

Overview of U.S. Catch Share Programs

Introduction to Catch Share Programs: In the United States and worldwide, 'catch share' programs are helping to improve economic efficiency and encourage more sustainable fishing practices. They are also designed to produce more fish at lower costs, improve fishermen's safety and profits, and strengthen the biological and economic benefits in a fishery. Catch shares is an umbrella term used to describe several different fisheries management strategies used in the United States such as Sectors, Limited Access Privilege Programs, and Individual Fishing Quota programs. Catch share programs are a unique fishery management tool because they dedicate a secure share of fish to individual fishermen, fishing cooperatives, or fishing communities. Catch shares are but one tool among several for effectively managing fisheries, and are not appropriate for all fisheries.

New Indicators to Measure Performance: Catch share programs are diverse in terms of target species, location, and size. Experts from NOAA Fisheries – including fishery economists, policy analysts, and resource managers – developed an initial set of standard 'performance indicators' that measure the basic economic performance of catch share programs, regardless of their design. The goal of the project is to provide snapshots of the economic performance of catch share programs, including trends over time. These 'Tier I' indicators use catch and landings, effort, revenues, accumulation, and cost recovery data as the standard measurements. As the project continues, NOAA Fisheries will be developing more advanced 'Tier 2' indicators that address profitability, efficiency and distributional issues amongst other topics. In addition, NOAA Fisheries plans to extend these metrics to selected non-catch share managed fisheries in 2013, phasing in additional fisheries during the out years.

U.S. Catch Share Programs

As of April 2013, the following catch share programs were in place:

Fishery Management Council	Program Name	Year Implemented
Mid-Atlantic	Surfclam & Ocean Quahog ITQ*	1990
	Golden Tilefish IFQ*	2009
New England	Northeast Multispecies Sectors	2010
	Northeast General Category Atlantic Sea Scallop IFQ*	2010
North Pacific	Western Alaska Community Development Quota**	1992
	Alaska Halibut & Sablefish IFQ*	1995
	American Fisheries Act Pollock Cooperatives	1999
	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization	2005
	Non-pollock Trawl Catcher/Processor Groundfish Cooperatives (Amendment 80)	2008
	Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperatives	2012
South Atlantic	Wreckfish ITQ**	1992
Gulf of Mexico	Red Snapper IFQ*	2007
	Grouper-Tilefish IFQ*	2010
Pacific	Pacific Coast Sablefish Permit Stacking	2001
	Groundfish Trawl Rationalization	2011

*IFQ/ITQ is an Individual Fishing/Transferable Quota. **Not covered under the Performance Indicator Project



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More information on U.S. Catch Share Programs

The first catch share program in the U.S. was implemented in 1990. Now, 15 catch share programs, managed by six regional fishery management councils, have been implemented, with additional programs in development. Catch share programs are not required by the federal government or appropriate for every fishery.

As the federal agency overseeing the nation's marine fisheries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also known as NOAA, works with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and stakeholders considering catch share programs as a tool to manage fisheries and achieve the goal of sustainability.

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Underlying Criteria of NOAA's Tier 1 Catch Share Performance Indicators

NOAA Fisheries is using the following general criteria to standardize collection of the performance indicators:

- Data are collected for the fishing or calendar year.
- Baseline Period data refer to the average of the three years preceding implementation of the catch share program.
- Data are reported for the Baseline Period and all subsequent years in the catch share program.
- Revenues are reported in nominal terms unless otherwise noted as adjusted for inflation.
- Quota and landings are reported consistently as whole or gutted weight for finfish, or live weight for crabs.

More fact sheets can be found at: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/fisheries/commercial/catch-share-program/fact-sheets/index>

For more information on catch share programs: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/catchshare/index.htm

Tier 1 Indicators and Definitions

Indicator	Definition
Management Context	
Quota allocated to program	Amount of quota for combined catch share program species allocated to program participants
Landings	Total weight of combined catch share program species landed by vessels that fish quota in the program
ACL exceeded (Y/N)	Was the Annual Catch Limit (or quota) exceeded for any species/stock within the catch share program?
Season length	Number of days per calendar year or fishing year that the catch share program fishery is open
Cost recovery fee	Amount collected for cost recovery fees
Economic Benefits	
% Utilization	The proportion of landings to quota
Catch share species revenue	Revenue of combined catch share program species generated by vessels that fish quota
Non-catch share species revenue	Revenue from non-catch share species caught on catch share program trips
Non-catch share trip revenue	Revenue from active vessels in the catch share program on trips not included in this catch share program
Average price	Average price per pound (or metric ton) of catch share species
Participation	
Entities holding share	Number of entities/individuals/vessel owners/permit holders receiving quota share at the beginning of the year
Trips	Number of trips taken by vessels fishing quota on which one or more pounds of any catch share program species were landed
Days at sea	Total number of days absent on trips taken by vessels fishing quota on which one or more pounds of any catch share program species were landed
Excessive shares limit (Y/N)	Is there an excessive shares limit for the Program?
Gini Coefficient	The Gini coefficient is a measure of evenness in the distribution of revenue among entities holding shares in the Catch Share Program. A value of 0 indicates that all shareholders earn the same amount of revenue, while a value of 1 indicates that one shareholder earns all of the revenue.
Economic Efficiency	
Active vessels	Number of vessels that fish quota and land one or more pounds of any catch share program species
Revenue per active vessel	Catch share species revenue per active vessel
Revenue per trip	Catch share species revenue per trip
Revenue per day at sea	Catch share species revenue per day at sea