

Catch Share Task Force - Conference Call #3  
August 26, 2009

The Catch Share Task Force convened its third conference call on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, chaired by Monica Medina. Ms. Medina began the meeting by identifying comments received from the recreational community regarding catch share programs. Several members of the recreational fishing community have raised concern over the possible impacts of a NOAA catch share policy on their sector. Ms. Medina asked Task Force members for their individual thoughts on how to address such concerns in the policy document and for ideas on improving communications with recreational anglers. Individual Task Force participants identified elements of a wide-ranging communication strategy to hear from and distribute information to anglers at the grassroots level. NOAA will communicate with recreational stakeholders at the regional level on the details of the draft policy once released, and also initiate an open discussion about the design flexibility and performance reviews that will be critical features of these types of fishery management programs.

The Task Force participants were asked to comment on the draft NOAA policy statement, including several key foundational and supporting principles. The comments focused on NOAA's support for the consideration of catch share programs, evaluating catch share applicability, fair and equitable treatment for all fishery sectors, community sustainability, resource rent, the consideration of catch shares as Limited Access Privilege (LAP) programs, and resource requirements. Some participants suggested that councils may need clarification on the extent to which catch share programs should be "considered". Others focused on the concept of program reviews and performance evaluations, including the frequency and role of such reviews and how they are specified under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). There was also feedback on the issue of resource rent; it was suggested there may be general nation-wide public confusion regarding this option as it is currently defined in the MSA for LAP programs.

Ms. Medina asked the Task Force participants to share their ideas for venues and communication strategies that would supplement the current NOAA roll-out plan for the draft policy once it is completed. Participants were also asked for their independent suggestions on how to better inform fishermen regarding catch share programs in general, and to get them more involved in the process and design of management programs in their fisheries. The ongoing sector workshops being held in New England, and the webinar on catch shares organized by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council earlier this summer were identified as possible models.

Ms. Medina thanked the Task Force participants for their time and work thus far.

Participants:

Lee Anderson

Mark Holliday

George Geiger

Jim Balsiger

Bob Gill

Sam Pooley

Pat Kurkul

Alan Risenhoover

Steve Murawski

John Oliver

Eric Olsen

Monica Medina

John Pappalardo

Dave Hanson

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