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## Sea Grant Extension Program Catch Share Workshop Report

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# Sea Grant Extension Program Catch Share Workshop Report

## Funding Co-Applicants & Workshop Co-Hosts

**Ken La Valley**

Assistant Director

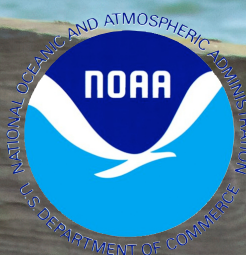
NH Sea Grant Extension Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Tom Murray**

Leader

VA Sea Grant Marine Extension Program

**Sea Grant**





## Background

The growing interest in catch shares as a tool for fisheries management has led to the emergence of a number of social, ecological, and economic issues. Catch share programs are intended to replace complex rules dictating how fishing will be practiced with scientifically determined catch limits. Thus catch shares are designed to hold fishermen directly accountable for meeting a vital conservation target. Under catch shares, fishermen, cooperatives, communities, or other entities are allocated a share of the total allowable catch, or they may be granted exclusive access to particular fishing zones. As long as fishermen do not exceed their share, they have greater flexibility to fish when weather and market conditions are best. Their shares grow in value as the overall fishery improves, providing them a greater financial stake in sound resource management. However, change does not come easily, and for U.S. fishermen many are left with unanswered questions about the economics of entering the catch share framework and the new reporting and regulatory requirements that come with this new tool.

Sea Grant is uniquely positioned to respond to the needs of the U.S. fishermen. Our state and regional fisheries networks offer the opportunity to not only leverage and share expertise but to utilize the extensive industry contacts and assess the immediate and long-term needs of our U.S. fleet.

The increased need by the fishing industry to fish selectively and to operate flexibly within a sector will create many programming challenges for fisheries extension professionals. In particular, the need for fishing methods that reduce bycatch will increase demand for conservation engineered gear. In addition, fishermen will need to increase their bottom line by incorporating controls and deck handling strategies that improve product quality, reduce fuel consumption, and take advantage of local marketing opportunities. Many Sea Grant programs already assist fishermen in these areas.

The importance of Sea Grant's extension role was also realized by our National office, as apparent by Focus Team involvement with the Energy Use in Fisheries Symposium held in Seattle (November 14-17, 2010). The symposium provided an excellent venue for fisheries extension professionals to meet, discuss catch shares, and begin developing coordinated response strategies.

Funding was secured to help extension agents travel to the Symposium and attend a Catch Shares Workshop. Many fisheries extension agents had secured funding to attend the Energy Use in Fisheries Symposium through Fisheries Extension Enhancement (FEE) transition group. With additional funding provided by National Sea Grant, other extension personnel gained support travel to the workshop as well.

## Workshop Results

More than 35 individuals attended the workshop, with the majority representing Sea Grant FEE members and a handful of others representing NGOs or other fishery-related organizations. The workshop had two goals: (1) increasing attendees' understanding of catch shares and applications from across the nation and (2) beginning discussions about a coordinated role that Sea Grant programs could or should have with regards to catch shares.

The meeting began with short formal presentations about individual Sea Grant program's experience with catch shares, and then the floor opened to discuss other attendees' roles and Sea Grant's potential role in catch shares. Attendees' experience with catch shares ranged from extensive experience in application to socio-economic understanding of catch shares to limited experience and concern over how to respond in the event catch shares become a management tool in their area. After the meeting, the presenters were interviewed and asked whether the meeting had benefited them and their work.

### (1) Increasing Attendees' Understanding of Catch Shares

All presenters felt they had something to learn from their colleagues. Some with less experience, simply wanted to better understand practical application of catch shares. This was important to Matt Freeman (LA Sea Grant Fisheries Economist), whose co-

**“It was nice to put a face to the names of people I’ve been calling and emailing previously about catch shares. It’s made communication a lot easier since then.”**

**- Matt Freeman  
(LA SG)**

workers had been approaching him with questions about catch shares well before the workshop.

