

Support for Catch Shares

What fishermen, scientists, policy makers and others say

SUPPORT FROM FISHERMEN:

“When fishermen in ‘dire straits’ come together with fishery managers to hammer out solutions, they **need to have every option available**, including quota-based catch share systems. Although no two catch share programs are the same, and quotas are certainly not a fix in every fishery, they are one proven model for building both **economic and environmental sustainability**.”

Tommy Ancoma, President of Fishermen’s Marketing Association, Brent Paine, executive director of United Catcher Boats & Dan Waldeck, executive director of Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative

Pacific Fishing magazine, July 2011

“It [the catch share in New England] has **made us more efficient** because under the [earlier management approaches of] Days at Sea trip limits you could go out and catch 800 pounds of fish and that was it, but it would cost \$200 worth of fuel. Now with the same \$200 worth of fuel, you can catch 2,000 pounds.”

Peter Libro, fisherman in Gloucester, Mass.

Interview with WGBH, August 17, 2010

“No one’s saying this is the silver bullet, this is the golden ticket. **It’s the best tool that we can have to keep us fishing.**”

Geoff Bettencourt, a fourth-generation fisherman from Half Moon Bay, CA

National Fisherman, May 2012

“Five years ago, Texas fishery managers and fishermen, with counterparts from across the Gulf, convinced federal regulators to ditch the old system in favor of market-based management in the form of catch shares. The results were immediate. Now, **fish are fresh-caught and in restaurants and markets year-round**. Fish harvesting costs have dropped by half and fishermen earn more for the high-quality and well-timed catch. **Overall, the value of the fishery has climbed by 80 percent**. The fish have begun to rebound too, and fishermen’s catch limits are rising for the first time in many years. The benefits to Texas are substantial, a much-needed shot in the arm during hard economic times.”



Donald R. Leal, Property and Environment Research Center & Preston Mixon, fisherman from Galveston, Texas

“I am personally **much more profitable under catch shares than I would be without them**...The economic climate that we are fishing in right now is so hard and the recession is of such great depth and breadth that **we need every tool that we can possibly get our hands on in order to survive**... We

need to be able to manage our overhead, we need to market, we need to be able to avoid low markets – we just need every advantage we can possibly get to scrape by.”

Christopher Brown, fisherman, Port Judith, R.I.
National Fisherman, April 2012

“If we do not have the ability to try all different management options, many of us will go out of business. An IFQ program might not work in all fisheries, but we should be given the chance to try. In the end, it’s simple: **More flexible management equal longer fishing seasons and more tourists. This means better business for fishermen and our coastal communities.**”

Randy Boggs, owner of for-hire recreational fishing business B&D Maritime Inc., Orange Beach, AL “Insight: Feds reel in Gulf Coast fishing season,” *Press-Register, June 5, 2011*

“**The red snapper fishery is better now than I have seen in my lifetime.** It has a longer season. It is better economically. And we are seeing a resurgence of red snappers. The difference was that by, assigning an individual his own quota, the collateral damage was reduced since he could now keep fish that he was discarding while he was fishing for other reef fish species during the other 20-day closures. It is my belief that an IFQ designed by the stakeholders is a very important tool in the fishery management strategy. It is the only tool that allows fishermen the individual flexibility to meet their needs.”



David Krebs, commercial fisherman, Destin, Florida
President, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
Congressional Testimony, April 2011

“**Current management - seasons and other limits - is killing us and it’s just going to get worse.** We have to think about fishing differently and explore solutions like catch shares. Our fishing futures depend on it.”

Matt Ruby, fisherman, Little River, S.C.
The Sun News, February 21, 2011

“**My life was a disaster,**” he recalls of his derby-fishing days. “I didn’t go to my kids’ baseball games; I didn’t go to church. **I didn’t do all the things that normal people do.**”

Buddy Guindon, fisherman, Galveston, Texas
National Fisherman, April 2012

“The Crab Catch Share Program **has been the most important regulatory change** promoting safety of life at sea.”

Edward Poulsen, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
Letter to National Marine Fisheries Service, July 19, 2011

"On balance, this approach to management of fish is much more intelligent, and **there are better controls over the total impact on these stocks.**"

Bob Fletcher, former president, Sportfishing Association of California

"Commercial fishing frenzy criticized," *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, November 13, 2008

"Catch shares have brought other benefits. Now **we have a stake in protecting crab populations** for the future... Crabbing before and after catch shares **is like night and day**. There's no way I'd choose to go back to the old derby days."

