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Goals and Concerns of Fishery Stakeholders in the Development of Catch Share Management in New England

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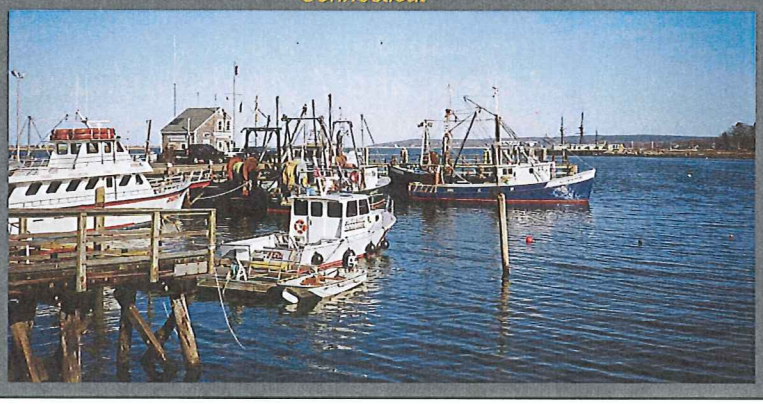
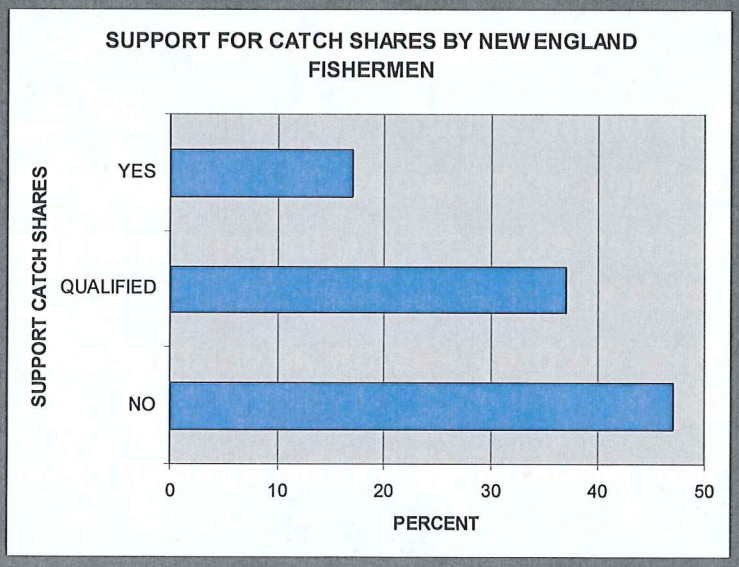


What do the fishermen think about catch shares?

- Ask them.....
- Do they know what catch shares are?
- Do they support the implementation of catch shares?
- What do they see as advantages & disadvantages?
- How would they fix the system?

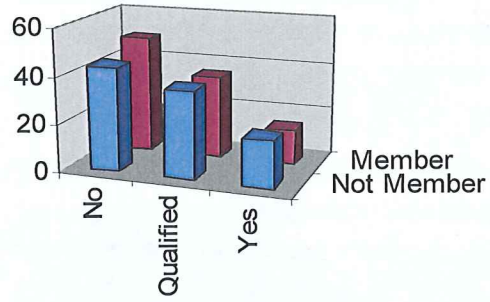
Who did we ask?

- 172 Interviews in 35 ports in five states – Maine (18 ports), New Hampshire (3), Massachusetts (9), Rhode Island (3) and Connecticut (2 ports).
- Age from 17 to 81, most in their forties.
- 88 were owner-captains, 9 owners, 10 captains, 58 crew, and 7 others (processors, buyers, harbor masters, etc).
- Most common gears used were dragnets (55%), lobster traps (19%) and gillnets (12%).
- 46% reported being a "member" of a catch share group



About one-third of members (31%) felt that they had no option but to join

PERCENT SUPPORT FOR CATCH SHARES BY PARTICIPATION
No difference (P > 0.10)



Percent distribution of support for catch shares across states in the sample

STATE	Do Not Support	Qualified Support	Support	N
Rhode Island	42.5	25.0	32.5	40
Massachusetts	49.2	36.5	14.3	63
Connecticut	41.6	41.7	16.7	12
New Hampshire	76.9	23.1	0.0	13
Maine	34.2	52.6	13.2	38
Total	45.8	36.7	17.5	
N	76	61	29	166

When asked to list 5 advantages of catch shares, most fishermen mentioned some.

- The highest percentage (16.3%) of respondents mentioned increased flexibility and decision making.
- Social and community, economic and profitability, and allocation advantages were also mentioned by over 10% of the fishermen.
- But fully 25% said there were no advantages.
- These responses varied in frequency across the different states.

