,137,093
	1998	11	291,452	32.6	35	603,171	67.4	894,623

**Table 14-6. Sablefish Harvests by QS Owners and Hired Skippers, 1995-1998, by Vessel Category**

Area	Vessel Category	Year	QS Owners With Landings	Harvest by QS Owners	Owner Harvest % of Total	Hired Skippers With Landings	Harvest by Hired Skipper	Skipper Harvest % of Total	Total Harvest
Southeast	Freezer	1995	23	C	C	2	C	C	1,035,543
		1996	17	409,560	45.1	12	498,284	54.9	907,844
		1997	18	356,069	50.9	10	343,582	49.1	699,651
		1998	19	327,489	61.5	12	205,424	38.5	532,913
	GT 60 ft.	1995	73	2,261,040	91.2	12	219,394	8.8	2,480,434
		1996	71	1,779,938	87.9	15	245,282	12.1	2,025,220
		1997	60	1,339,630	82.4	20	286,418	17.6	1,626,048
		1998	54	1,128,941	72.8	23	421,549	27.2	1,550,490
	LE 60 ft.	1995	364	8,164,594	97.5	11	208,847	2.5	8,373,441
		1996	356	6,614,785	96.5	19	242,594	3.5	6,857,379
		1997	324	5,291,177	93.7	24	358,678	6.3	5,649,855
		1998	284	4,912,819	92.0	23	427,205	8.0	5,340,024
W. Yakutat	Freezer	1995	14	544,644	85.8	5	90,003	14.2	634,647
		1996	8	185,531	37.0	14	316,425	63.0	501,956
		1997	6	135,228	35.6	13	244,516	64.4	379,744
		1998	10	176,112	49.0	11	182,935	51.0	359,047
	GT 60 ft.	1995	85	4,564,866	93.1	18	336,107	6.9	4,900,973
		1996	82	2,816,256	75.6	32	910,370	24.4	3,726,626
		1997	62	1,607,730	53.2	42	1,415,752	46.8	3,023,482
		1998	52	1,063,474	37.4	44	1,780,529	62.6	2,844,003
	LE 60 ft.	1995	156	2,249,591	92.5	10	181,377	7.5	2,430,968
		1996	140	1,490,069	79.8	23	376,718	20.2	1,866,787
		1997	122	1,019,102	65.9	31	528,117	34.1	1,547,219
		1998	104	925,366	63.5	30	531,136	36.5	1,456,502
C. Gulf	Freezer	1995	24	1,489,651	75.4	9	485,382	24.6	1,975,033
		1996	13	392,844	23.3	22	1,295,053	76.7	1,687,897
		1997	7	266,451	18.0	22	1,214,622	82.0	1,481,073
		1998	10	429,493	27.5	24	1,130,777	72.5	1,560,270
	GT 60 ft.	1995	127	5,892,676	84.2	32	1,102,099	15.8	6,994,775
		1996	95	3,443,193	59.9	49	2,303,697	40.1	5,746,890
		1997	90	2,555,928	47.6	60	2,812,318	52.4	5,368,246
		1998	68	1,680,957	32.3	77	3,525,468	67.7	5,206,425

Note: C indicates confidential data

(Continued)

**Table 14-6 (con't). Sablefish Harvests by QS Owners and Hired Skippers, 1995-1998, by Vessel Category**

Area	Vessel Category	Year	QS Owners With Landings	Harvest by QS Owners	Owner Harvest % of Total	Hired Skippers With Landings	Harvest by Hired Skipper	Skipper Harvest % of Total	Total Harvest
C. Gulf (con't)	LE 60 ft.	1995	227	4,436,448	88.8	25	559,124	11.2	4,995,572
		1996	187	3,063,200	69.9	35	1,317,365	30.1	4,380,565
		1997	158	2,415,686	58.9	51	1,684,742	41.1	4,100,428
		1998	142	1,947,631	48.8	53	2,040,098	51.2	3,987,729
W. Gulf	Freezer	1995	17	1,172,259	74.8	6	394,913	25.2	1,567,172
		1996	10	383,507	27.4	16	1,014,560	72.6	1,398,067
		1997	4	17,166	1.5	20	1,138,312	98.5	1,155,478
		1998	6	80,875	7.0	21	1,076,662	93.0	1,157,537
	GT 60 ft.	1995	45	1,442,395	82.0	19	315,917	18.0	1,758,312
		1996	39	1,093,474	69.1	25	489,097	30.9	1,582,571
		1997	29	668,181	50.3	33	660,979	49.7	1,329,160
		1998	24	541,486	41.3	36	768,159	58.7	1,309,645
	LE 60 ft.	1995	28	509,660	85.5	7	86,213	14.5	595,873
		1996	25	440,695	74.5	12	151,034	25.5	591,729
		1997	23	254,268	45.4	25	306,080	54.6	560,348
		1998	18	151,506	27.7	18	396,186	72.3	547,692
Bering Sea	Freezer	1995	13	262,412	64.7	7	143,446	35.3	405,858
		1996	4	49,045	18.4	16	217,171	81.6	266,216
		1997	3	C	C	15	C	C	224,862
		1998	9	107,924	43.0	15	143,060	57.0	250,984
	GT 60 ft.	1995	31	392,422	83.3	8	78,860	16.7	471,282
		1996	21	131,349	38.0	22	214,579	62.0	345,928
		1997	14	124,371	43.5	19	161,445	56.5	285,816
		1998	7	44,309	16.6	19	223,311	83.4	267,620
	LE 60 ft.	1995	12	53,093	50.5	8	51,938	49.5	105,031
		1996	7	27,853	30.6	8	63,092	69.4	90,945
		1997	6	14,977	24.2	8	46,924	75.8	61,901
		1998	2	C	C	6	C	C	61,193

Note: C indicates confidential data

(Continued)

**Table 14-6 (con't). Sablefish Harvests by QS Owners and Hired Skippers, 1995-1998, by Vessel Category**

Area	Vessel Category	Year	QS Owners With Landings	Harvest by QS Owners	Owner Harvest % of Total	Hired Skippers With Landings	Harvest by Hired Skipper	Skipper Harvest % of Total	Total Harvest
Aleutians	Freezer	1995	8	334,802	30.2	13	775,095	69.8	1,109,897
		1996	5	85,110	13.9	15	525,601	86.1	610,711
		1997	3	C	C	15	C	C	656,313
		1998	5	167,846	32.8	15	343,183	67.2	511,029
	GT 60 ft.	1995	28	619,237	87.1	9	91,541	12.9	710,778
		1996	24	310,292	68.7	17	141,246	31.3	451,538
		1997	16	200,078	47.1	22	224,352	52.9	424,430
		1998	6	108,603	32.7	17	223,847	67.3	332,450
	LE 60 ft.	1995	13	C	C	2	C	C	82,439
		1996	9	62,599	59.7	7	42,341	40.3	104,940
		1997	6	18,648	33.1	9	37,702	66.9	56,350
		1998	3	C	C	5	C	C	51,144

Note: C indicates confidential data