Scott Campbell, Jr.

Captain of the Seabrooke on "The Deadliest Catch,"

The Wall Street Journal, November 14, 2011



SUPPORT FROM THINK TANKS:

“The **total national net deficit reduction possible** by catch shares is estimated to be between \$890M and \$1.24B of NPV [net present value] depending on the specifics of the ultimate design and implementation of each catch share.”

Dietmar Grimm, Judd Boomhower & Jason Blau, Redstone Strategy Group LLC

“Can Catch Shares Reduce the US Federal Deficit?,” *Journal of Sustainable Development*, December 2010

"This is a **transformative approach** to fisheries management...There is a sea change in incentives away from a race-to-fish model. Instead fishing shareholders are assured a secure portion of the allowable catch and **have** ownership in the long-term success of the fishery..."

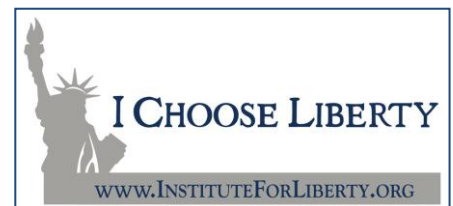


“...**The process allows for longer fishing seasons, reduces unnecessary investment in fishing vessels, and allows fishers discretion to harvest in safe weather conditions, when market prices are higher,** or when there's a pressing need to generate income...Recent research suggests catch shares also would have a net positive effect on the federal deficit, through greater income tax revenue and other factors.”

Jon Sanders, Director of Regulatory Studies, John Locke Foundation

“Catch Shares: A Potential Tool to Undo a Tragedy of the Commons in N.C. Fisheries,” May 2012

“The catch shares program is a **far better way to manage** the nation's fisheries than spending millions of federal dollars bailing out fisheries that were managed over the last decade by regulatory agencies. **Under the old system, there were too many bailouts, too many subsidies and too much government involvement** and it still failed to keep regional fisheries afloat.”



Andrew Langer, President, Institute for Liberty

The Washington Times, May 11, 2011

“Where such shares—essentially, fishing rights—have been implemented, as in the Alaska halibut fishery, **season lengths have increased, costs have declined, fish quality has increased and profits have risen.**”

Hoover Institution Stanford University
... ideas defining a free society

Terry Anderson, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution

“How About a Green Tea Party?,” *The Wall Street Journal*, September 22, 2011

“...Congress and our fishery managers should be looking for more tools, not less, to help them achieve the long-term goal of bringing our nation’s fisheries back to a state of long-term sustainability. Preventing fishermen from potentially benefiting from a system that has proven successful in the past is no way to ensure a successful future.”



Michael Conathan, Center for American Progress

“Fish on Fridays” blog, April 22, 2011

SUPPORT FROM POLICYMAKERS:

“Catch shares is the **most important idea and concept in the management of fisheries** that I have been involved with in my entire lifetime.”

Bruce Babbitt

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior

“As we assess preliminary data from the 2010 fishing season and look forward to the year ahead, it is hard to believe **how far we have come** from the crisis situation the industry faced this time last year. The Days-at-Sea program [the management approach before catch shares] had plunged our fishing industry into a downward spiral, decimating fish stocks and diminishing prospects at sea from 65 days to as few as 14 in 2010.”

U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe

The Portland Press Herald, March 25, 2011

“Individual allocations and spreading the season out [under the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab catch share program] allows more flexibility in choosing to stay in port if weather is predicted to be poor... **Since the Crab Rationalization Program has ended the race to fish, there is less emphasis on catching power leading to less incentive to overload vessels...**The BSAI CR program has clearly demonstrated the ability to improve safety by making foundational changes which increase fishing time, reduce an emphasis on catching power, allow large, more efficient and safer vessels to remain in the fishery, and **improve crew experience**. These are areas that are typically difficult to control through Coast Guard safety regulations.”