Advantages or good things about catch shares by state (%) N=172

Type of advantage (* = p < 0.05)	State					
	RI	MA	CT	NH	ME	Total
Allocation*	20	13	33	0	5	13
Social and Community*	20	10	83	7	5	16
Environmental & Ecological	10	11	33	0	5	10
Flexibility & Decision Making	25	17	8	0	14	16
Increased Safety	18	6	17	0	5	9
Economic & Profitability	23	14	17	0	7	13
Regulatory Improvements	10	5	8	0	14	8
Other	3	2	8	0	2	2
No advantage*	15	32	0	64	19	25

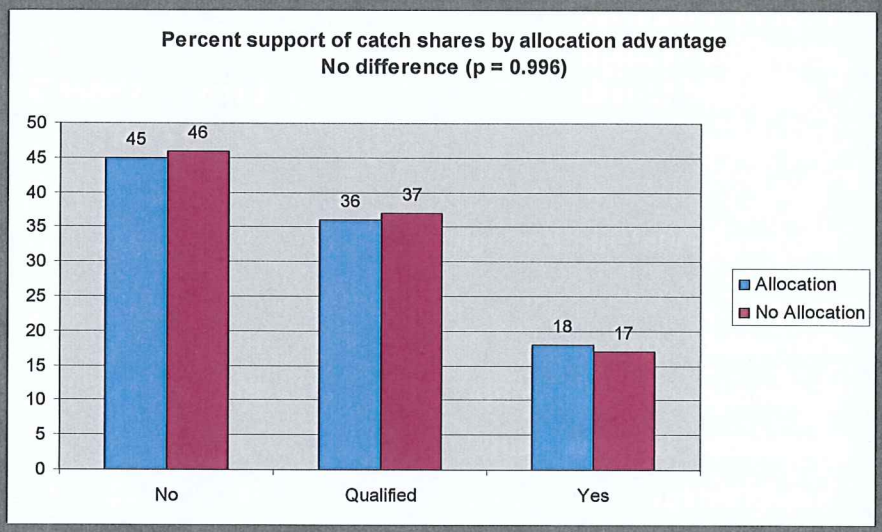
Advantages of catch shares by position (crew versus others %)

Type of Advantage ** = p<0.05 (2-tail) * = p<0.05 (1-tail)	Crew	Other
Allocation	16	11
Social and Community*	22	12
Environmental and Ecological	9	11
Flexibility and Decision Making*	9	20
Increased Safety	10	8
Economic and Profitability	10	15
Regulatory Improvements	3	10
No advantage	31	22

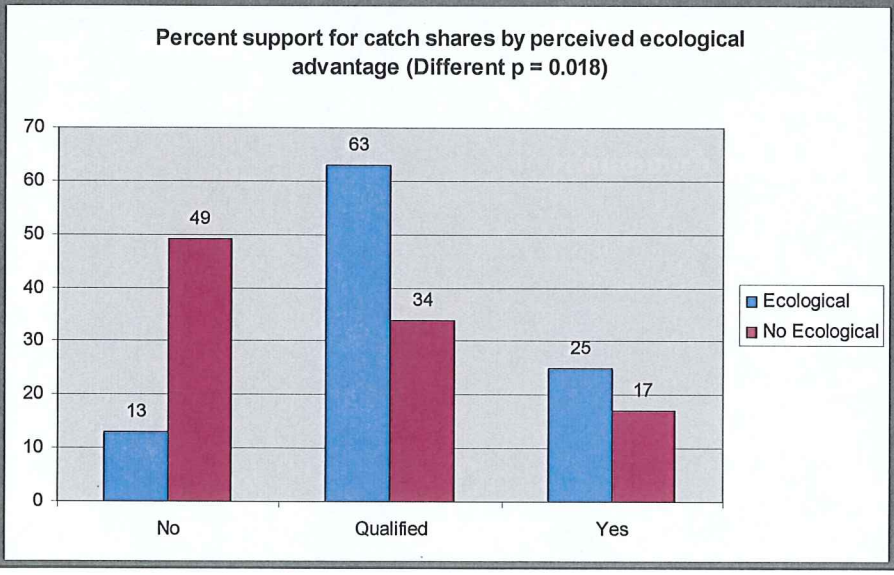
Advantages or good things about catch shares mentioned by stated support for catch shares

Type of advantage (* = p < 0.05)	Support Catch Shares %		
	No	Qualified	Yes
Allocation	45	36	18
Social and Community	40	26	33
Environmental and Ecological*	13	63	25
Flexibility and Decision Making*	23	38	38
Increased Safety*	29	29	43
Economic and Profitability*	9	48	43
Regulatory Improvements*	8	62	31

How can we interpret the table? Those who mention an "allocation" advantage respond in a similar manner to those who do not mention an "allocation" advantage.

