



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Office of Sustainable Fisheries



CATCH SHARE PROGRAM STATUS

As of June 30, 2011, there are 15 catch share programs in operation. In addition:

- 2 existing programs are being significantly modified
- 1 new program has been recommended by a Council
- 5 fisheries are in various stages of development or consideration of catch shares

Further details about the status of each program are provided herein, with links to program web pages where available.

NATIONAL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM QUARTERLY UPDATE FY11 Third Quarter Update

Policy Implementation

The [NOAA Catch Share Policy](#) was released on November 4, 2010, with the purpose of encouraging well-designed catch share programs to help maintain or rebuild fisheries, and sustain fishermen, communities, vibrant working waterfronts. The goals of the policy are to help reduce



administrative or organizational impediments, inform and educate stakeholders of the different options and capabilities of catch share programs, and help organize collaborative efforts on the design and implementation of catch share programs. NMFS is finalizing an implementation plan for the remainder of FY11.

Current Catch Share Programs in Operation (Year Implemented)

1. [Mid-Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahog IFQ \(1990\)](#)
2. [South Atlantic Wreckfish IFQ \(1992\)](#)
3. [Western Alaska Community Development Quota \(1992\)](#)
4. [Pacific Halibut & Sablefish IFQ \(1995\)](#)
5. [Bering Sea AFA Pollock Cooperatives \(1998\)](#)
6. [Pacific Sablefish Permit Stacking Program \(2001\)](#)
7. [Bering Sea King and Tanner Crab \(2005\)](#)
8. [Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper IFQ \(2007\)](#)
9. [Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program \(2007\)](#)
10. [Bering Sea Groundfish \(non-Pollock\) Cooperatives \(2008\)](#)
11. [Mid-Atlantic Golden Tilefish IFQ \(2010\)](#)
12. [Gulf of Mexico Grouper & Tilefish IFQ \(2010\)](#)
13. [Atlantic Sea Scallop General Category IFQ \(2010\)](#)
14. [Northeast Multispecies Sector Program \(2010\)](#)
15. [Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization \(2011\)](#)

Current Catch Share Programs Being Significantly Modified

Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program: The Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program is being implemented to replace the Central GOA Rockfish "Pilot" Program that has a statutory sunset date of December 31, 2011. This action will not result in a change to the number of catch share programs, and is expected to be implemented by January 1, 2012. History: Congress provided authorization to regulate specific processing activities under the program and limited that authorization to two years (Pub. Law 108-199, Sec. 802). MSRA Sec. 218 extended the program to five years.

South Atlantic Wreckfish ITQ: The South Atlantic Council continues work on Amendment 20 – Changes to the Wreckfish ITQ Program – to update the program to comply with the new provisions in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. A second amendment that will consider redistributing existing shares from inactive/deceased shareholders, specifying a share cap, and developing procedures for distributing shares among active participants is being developed and will be considered at the September Council meeting.

Catch Share Programs Recommended by Councils

Alaska Halibut Guided Sportfish (Charter): NMFS is implementing a new charter program in the existing halibut fishery. The commercial fishery is managed under the Pacific Halibut & Sablefish IFQ program, but the charter sector is managed separately using a combination of limited entry permits, daily bag limits, and maximum size limits. The proposed program would establish a specific allocation target for the charter sector, and allow transfer of annual IFQ from commercial halibut IFQ permit holders to charter halibut permit holders to allow additional harvest opportunities for charter vessel anglers. Draft regulations have been reviewed by the North Pacific Council. The program, if approved, would be implemented in 2012.

Catch Share Programs Being Developed

Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Hook & Line Cooperative: The freezer longline cod fleet began fishing as a voluntary cooperative in August 2010, and in December the Longline Catcher Processor Subsector Single Fishery Cooperative Act was signed by President Obama. These types of programs require additional catch monitoring, accounting, and enforcement, which will be handled under future regulations. NMFS is working with the voluntary cooperative to establish monitoring and catch accounting standards. NMFS will work with the affected industry and North Pacific Council to develop the appropriate measures. These new measures are expected to be implemented in 2013.

Catch Shares Are Being Considered

South Atlantic Golden Crab: The South Atlantic Council is developing Amendment 6, which includes a catch share alternative. There is strong industry support for a catch share program in this fishery. The Council conducted informal scoping on this amendment during the winter of 2011, and reviewed those comments at their March 2011 meeting. At the June Council meeting, the Council made recommended changes to actions and alternatives. The Golden Crab Advisory Panel will meet in late July to continue discussing the amendment.

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper: At their March 2011 meeting, the South Atlantic Council decided to postpone development of Amendment 21 – Comprehensive Catch Shares Amendment – that was being developed to consider catch shares for the Snapper Grouper fisheries. While not actively working on this amendment, the Council approved distribution of a share-allocation calculator that has been developed to allow fishermen to evaluate the amount of shares/pounds they would receive under various initial distribution scenarios. The calculator will be distributed later this summer.

Western Pacific Hawaii Longline: The Western Pacific Council is in the early stages of considering a catch share program for this fishery. NMFS and Council staff are working together to merge and improve databases (ownership, permits, catch) that are needed to develop a reasonable range of alternatives for allocating quota shares and quantification of the associated socioeconomic effects. At the October 2010 meeting, NMFS reported to the Council on additional work looking at catch histories, and how this expands the universe of potential participants in a catch share program. The Council continues to support the establishment of a catch shares program for the Hawaii longline fishery working closely with the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and Regional Office.

New England Monkfish: The New England Council has begun development of Amendment 6, and has conducted scoping on a range of alternatives, including catch shares. Development of a catch share program in this fishery will likely require a referendum under the Magnuson-Stevens Act restrictions on such programs in New England.

Atlantic Shark Fishery Pilot Program: On September 20, 2010, NMFS published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the future of the shark fishery that included an option for a catch share program for Atlantic sharks. In late March 2011, NMFS received a draft proposal, prepared by commercial fishermen, regarding a pilot catch share program for sharks in the Gulf of Mexico. At the April 2011 Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting, the HMS Management Division presented a summary of preliminary analysis concerning landings, species composition, and effort in the shark fishery, and AP members discussed the pilot catch share program. The HMS Management Division is currently conducting additional analysis and commercial shark fishermen held a meeting in early June to continue discussions on program design. NMFS staff participated in the June meeting and formal scoping on a pilot catch share program for sharks and other measures related to quota and permit structure is expected to begin in late 2011. A workshop on the potential pilot program and other management measures is planned in conjunction with the September 2011 HMS Advisory Panel meeting.

Other Catch Shares Activities

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council: The Gulf Council has several catch share-related activities that are ongoing. The Council is in the midst of its 5 year review of the red snapper IFQ program. There will be a review panel meeting in mid-July. The Council is also soliciting further nominees for participation in a Headboat IFQ panel and the Council will review the applications at its next meeting. The Council and NMFS are also in the process of implementing regulations that will allow any U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien to purchase red snapper shares/allocation beginning January 1, 2012 provided certain requirements are met. This will implement a change in the program that was part of the original program design.

Pacific Fishery Management Council: The Pacific Council continues development and analysis of trailing amendments associated with the Pacific Trawl Rationalization program. Topics include cost recovery, community fishing associations, and other issues.