

Science, Service, Stewardship



Catch Shares under the Magnuson- Stevens Act

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What is a Catch Share?

Catch Share is a generic term used to describe programs that exclusively allocate a specific portion of the total allowable fishery catch to individuals, cooperatives, communities, or other entities. It includes more specific programs defined in statute such as LAPs and IFQs.

A Catch Share is distinguished from a common allocation to a segment of a fishery (e.g., recreational sector, longline sector, etc.) because the recipient of the catch share is personally responsible to stop fishing when their specific share is reached.



Benefits of Catch Shares

- Help achieve conservation objectives, such as ending overfishing
- Reduce overcapacity in the harvesting sector
- Improve the overall economic performance of the fishery
- Improve product quality (e.g., fresh vs. frozen)
- Improve safety at sea
- Increase participants' responsibility for monitoring and management
- Move away from command-and-control management toward approaches where participants play a greater management role

Catch Share Programs by Region



North Pacific:

Halibut & Sablefish (1995)
Western Alaska CDQ (1992)
Bering Sea AFA Pollock Cooperative (1999)
Groundfish (non-Pollock) Cooperatives (2008)
Bering Sea King & Tanner Crab (2005)
Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot (2007)
5 potential programs

New England:

Georges Bank Cod – Hook Gear (2004)
Georges Bank Cod – Fixed Gear (2007)
8 potential programs

Pacific:

Pacific Sablefish Permit Stacking (2001)
3 potential programs



Mid-Atlantic:

Surf Clam & Ocean Quahog (1990)
8 potential programs

HMS:

1 potential program

South Atlantic:

Wreckfish (1991)
3 potential programs

Gulf of Mexico:

Red Snapper (2007)
2 potential programs



Caribbean:

1 potential program

Western Pacific

6 potential programs



- 12 programs in place now
- 5 scheduled to be implemented in FY 2011
- 32 additional programs will begin development in FY 2012



Catch Share Task Force



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CATCH SHARES TASK FORCE

- June 22, 2009 – NOAA Under Secretary Lubchenco announced the formation of the Catch Shares Task Force
- 18 Participants:
 - Chaired by Monica Medina
 - 10 NOAA participants
 - 8 Regional Council participants
- Findings and recommendations to Dr. Lubchenco in August 2009 based on input from the Task Force.



Objective of the Task Force

To develop a new NOAA policy on catch shares that ensures that catch shares are fully considered when councils take up fishery management plan amendments.

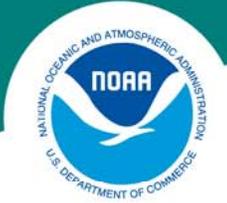
- ✓ High-level policy guidance; not a rulemaking.
- ✓ Catch shares not mandated; no numerical targets, but encourage broad consideration; aided by incentives.
- ✓ Complemented by NOAA Sustainable Fisheries Office specific guidance in form of Q&As

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Goal of the Policy

To promote the future consideration and adoption of catch shares wherever appropriate in Regional Council and Secretarial fishery management plans.



Desired Attributes

- **Want to remove technical and administrative impediments to the consideration and use of catch share programs.**
- **Want to promote fair and equitable treatment by ensuring the direct and indirect effects of catch shares are evaluated on all sectors associated with a fishery.**
- **Want to ensure sustainable fishing communities, including continued working fishery waterfronts and fishery infrastructure, consistent with the goals of the MSA and each Council's fishery management plan's objectives.**



Catch Shares Policy Roll-Out

- Publish draft/interim policy on web/in Federal Register
- 90+ day public comment period (beginning in mid-Sept)
- 2nd Round of Stakeholder briefings: Commercial; Recreational; Environmental
- Council presentations by NOAA Task Force members: September – December meetings
- Web-based public comments; other meetings/venues

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Catch Shares Website

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares)