

**Annotated Agenda  
MAFAC  
November 10-12, 2009  
Silver Spring, MD**

**1. Agenda item/Title of Discussion:**     **Catch Shares**

**2. Discussion Leader/Presenter:**       **Mark Holliday, Executive Director  
NOAA Catch Share Task Force**

**3. Objective/Purpose:** To present an update on the Catch Shares Task Force and discuss potential aspects of the policy document.

The task force's five major objectives will be described and discussed:

1. 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.
2. To make sure that regional fishery management councils that want to move forward with catch shares have the technical and administrative support to move quickly to design catch share systems while empowering local fishermen to be part of the process.
3. To make sure that catch share designs achieve the best possible environmental and economic performance by supporting healthy ecosystems, reducing bycatch and habitat damage, and helping to meet annual catch limits.
4. To consider whether any organizational changes are needed within NOAA to provide the best possible communication and support.
5. To provide advice to the under secretary on how to allocate resources to the councils to support this work, and how to create milestones so that progress can be evaluated.

**4. Background/Synopsis:** The Catch Shares Task Force was formed on June 22, 2009. It is chaired by Monica Medina, Special Advisor to Dr. Lubchenco, and is comprised of 18 members from NOAA staff and the eight regional councils. Members of the Task Force have been asked to give their individual opinions on catch share issues. This summer, NOAA members of the task force attended eight Regional Fishery Management Council meetings to initiate a dialogue on the goals and objectives of the Task Force with the Councils. Since late June, the Task Force has met via conference call and worked electronically. Three stakeholder informational briefings were also held in July 2009 to explain the Task Force process to interested commercial, recreational, and environmental representatives.

Ms. Medina has now considered all this information and has prepared and submitted a draft policy to Dr. Lubchenco. The draft policy will be posted for public review and comment through February 2010, and will be coupled with presentations at regional council meetings, additional stakeholder sessions, and other outreach venues. MAFAC members will receive a copy of the Policy for comment immediately upon its release.

All related Task Force status reports, meeting summaries, background materials, and press releases are available to the public here:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes\\_fish/catchshare/index.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/catchshare/index.htm)

**5. Options:**

**6. Preferred Recommendation:**

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Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: