



Overview of Fishery Management Strategies



Regional Fishery Management Council Training

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Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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U.S. Fisheries are highly diverse



- Fishery Management Strategies are also diverse
- Different strategies have different strengths and weaknesses



Limited Access Systems

- A Limited Access System limits participation in a fishery to those satisfying certain eligibility criteria or requirements contained in a fishery management plan or associated regulation. MSA Section 3(27)
- In the 1990s, there was a major push to limit access
 - Permit moratoria
 - Criteria for obtaining permits
 - Permit transferability
- Almost all U.S. federal fisheries are now under LAS





Three Management Strategy Categories

- Dedicated Access
- Managed Quotas
- Other





Dedicated Access Programs

- Dedicated Access Program is a term used by NOAA fisheries to include a range of programs that have also been called “catch share” programs.
- A Dedicated Access Program allocates harvest privileges to entities that are accountable to not exceed their allocation.
- Includes IFQs, other LAPPs, allocations to cooperatives formed under the Fisherman’s Collective Marketing Act of 1934 (15 USC 521), and the Western Alaska Community Development Quota program, etc.





Limited Access Privilege

- A Limited Access Privilege is a Federal permit, issued as part of a limited access system... to harvest a quantity of fish... MSA Section 3(26)





Limited Access Privilege Program

- A Limited Access Privilege Program implements Limited Access Privileges in a fishery.
- LAPs may be acquired only by:
 - U.S. Citizen, Corporation, Partnership or other entity established under the laws of the U.S. or an State, or Permanent resident alien
 - That meet the eligibility and participation requirements established in the program





Managed Quotas

- In a fishery with Managed Quotas, fishery managers collect data on harvest on a periodic basis, and regulate the fishery during the season so that the catch is controlled to the target level.
- In-season regulations may include measures to slow the pace of the fishery, or to close the fishery entirely if the quota is reached.
- “Output control”





Other

- Fisheries that are not managed by Dedicated Access or with quotas managed in-season.
- Management measures include things like:
 - Bag and size limits
 - Seasons
 - Trip limits
 - Gear limitations
 - Effort restrictions
- “Input control”





Some Ways that Management Strategies Differ

- Assignment of responsibility
- Flexibility
- Data required
- Degree of Management Uncertainty





Relationship between Management Approach and Data

- Dedicated Access programs require a robust catch accounting system that provides both the fishery managers and the fishers with accurate and timely information on catch and quota balances.
- Managed Quotas require collection and analysis of data from the fishery that is timely enough to allow fishery managers to close the fishery before the quota is exceeded.
- To effectively use Managed Quotas or Dedicated Access, the appropriate data collection and monitoring capabilities must be implemented





Dedicated Access vs Managed Quota/Other programs

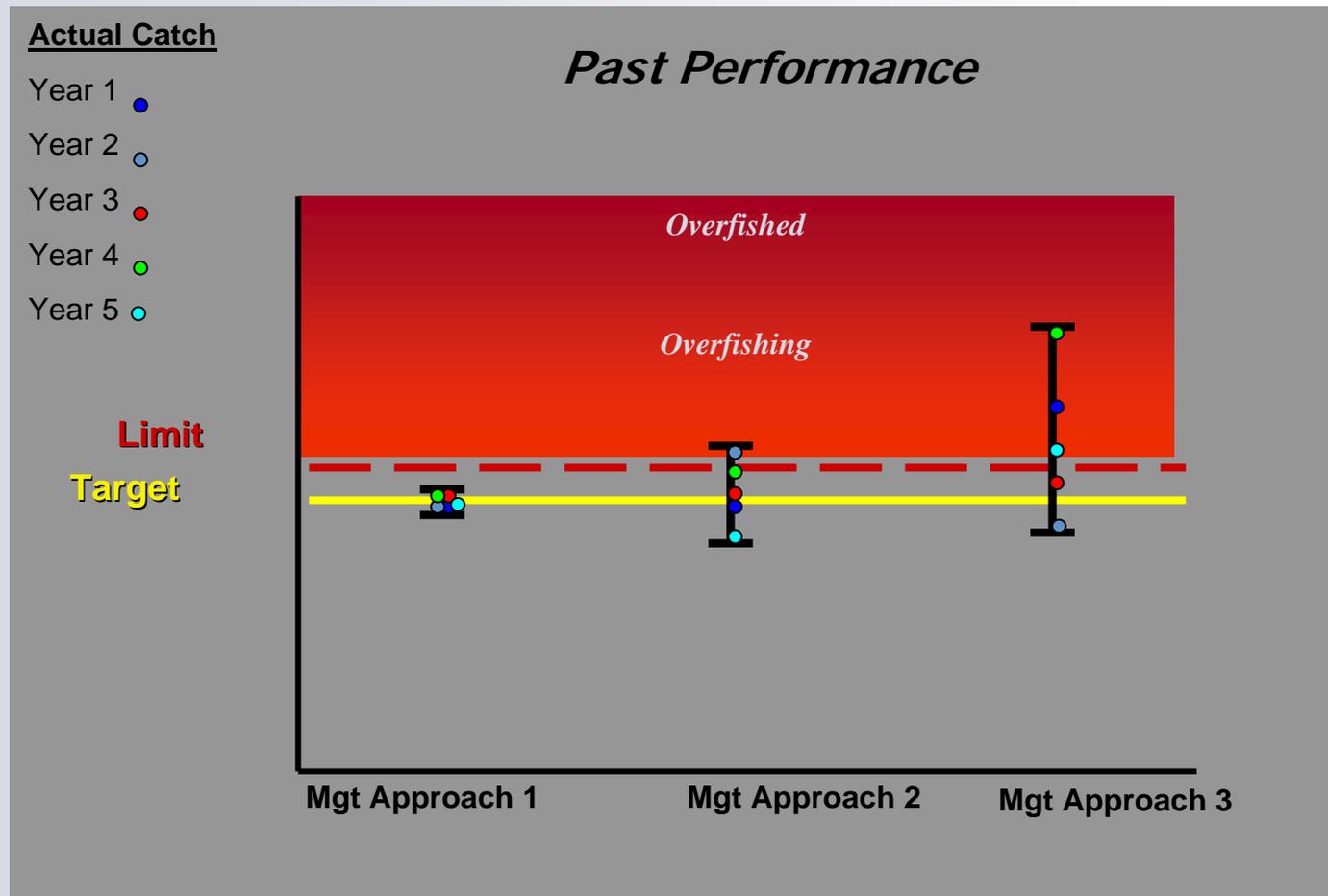
- In Dedicated Access programs, each quota holder is responsible for limiting their fishing so that their quota is not exceeded.
- In Managed Quota or Other management programs, fishers must comply with regulations issued by fishery managers, but have no legal obligation to stop fishing unless the government issues a regulation closing the fishery.





Management Uncertainty

Example, could assess past performance of achieving the target catch.





Management Strategies and Annual Catch Limits

- The Annual Catch Limit requirements of the MSA will, lead to increased emphasis on Managed Quota and Dedicated Access Programs.
- Many fisheries are managed using a combination of input and output controls.
- Input controls, such as seasons, bag and size limits, etc, can be important in controlling the pace of the fishery.
- For some fisheries, the primary management may still be done through input controls, with the ACL providing a “backstop” in the event that the input measures do not control catch as well as planned.





Questions