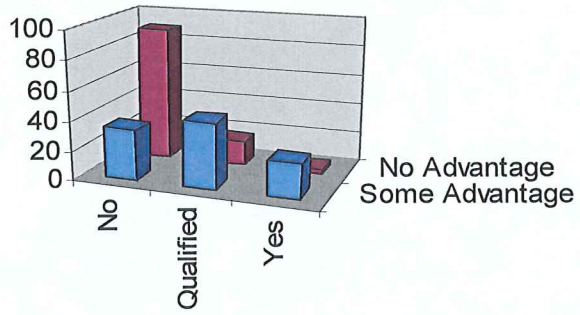


In contrast, those who mention an environmental/ecological advantage respond quite differently than those who do not



About 1/4th (25.3%) said catch shares had no advantage

PERCENT SUPPORT FOR CATCH SHARES BY PERCEPTION OF SOME ADVANTAGE
Different ($p < 0.001$)



When asked to list 5 disadvantages of catch shares, most fishermen replied

- Most prevalent disadvantages mentioned by respondents were Inequity of Effects, Design Flaws, and Negative Social and Community Impacts.
- About one third of respondents also identified disadvantages in the Allocation, NOAA-Fishermen Gap, and Economic and Profitability issues.

Disadvantages or bad things about catch shares by state & disadvantage type (%) N=172						
Type of disadvantage (* = p < 0.05)	State					
	RI	MA	CT	NH	ME	Total
Allocation	25	41	17	14	33	31
Inequity of Effects*	68	47	17	79	65	57
Implementation & Information	23	35	25	50	16	28
Social and Community	30	46	25	50	23	36
Economic & Profitability*	13	46	33	43	21	31
Ecological	8	5	0	0	21	9
By-Catch	10	11	8	0	7	9
Design*	45	48	17	50	23	39
NOAA-Fishermen Gap*	28	38	83	36	28	34
Other	3	3	0	0	2	2

Disadvantages of catch shares by position (crew versus others %)		
Type of Disadvantage ** = p<0.05 (2-tail) * = p<0.05 (1-tail)	Crew	Other
Allocation**	19	38
Inequity of Effects**	45	63
Implementation and Information	28	28
Social and Community	29	39
Economic and Profitability*	22	35
Ecological	5	11
By-Catch	7	10
Design	34	41
NOAA-Fishermen Gap	40	31

Disadvantages or bad things about catch shares mentioned by stated support for catch shares			
Type of disadvantage (* = p < 0.05)	Support Catch Shares		
	No	Qualified	Yes
Allocation	54	29	17
Inequity of Effects*	54	33	13
Implementation & Information	48	42	10
Social and Community*	61	25	14
Economic and Profitability	54	37	10
Ecological	46	46	8
By-Catch	43	36	21
Design	43	38	13
NOAA-Fishermen Gap*	57	34	9

Suggested Changes

- 27 % of respondents suggested changing allocations.
- 19 % suggested keeping the current days at sea system
- 18 % said there is a need to share more information
- A common sentiment among respondents was the inability to rationally make business choices due to a lack of clear regulatory information. Many respondents expressed the belief that the surveys of fish populations were highly inaccurate. Accordingly, 15% suggested obtaining new, more accurate, information when making regulatory decisions.
- Finally 17% responded that the management system should be replaced.

Suggested ways to address concerns (%)

Replace Management System	17.442
Slightly Modify Sectors	13.372
Share Information	18.023
Obtain New Information	15.116
Implementation Process	8.721
Monitor System	2.907
Fix ByCatch Issues	7.558
Change Allocations	27.326
Regulate Markets	9.884
Increase Industry Influence	2.326
Introduce Subsidies or Incentives	5.814
Introduce Systems for Permit Buying/Selling	5.233
Introduce Systems for Quota Buying/Sharing	1.163
Gear Modifications	1.744
Keep Days at Sea	19.186
More Government Accountability	1.163
Revisit Policy	3.488
Do not Introduce Subsidies	0.581
Permit Banks	1.163

Suggested ways to address concerns/disadvantages of catch shares by state (%) Only statistically significant differences shown

Suggested way to address concern/ disadvantage	State					
	RI	MA	CT	NH	ME	Total
Replace Management System	23	13	50	21	9	17
Share Information	28	16	25	36	5	18
Change Allocations	35	38	33	14	7	27
Keep Days at Sea	13	33	0	43	2	19

Suggested ways to address concerns by position (crew versus others %)		
Suggestion (frequency > 10%) ** = p<0.05 (2-tail) * = p<0.05 (1-tail)	Crew	Other
Replace Management System*	24	14
Slightly Modify Sectors	14	13
Share Information	16	19
Obtain New Information*	9	18
Change Allocations**	17	32
Keep Days at Sea	26	16

Suggested ways to address concerns/disadvantages of catch shares by support for catch shares Only statistically significant differences shown			
Suggested way to address concern/ disadvantage	Support Catch Shares %		
	No	Qualified	Yes
Share Information	34	58	3
Change Allocations	50	22	28
Regulate Markets	76	24	0
Keep Days at Sea	67	24	9

Conclusions: Confusion appears to be due to inadequate communication, information, & probably the result of moving too rapidly