**Jennifer M. Lincoln of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health & Commander
& Christopher J. Woodley, U.S. Coast Guard**

“Review of Safety Under the Crab Rationalization Management Program,” 2010

“In exchange for greater accountability, catch share programs give participating fishermen broad flexibility on when and how to fish, significantly improving their bottom line. **With greater freedom on timing their catch, dockside prices rise as fishermen deliver a better product over a longer span of time**, avoiding the glut of fish that used to arrive during prior, compressed seasons...As overfished stocks recover, catch limits are expanded, benefiting both commercial and recreational fishermen alike.”

Theodore Roosevelt IV & former Congressman James Walsh (R-N.Y.)

“Fishy agreement between Obama and Bush,” *The Washington Times*, January 29, 2010

“When properly designed, **IFQs hold enormous promise** for improving the economic health of fishing communities and the overall health of the oceans. Everyone benefits.”

Former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton (R- Wash.)

“Finding a system that sustains the Pacific groundfish fishery,” *Seattle Times*, June 10, 2008

"The [FY2008] Budget also provides for funds to ensure sustainable access to seafood through...better management of fish harvests. **Market-based approaches** – such as Limited Access Privilege systems (LAPs) that provide exclusive privileges to harvest a quantity of fish – **move fisheries management away from cumbersome and inefficient regulatory practices** and have been shown to lead to **lengthened fishing seasons, improved product quality, and safer conditions for fishermen**. The Administration has set a goal of doubling the number of LAP programs in use by the year 2010."

President George W. Bush

FY 2008 budget request to Congress

"IFQs [Individual fishing quotas] could provide a means of bringing into better balance the harvesting capability of our fleets with the amount of fish available for harvest. **This market-based management tool would serve to end the race for fish, improve product quality, enhance safety at sea, while allowing for greater efficiency in fishing operations**. These proposals are intended to provide the councils and industry with a process to develop capacity reduction programs within a national framework."

NOAA Press Release

"Bush Administration Recommends Strengthening of Magnuson-Stevens Act," June 27, 2003

SUPPORT FROM MEDIA:

“The positive trends, however, point to an **industry that can survive and grow, something that did not seem likely under days-at-sea management.**”

Portland Press Herald editorial

“Our View: Early reports show positive trends for new fishing rules,” October 2, 2011

Portland Press Herald
Est. 1862
Maine Sunday Telegram

“With divvied-up annual quotas, known as ‘catch shares,’ **fishermen are not under pressure to go out to sea in hazardous weather.** By banding together, they can **save on boat costs and have more flexibility** in ensuring that all the fish they catch can be brought to dock and not simply discarded as excess. Another plus of the quotas: **They provide fishermen with an incentive to help stocks grow, since increased stocks would lead to increased quotas.**”

Boston Globe editorial

“New fishing plan offers success,” December 15, 2009

The Boston Globe

“At the end of the day, **no other system is better at securing the highest economic value for fisheries,** based on the ability of the individual owners to expand and contract their businesses along with the inevitable expansion and contraction of the stock.”

John Sackton, Editor and Publisher

Seafood.com News, October 17, 2011

“For fish fanciers and fishers alike, the best way to make sure of an abundant future seafood supply is **to throw back the race-for-fish system and fish for a better way.** Fortunately, a key federal agency is proposing just that... Up to now, the primary approach has been to limit fishing seasons. **Faced with narrow time windows, fishers buy too many boats, cut too many corners on safety, catch too many fish** (the ones they want, as well as a lot of innocent bystander fish), and put too many on the market at the same time, depressing the dollar value of their catch.”

Newsday editorial

“A better way to end overfishing,” January 8, 2010

“The days-at-sea restrictions often lead to a frantic race to catch as many fish as possible as quickly as possible, which in turn leads to indiscriminate and wasteful fishing. Ms. Lubchenco’s alternative would give individual fishermen or groups of fishermen fixed shares — a guaranteed percentage — of the annual catch, then let them set the rules. **The theory is that share-holding fishermen will have a vested interest in seeing their resource grow, much like shareholders in a company.**”

The New York Times

New York Times editorial
“Ocean Rescue,” June 21, 2009

“The catch share system doesn't come with hurry-up time limits. It allows participants to spread fishing through the year. **For consumers it might mean steadier prices and more fresh fish...**”

San Francisco Chronicle
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

“...The nation's **fishing grounds need a rescue plan**, and catch shares can play a useful role.”

San Francisco Chronicle editorial
“A better way to catch fish,” December 17, 2009