

**COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTHEAST
US: A TILEFISH CASE STUDY**

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The management of the tilefish fishery off the northeastern coast of the U.S. is changing. Currently, the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allocates a fixed percentage of the annual commercial total allowable catch among three different vessel categories (two full-time and one part-time). While two of the three groups compete for their available quota, one group has escaped the race to fish and cooperates extensively through a gentlemen's agreement. This cooperation has resulted in improved social and economic outcomes such as better market prices and a more favorable pattern of fishing. We examine the factors that led to these successful collaborative efforts and investigate why the other two vessel categories were unable to achieve similar results.

Following the enactment of Amendment 1 to the FMP, all commercial tilefish vessel categories will be managed using individual fishing quotas (IFQs). Though many in the industry advocated for an IFQ program, some fishermen perceived the time period used to determine eligibility and share allocations as inequitable. We evaluate the basis for these concerns, and describe how the introduction of IFQ's has impacted fishing behavior across the fishery.

The purpose of this work is to further the understanding of the conditions under which collaborative fisheries management is successful and to provide policy implications for those interested in creating and sustaining such initiatives over time.

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SELECTED REFERENCES

Kitts, A., Pinto da Silva, P & Rountree, B. 2007. The evolution of collaborative management in the Northeast USA tilefish fishery. *Marine Policy*, 31: 192-200.

Pinto da Silva, P. & A. Kitts. 2006. Collaborative fisheries management in the Northeast US: Emerging initiatives and future directions. *Marine Policy* 30: 832-841.