

8 Changes in the Distribution of Sablefish QS by State

Tables 8-1 and 8-2 provide data on QS holdings based on the US state in which QS holders reside. These tables show changes in distribution of sablefish QS holdings by state from initial issuance through year-end 2011. The state of residence for QS holders is based upon NMFS-RAM records of current mailing addresses as self-reported by holders.⁵³

At both initial issuance and year end of 2011, persons from Washington held the highest percentage of QS issued for all IFQ areas except Southeast. By the end of 2011, Alaskan residents had slightly increased their QS holdings in the Southeast, Bering Sea, and Aleutians areas and had slightly decreased their QS holdings in all other areas.

The percentage of QS held by Alaskans in each area at year end 2011 ranged from 25.8% in the Western Gulf area to 65 % in the Southeast area. Sablefish QS holdings by Alaska residents increased in all areas with the largest increase in the Bering Sea.

In all areas, the QS holdings of persons from Oregon and other states were small relative to the QS holdings of persons from Washington and Alaska.

Table 8-2 shows similar information as Table 8-1, except it provides the number of QS holders instead of the amount of QS. In the Southeast, West Yakutat, Central Gulf, and Bering Sea, most QS holders were from Alaska at year-end 2011; nonresidents of Alaska comprise most of the QS holders in the Western Gulf and Aleutian Islands.

Since initial issuance, the overall number of QS holders has dropped in all areas. With this drop in the number of QS holders there was a coincident increase in the average size of QS holdings in each IFQ management area for residents of most states.

Average QS holdings vary considerably among persons from different states within a management area. For example, in the West Yakutat area, Alaska residents received average initial allocations of 73,978 QS units, whereas Oregon residents received 109,134 QS units, and Washington residents received average initial allocations of 192,088 QS units. In all areas, persons from Washington held the highest average amounts of QS, at initial issuance; this also was true at year-end 2011. Except that in Bering Sea, residents held the highest average number of QS units.

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⁵³NMFS-RAM maintains data only for year end addresses

Note that the total number of initial QS recipients in the tables in this chapter may be greater than the number of unique QS recipients for the area as shown elsewhere in this report. This is because some persons received separate initial allocations over the 1995 to 2011 period, and had different addresses and were classified into different resident categories at different points in time.