“The workshop provided me with more information than I had previously or could even find online,” said Freeman. “I was familiar with catch shares from an economic side, but I hadn’t had conversations with people who were involved in implementing catch shares until I attended the workshop... it was helpful to hear what my counterparts saw on the ground.”

For Freeman, his newly gained knowledge became applicable as soon as he returned home. “We have a quarterly marine extension meeting here, and it was nice to come back and share what I learned with our field agents. They were coming to me and asking questions, and I could relay information I had gained from my counterparts,” he said.

Freeman and his colleague Niki Pace (MS/AL Sea Grant Staff Attorney) presented during the workshop on a 3rd edition of a guide to fishery management tools. The guide, “Fishery Management Limited Access Privilege Program,” to be released in 2012, will include a new section about catch shares. For Pace, who works on the legal side of catch shares, getting feedback for her project was important. “As someone who is not as closely involved in catch shares, I learned a lot,” Pace said. “It was great to get feedback from different people in the room about where to go with [the guide].”

Carrie Pomeroy (CA Sea Grant) was so impressed with the experiences of her colleagues that she said she wanted to hear more and suggested a short monthly webinar. “I think we have a number of people who already have useful experience that ought to be shared fully with other folks,” she said.

Others with more direct experience with catch shares, came to the meeting hoping that they could draw comparisons between their programs and others that may provide insight or stimulate new ideas.

“The workshop was an excellent opportunity for comparison and contrast,” said Madeleine Hall-Arber (MIT Sea Grant), who finds that New England’s experience with catch shares is still too new to identify impacts. Hall-Arber said she would start to look for potential impacts by considering “what was similar and different about the context for catch shares in different regions.”

**“I benefitted from hearing how catch shares were working on the East Coast and in Alaska.”**

**- Niki Pace  
(MS/AL SG)**

## **(2) Coordinating Sea Grant’s Role**

Following presentations and short introductions by attendees, the group discussed the potential for a coordinated role for Sea Grant programs with regards to catch shares. The workshop leaders posed several potential function ideas to discuss. These ideas were listed in the agenda for attendees’ reference:

- Assist in developing national educational efforts that are uniform and build upon the experiences in each region.
- Focus on the federal fishery management council regions, some sea grant programs may foster regional education and outreach efforts on behalf of the councils for fishery stakeholders.
- Share research on catch-shares and support discussion and debate in the early stages and throughout any catch share program design process. In particular, community-based design may be facilitated by Sea Grant extension personnel, known/trusted in local fishing communities.
- Provide speaker’s bureau type resource for fishermen that have experience with catch shares.
- Convene, conduct workshops for industry/related entities, such as bankers and suppliers.
- Provide access to Agency experts and others to inform industry.
- Provide real details of various catch share programs.
- Develop research agenda?
- Sea Grant may be helpful as an advisor to councils on data collection.
- Analysis for socio-economic considerations under catch share programs.

During the meeting, the workshop leaders didn’t detect any opposition to the different potential items proposed. Joshua Wiersma, who was invited to present by

**“Overall, I thought this was a great opportunity for me.”**

**- Joshua Wiersma  
(Sector Manager NH)**

**“It was good to hear about other variations of catch share programs around the country.”**

**- Sunny Rice  
(AK SG)**

New Hampshire Sea Grant on his management of two sector fisheries, said he was encouraged by the discussion of the above mentioned functions. “I think that there were some really good ideas about how Sea Grant can position themselves in the future to integrate into catchshares,” said Wiersma.

Although other presenters agreed that good first steps were made, those with the most catch shares extension experience indicated that the discussion may need to be revisited.

“I think we had the beginnings of this conversation, but the time available was much too short to make a lot of progress,” said Sunny Rice (AK Sea Grant), who presented six case studies of catch share programs in Alaska. “I think fisheries-oriented

Sea Grant extension staff would benefit from a more in-depth exploration... about how they might interact with the issue in their area.”

