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Theme: Special Sessions

Session: WeF4 - Ocean Management 2

Title: **Quota Share Emigration and Small Remote Fishing
Communities in the Gulf of Alaska Halibut Fishery**

Author(s): Daniel Lew , Courtney Carothers , Jennifer Sepez

Abstract: Individual fishing quota programs are increasingly being used to establish property rights in commercial fisheries in the U.S. These programs are intended to promote resource conservation while improving economic efficiency. However, these rationalization programs are often criticized for their distributional consequences. In the Gulf of Alaska halibut fishery, there is concern that fishing quota are leaving small, remote Alaska fishing communities (SRFCs). In this paper, we analyze quota share transactional data from 1994 to 1999 and find support for the hypothesis that halibut fishing quota holdings are migrating away from SRFCs. Using the same data, we analyze the differences between buyers and sellers of quota to assess which factors contribute most to an individual's decision to buy or sell quota shares. The results support the hypothesis that characteristics of an individual's community influence the decision to buy or sell, and that these community-based factors may collectively be more important than individual characteristics such as one's age.