



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

*Office of Sustainable Fisheries*



### CATCH SHARE PROGRAM STATUS

As of September 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 beginning on page 2, with links to program web pages where available.

## NATIONAL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM QUARTERLY UPDATE FY11 Fourth 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.

### 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. The Secretary of Commerce approved the program on September 26, 2011 and it 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 at its September 2011 meeting, the Council supported moving forward with public hearings on the Amendment.

## 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. Based on policy and technical issues raised during public comment on the proposed rule, NMFS has asked the North Pacific Council to review the issues and provide additional input, as needed. The program, if approved, would be implemented by 2013.

## 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 2010 the Longline Catcher Processor Subsector Single Fishery Cooperative Act was signed by President Obama. The cooperative program requires additional catch monitoring, accounting, and enforcement, which will be implemented under future regulations. NMFS is working with the voluntary cooperative to establish monitoring and catch accounting standards. NMFS will work with the industry and North Pacific Council to develop the appropriate measures for implementation 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. The Council conducted informal scoping on this amendment during the winter of 2011, and reviewed those comments at their March 2011 meeting. The Golden Crab Advisory Panel met in July and recommended changes to actions and alternatives contained in Amendment 6. At the September 2011 meeting, the Council continued to refine actions and alternatives related to the development of a catch share program for this fishery.

**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 catch share calculator

was posted on the web with a tutorial video in September 2011. It can be found near the bottom of this page: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>

**Western Pacific Hawaii Longline:** The Western Pacific Council is considering a catch share program for this fishery. NMFS Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center continues to work on merging databases (vessel ownership, permits, catch) that would enable the Council to develop alternatives for allocating quota shares and evaluate the socioeconomic effects on fishermen.

**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 provisions for 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. A pilot catch share program has been discussed at Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) and other meetings and discussions between the industry and NMFS have continued since the April AP meeting. In conjunction with the September 2011 HMS Advisory Panel meeting, NMFS hosted a workshop to discuss potential catch share programs in the Atlantic shark fisheries. NMFS published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a FMP Amendment that would consider catch shares for the Atlantic shark fisheries. The NOI also established a control date for eligibility to participate in an Atlantic shark catch share program, announced the availability of a white paper describing design elements of catch share programs in general and issues specific to the Atlantic shark fisheries, and requested public comment on the implementation of catch shares in the Atlantic shark fisheries.

## 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 (Amendment 37). The review panel met and provided input for the Council to consider. The Council is waiting to gather additional information before moving forward with any changes to the red snapper program. The Council appointed members to a Headboat IFQ advisory panel. The panel met in September and recommended design elements for an IFQ pilot program. 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. In Amendment 36, the Council is considering limiting participation in the red snapper IFQ including allowing only reef fish permit holders to purchase shares and allocation. Public hearings on this amendment will be held this winter. In addition, the Council is considering adding additional reef fish species to Gulf of Mexico IFQ programs (Amendment 33).

**Pacific Fishery Management Council:** The Pacific Council continues development and analysis of trailing amendments associated with the Pacific Trawl Rationalization program. The Council passed a cost recovery program and NMFS is in the process of developing proposed regulations. Additional work on community fishing associations and other issues continues.