One of the questions that remains to be answered is how to play a role in catch shares without being, or perceived as being, an advocate. Hall-Arber sees potential for extension agents to help their stakeholders so long as they continue forward as an honest broker, a position that is central to the Sea Grant mission. Said Hall-Arber, “Sea Grant’s ability to retain neutrality and observe the positive and negative aspects [of implementation] could lead to critical approaches to mitigate negative impacts.”

**“I enjoyed the workshop and got a lot out of it.”**

**- Carrie Pomeroy  
(CA SG)**

Yet, Pomeroy, who hasn’t had many interactions with catch shares, was cautious about how to approach the issue without misrepresenting her position. “I maintain my credibility in the community by not advocating for any management tools in particular. If I went into communities and was even perceived as an advocate for a management tool, I would be unwelcome,” said Pomeroy.

## **Moving Forward**

Based on follow-up interviews, it’s clear that attendees and presenters, even those who were very experienced in the extension-side of catch shares, felt there was an educational benefit to the catch shares workshop. All those interviewed indicated that they felt progress was made in looking through potential roles Sea Grant programs could play if catch shares are introduced or suggested in their areas. However, many felt that Sea Grant’s role would need to be further teased out, if Sea Grant was to approach catch shares in a coordinated way nationally.

## **Appendices**

### **Agenda**

#### **Attendees Identified on Sign-in Sheet**

# **Agenda**

## **Sea Grant Extension Program Catch Share Workshop**

**Sheraton Seattle Hotel**  
**1400 6th Avenue**  
**Seattle Washington 98101**  
**206-621-9000 (Hotel)**  
**November 15, 2010**  
**1:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

1:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
1:30-1:50 p.m.	“Potential Impacts of Catch Shares” Madeleine Hall-Arber, MIT Sea Grant
1:50 – 2:00 p.m.	Questions and Discussion
2:00-2:20 p.m.	“Alaska Experience with Catch Shares- including types of programs, nature of regulatory system, impacts on fisheries and communities” Glenn Haight & Sunny Rice, Alaska Sea Grant
2:20 -2:30 p.m.	Questions and Discussion
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	By FMC regions - Participants will provide brief (5-7 minute) updates on their regions catch share and other limited access programs. Sea Grant Extension Reps
3:15-3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Continues Questions and Discussion
4:00-4:15 p.m.	National Sea Grant Law Center “3rd Edition Fishery Management & Limited Access Privilege Programs” Niki Pace, MS/AL Sea Grant Program
4:15-4:30 p.m.	Questions and Discussion
4:30 – 4:45 p.m.	New Hampshire Catch Shares Josh Wiersma, Sector Manager
4:45- 5:00 p.m.	Questions and Discussion
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Discussion, follow-up, next steps? Work Group

### **Food for Thought:**

Potential functions for Sea Grant Marine Extension Program contained in Workshop proposal sent to NSGO/SSST and provided by workshop attendees over past months.

- Assist in developing national educational efforts that are uniform and build upon the experiences in each region.
- Focus should be on the federal fishery management council regions, some sea grant programs may foster regional education/outreach efforts on behalf of the councils for fishery stakeholders.
- Share research on catch-shares and support discussion and debate in the early stages and throughout any catch share program design process. In particular, community-based design may be facilitated by Sea Grant extension personnel, known/trusted in local fishing communities.
- Provide speaker’s bureau type resource for fishermen that have experience with catch shares.
- Convene and conduct workshops for industry/related entities, such as bankers and suppliers.
- Provide access to Agency experts and others to inform industry.
- Provide real details of various catch share programs.
- Develop research agenda? Baseline data for industry and communities is critical.
- Sea Grant may be helpful as an advisor to councils on data collection and
- Analysis for socio-economic considerations under catch share programs.

## Attendees Identified on Sign-In Sheet

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