Abstract: Catch shares are a policy instrument used to manage catch allocation in fisheries. Increasingly, catch share programs are being designed to meet multiple objectives. For example, programs are often designed to meet community and cultural goals as well as to increase economic efficiency. During the presentation, Dr. Sanchirico will explain how placing restrictions on trade, a common mechanism used to address non-economic goals, can impact the economic efficiency of the program. In addition to discussing the theoretical impacts of restrictions, Dr. Sanchirico will present empirical estimates of economic efficiency losses associated with the Alaskan Halibut and Sablefish IFQ program. The results are based on models that utilize data on quota transfer prices, vessel characteristics, vessel landings, stock, and economic variables including fuel price and ex-vessel price. Furthermore, the models take into account the changes in the fishery that result from a new policy regime, allowing economic gains following implementation to depend on initial conditions as well as restrictions. In the talk, Dr. Sanchirico will discuss how these results can inform the design of catch shares in the future. For example, armed with this information, managers can decide whether the costs of restrictions are outweighed by the associated benefits. The latter is possible when they are intended to appease opposition to the tradable permit program, so that the program is adopted sooner than it otherwise would have been without the restrictions.

Biography: James N. Sanchirico received his Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California at Davis in 1998. After working nine years at Resources for the Future in Washington D.C. (an independent, non-profit environmental policy think-tank), he returned to University of California Davis where he is currently a Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. His main research interests include the economic analysis of policy design and implementation for marine and terrestrial species conservation, the development of economic-ecological models for forecasting the effects of resource management policies, and the control and prevention of invasive species. Twice his research has been honored with Quality of Research Discovery awards from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and in 2012, he was the 38th recipient of the Rosenstiel Award for Oceanographic Sciences, which honors scientists who, in the past decade, have made significant and growing impacts in their field. Past public service includes a National Research Council (NRC) committee evaluating the effectiveness of the fish stock rebuilding requirements in the 2006 Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, six years on NOAA’s Science Advisory Board, the editorial board of Ecology Letters, and an NRC committee to review the U.S. Ocean Acidification Research Plan.