

**Council Motion**  
**Staff Tasking – Sablefish**  
**October 8, 2025**

Purpose and Need:

Alaska seafood holds a competitive edge in domestic and international markets because of its high quality, and fishermen and processors work hard to maintain that reputation through operational best practices. Bleeding fish quickly after harvest is widely promoted as best practice to improve quality and previous analysis indicated results in a less than 2% difference in weight. Current regulations disincentivize bleeding sablefish at sea in the fixed gear fishery because a fisherman’s annual IFQ is deducted by 2% for delivering bled sablefish.

To increase the quality and competitiveness of Alaska fixed gear sablefish, reduce the regulatory burden on fishermen and processors, and reduce the burden on enforcement, the Council is considering removing the regulation that provides a disincentive to bleed sablefish. The proposed action is also intended to meet the intent of the *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness E.O.* (E.O. 14276).

Alternatives for consideration:

Alternative 1. No Action. The IFQ deduction for bled sablefish remains unchanged at 2%.

Alternative 2. Eliminate the 2% IFQ deduction for sablefish delivered as “bled”.