



NOAA Catch Share Policy: Next Steps

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**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Draft Catch Share Policy

Last December, NOAA released a draft policy on the use of catch share programs in fishery management plans.

During the last 4 months NOAA sought broad input on the draft policy via the web, email, public meetings, workshops and stakeholder conference calls.

The public comment period to provide feedback closed on April 10, 2010.



Draft Policy Comments

Over 4,000 comments were submitted via web, email and letters. Nine out of ten were form letters, expressing only support for or opposition to catch shares in general.

We received 64 substantive submissions, and a few exceeded 30-70 pages in length.

Associations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals made up most of the substantive submissions.

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



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Draft Policy Comments

- Fifteen associations:
 - 9 commercial (4 Alaska, 3 California, 2 New England)
 - 2 community-focused (Rhode Island and Alaska)
 - 3 recreational (all Southeast)
 - 1 processor (West Coast)

- Twelve environmental and other non-governmental organizations



Draft Policy Comments

- Five of the regional fishery management councils:
 - New England
 - Pacific
 - North Pacific
 - Mid-Atlantic
 - South Atlantic

- Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission

- NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)



Draft Policy Comments

- State resource management agencies from:
 - Florida
 - Massachusetts
 - Maine

- One Alaska state representative
- One Rhode Island state senator

- 20 individuals, of which 3 identified themselves as members of the commercial sector, 6 as members of the recreational sector, and 7 as college students or professors



Details on Comments

TOTAL SUBMISSIONS	4224
Total Supportive Form Letters	3155
Total Supportive Unique	69
Total Opposing Form Letters	690
Total Opposing Unique	214
Total Unique Other	34
Total Substantive	64

*Unique means not a form letter but no specific comments on the policy, just support of or opposition to catch shares in general.

TOTAL FORM LETTERS	3845
TOTAL SUPPORT (Form and Unique)	3224
TOTAL OPPOSE (Form and Unique)	904



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **Recreational fishing in the context of catch share programs, specifically addressing:**
 - Rejecting catch shares in recreational-only fisheries
 - Clarifying use of catch shares for managing recreational for-hire sectors
 - Guidance on accounting for impacts on other sectors when the commercial fleet is managed with catch shares
 - Inter-sector transfers
 - Revisions in sector allocations



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **Coastal Community Sustainability and Protection:**
 - Developing the criteria and guidelines for **Regional Fishing Associations and Fishing Communities** as defined in MSA 303A, so communities can take advantage of special provisions that would allow them to hold community quota, or provisions to anchor quota to that area
 - Specific research and contracts/workshops are needed to help Councils establish criteria, and stakeholders employ best practices for establishment of fishing community associations, privilege and permit banks, etc



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **Limited Access Privileges (LAPs) vs. Catch Shares:**
Comments noted that the policy should make some clarifications on LAPs and catch shares.

For example:

- What is the difference between LAPs and catch shares?
- When is a catch share a LAP and when is it not?
- What 303A provisions apply to catch shares?
- How do we avoid double standards for 303A versus non-303A catch shares?



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **More specifics on criteria for and duration of NOAA funding for catch shares programs :**
 - Clarification on federal appropriations versus industry funding, especially during the transition period to new programs
 - Duration of federal resource support for observers, monitors, sector managers, etc.
 - How to tap into NOAA resources, funding and staff support



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **More technical guidance on monitoring, evaluating and amending (even rescinding) a catch share program**
 - How to monitor and evaluate a program to ensure it can meet the goals, and to identify and mitigate negative outcomes
 - Additional direction on **what data and research are required *prior*** to a Council considering catch shares.



Key Issues for the Final Policy

- **How to organize, prioritize, assign and fund the 22 catch share activities listed in the draft policy**



Next Steps

- 1) Office of Policy to incorporate comments & produce a final draft.
- 2) Convene the NOAA Catch Share Task Force to review the final draft.
- 3) Conduct internal policy vetting/approval process at NMFS/NOAA/DOC/OMB.



Next Steps

- 4) Develop project plan/spending plan/roll-out plan for balance of FY 2010, FY 2011 and FY 2012 for specific activities proposed in the draft policy to support the consideration of catch shares (see Table 1 page 18 of draft policy).
- 5) Issue a final policy, most likely in early summer.
- 6) Roll out 18-month schedule of catch share activities, events and support.



Proposed Catch Share Activities

A) Create & issue specific guidance

- Along a continuum of formality

Series of FAQs

National Standard-like guidelines

Formal notice and comment rulemakings

- Extensive use of collaborative workshops.



Note Two Types of Workshops

1) **Technical workshops to create guidance on design issues**

* Smaller, focused, NMFS, Council, industry, experts; specific guidelines

a) Goal setting & performance monitoring (review process, criteria);

b) Defining nature of the harvest privilege (eligibility, allocations, transfers, excessive share);

c) Community sustainability (establishment of fishing community associations, privilege and permit banks)

d) Enforcement & compliance (best practices, common infrastructure)

e) Monitoring and data collection (scientific design, technology;

f) Cost recovery/royalties (transition costs, industry/govt. funds)



Note Two Types of Workshops

2) Informational workshops & webinars, to improve catch share design literacy and capacity: *transferring technical knowledge into practice*

- * Larger, multiple, w/regional constituents, Council members, NMFS staff training workshops
- * Training workshops would be offered in a recurring cycle over the next 2 years allowing participants to undertake a complete curriculum. (e.g webinar on how to organize/establish a Regional Fishing Association)



Proposed Catch Share Activities

B. Provide personnel and fiscal support to activities, including new hires and contract expertise

(e.g., Center of Experts, detailees/contractors to Regions/Councils, task order contract, speakers bureau), etc.



Proposed Catch Share Activities

C. Launch new web site, design tools, information portal.



Proposed Catch Share Activities

- D. Commence work on common infrastructure tasks**
(Central Registry; catch accounting software; electronic reporting standards, catch share trading platform/market news).



Proposed Timeline

Summer 2010-

Finalize Policy

Plan and coordinate technical work groups and/or workshops

Winter 2010-11

Design training workshops using the technical information

Other activities dependent on FY11 funding



Trigger Questions

Summer 2010- Final Policy

Plan and coordinate technical workshops

- Should NMFS coordinate work groups/workshops or one council takes lead for each? Should external person/organization be retained?
- Should all workshops be held in the same week, same place? Or independent events spread out over months?
- Who should attend? CSTF Technical Group, council staff, industry, NGO reps?
- Are some workshops more of a priority? Should there be a particular order in which to do the workshops?



Trigger Questions

Winter 2010-11

Design training workshops using the technical information

- Should NMFS coordinate workshops or one council takes lead for each workshop? Should external person/organization be retained?
- Who should coordinate these workshops and webinars?
- Should they only be offered when a Council or stakeholder requests, or should create fixed schedule, etc?
- How should curriculum be updated?
- Who pays?