

# 11 New Entrants in the Sablefish Fishery

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Other sections of this report provides the result of consolidations and transfer activities that have occurred since the initial QS allocation. Some of the transferred QS went to initial QS recipients and some went to new entrants. The tables in this section present data that show the extent to which new entrants received QS and entered the sablefish fishery. The data indicates that significant numbers of persons who were not initial issuees for an area were able to acquire sablefish QS.

The IFQ program provides free transferability of QS, subject to several constraints designed to temper consolidation and preserve opportunities for the smaller boat and part-time portion of the fleet that existed under open access. These constraints are discussed in Chapter 2 and other sections of this report.

Any United States citizen or entity can receive freezer vessel QS through transfer. Persons who receive catcher vessel QS through transfer must be initial QS recipients or IFQ crewmembers. Under the IFQ program, an IFQ crewmember is defined as any individual who has at least 150 days experience working as part of a harvesting crew in any United States commercial fishery or as any individual who receives an initial allocation of QS.(US Code of Federal regulations, Part 679.2)

New entrants may also participate in the fishery through regulations which allow an individual to transfer QS to the individual's solely owned corporation (a new entity). New entrants might also participate because of transfers due to court order, operation of law, or as part of a security agreement. However, in these latter cases IFQ is not assigned unless the person receiving the QS transfer meets all eligibility requirements.

Table 11-1a shows, by area, the amount of QS and the percentage of QS still held by initial issuees at year end from 1995 through 2011. The table provides their average QS holdings and the percentage these initial holders represent of all QS holders.

The table also shows the amount and percentage of sablefish QS held year end by new entrants to the area. Note that a new entrant in one area may have initially received sablefish QS in some other area(s). The table provides the number of new entrants to each area their average QS holdings, and the percentage these new entrants represent of all QS holders.

The number of initial issuees who still held QS declined in all areas from 1995 through 2011. By the end of 2011, the average percentage of QS holders of all years who were new entrants to the area ranged from 50.2% of the QS holders in the Bering Sea area to 13.4 % of the QS holders in the West Yakutat area. Similarly, by the end of 2011, new entrants to the area held between 32.5 % of the available QS in the West Yakutat area to 38.2% in the Bering Sea area. These data indicate significant numbers of new persons have been able to enter the sablefish fishery after initial allocation.

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