

Catch Share Task Force – Conference Call #2
July 16, 2009

The Task Force met for the second of three conference calls on July 16, 2009, chaired by Monica Medina. Ms. Medina reminded the Task Force that this group was not intended to come to a consensus, but rather to provide individual opinions and input. The Task Force was informed that NOAA would be conducting three public briefings with commercial, recreational, and NGO representatives the following week, and Task Force participants were invited to review the invite list and recommend additional participants if desired. The group was also asked to offer suggestions about types of outreach and public engagement that the agency should consider once the draft/interim policy is released. Immediate feedback included a recommendation that Task Force participants visit the next round of council meetings in each region. Ms. Medina asked that the outreach topic be revisited in the next conference call.

Mark Holliday presented the group with a working draft definition of the term “catch shares” and asked for feedback. Several members each suggested that the definition be clear that catch shares do not imply a property right. It was also recommended by several participants that the definition be as succinct as possible. Several members asked whether the definition is the appropriate place to address differences (if any) between Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) and non-LAPP catch share programs.

The data from Trigger Question #3 on the internal website were presented to the Task Force, addressing the subject of potential fishery criteria to aid councils in identifying and prioritizing candidate fisheries for the consideration of catch shares. Individual comments and reactions were solicited. Different members identified several of the criteria as too prescriptive. Favorable input was received on the criteria of: derby-style fishing; social objectives and impacts on the fishery; administrative feasibility; and sustainability goals.

To address the issue of resource allocation (Objective 5), Alan Risenhoover presented the Task Force with information regarding catch share resources in the FY2010 budget. The 2010 budget has a \$26 million increase in Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) funding. Councils have been receiving \$1 million for catch share programs already. Several comments emphasized the need to identify the costs of both designing and implementing catch share programs; recognizing the costs of maintaining, reviewing and amending the programs may be substantial.

Mark Holliday presented the Task Force members with a list of draft principles for the catch shares policy:

- The policy would define the term “catch shares” and then include the policy statement.
- The policy would position the agency to promote via leadership and incentives the consideration of catch shares where appropriate.
- These programs would not be mandated.

- The concept of catch shares should be considered early in the process of fishery management plan development and include details to the point that people can understand the impact it would have on them.
- NOAA would support consideration of catch shares in all sectors of a fishery, but catch shares should not be required in one sector just because they exist in another sector.
- The policy should contain considerations for the social and economic health of a fishing community.
- All programs would be subject to the National Standards.

Ms. Medina spoke to the participants about the potential treatment of catch share programs as LAPPs under MSA section 303A, or as non-LAPP catch shares authorized under MSA sections 303(b). (A policy decision needs to be made as to whether to treat the programs as two separate entities with different rules and guidance.) NOAA may need to provide a legal opinion in this process, and it would be beneficial to develop a 1-pager for the Task Force to better understand what is at the heart of this discussion. Ms. Medina recommended that this issue be tabled for the next call.

The final principle presented was the issue of royalty payments to capture some part of the resource rent. Mark Holliday identified pros and cons of addressing resource rent options in the policy. Comments were received on identifying this option in the policy since this feature is not utilized in current LAPP programs. Some participants stated this would address some public concerns over the “gifting” of a public resource. Ms. Medina pointed this out as an example of a not “one size fits all” catch share option. Details will be included in a written draft of the policy and distributed for review by the Task Force before the next call.

Ms. Medina thanked the Task Force participants for their time. She asked participants for their ideas about best ways to distribute the draft policy for public input and how to receive and finalize comments. She also said that a written draft of the policy will be distributed for review before the third conference call, which will likely occur in mid-August.

Participants:

Jim Balsiger
 Steve Murawski
 Jessica Dutton
 Alan Risenhoover
 George Geiger
 Bob Gill

Roy Crabtree
 Dave Hanson
 Eugenio Pinerio
 Eric Olsen
 Sean Martin
 Lee Anderson

Sam Pooley
 John Pappalardo
 Mark Holliday
 Pat Kurkul
 Monica Medina