



# Community Management and Community Quota Ownership

Cape Cod, USA



**CAPE COD COMMERCIAL HOOK  
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**CAPE COD FISHERIES TRUST**  
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# Outline

- New England Groundfish Crisis
- Community Management Solution
- Accountability
- Community Quota Ownership
- Next Steps

# New England Groundfish Crisis:



- Background of Georges Bank
- 1976 Magnuson Stevens Act
- Replace Foreign Fleet with Domestic
- 1994 Stock Collapse (300M lbs to 60M lbs)
- Failure of Input Controls (Days At Sea)
- Complex Regulations
- Tremendous Bycatch
- Less Profit
- Less Jobs
- Community Collapse
- Infrastructure Loss

# Community Based Solution - Sectors



## Catch Shares & Sectors

- Started in New England
- Catch Share to individual fishermen
- Fishermen join a “Sector” to pool “shares” for management
- Sectors can be geographic or gear based
- Fish allocated to Sector based on member catch history.
- Sector shares costs, responsibilities with US Government

# Sector Management



## Sector Description

- Establish community based vision, goals, objectives

## Local Governance

- Non-profit, Board of Directors, Manager
- Fishermen Infractions Committee
- Frequent meetings and consensus based decision-making

## Local allocation and regulation

- Accountable to each other
- Accountable to government

## Cost

# Accountability



## Reporting

- Fishermen – Paper Reports & Dealer
- Manager
  - Weekly reporting, Bycatch Reporting
  - Annual Report

## Monitoring

- Satellite tracking
- At-sea Observers
  - Federal, Private, Video
- Dockside

# Sector Pros & Cons



## Advantages

- Improved Efficiency & Profit
- Increased Flexibility & Stability
- Improved monitoring (local scale).
- Local Governance & Control

## Considerations

- Management Cost
- High permit price
- Migration of permits and quota

# Implications of Catch Shares

Permits are freely tradable and can be bought and sold for cash

As demand increases, prices escalate

Large companies have a competitive advantage and are able to purchase permits

The social cost to the Cape Cod community is devastating



# We Are At a Critical Juncture

## Retiring and Other Fishermen Exiting the Industry

- Have a permanent permit allocation and need to be able to capture the fair market value



## Large Corporations Purchase Permits

- Existing and aspiring Cape Cod fishermen are shut out of local industry
- Local jobs and access to fisheries decline
- Loss of community lifeblood and culture



## Local Community Maintains Ownership

- Fishing **heritage** is protected and remains a profitable and significant part of the coastal economy
- Local **jobs** are maintained
- Local fishermen are supported and a means of entry for **future generations** of fishermen is ensured

*Cape Cod's fishing legacy will be lost if we do not take action.*

# What CCFT Will Do

CCFT is developing a community ownership model that will benefit the local community and improve marine fish conservation by:



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Providing local fishermen with affordable access to fisheries resources

Maintaining fishing as a way of life in Cape Cod's coastal communities

Assisting fishermen's adoption of more sustainable fishing practices

Creating a community of resource stewards

# How We Will Do It

CCFT will run a permit leasing operation that:

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graph TD; A[Buy Quota] --> B[Aggregates permits into a pool]; B --> C[Leases quota at affordable rates to qualifying Cape Cod fishermen, prioritizing local and sustainable fishermen];
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Buy Quota

Aggregates permits into a pool

Leases quota at affordable rates to qualifying Cape Cod fishermen, prioritizing local and sustainable fishermen

# Who's Eligible?



- Cape Cod resident
- Use Cape Cod ports
- Use Sustainable Fishing Practices
- Owner-operator fishermen
- Comply with monitoring
- Comply with regulations
- Timely lease payment

CCFT's community model promotes the ability to implement healthy fishing practices for the environment and local economy

# Local Impact of CCFT's Work

## Benefits

- Affordable Access & Succession Plan
- Protect a \$30 million seafood industry on Cape Cod
- Including 75 fishing vessels and 175 fishermen
- Succession plan
- Restore traditional diversified access to adjacent natural resources
- Fair distribution of economic and social benefits to active working fishermen
- Stability and reinvestment in local fishing infrastructure
- Implement the Trust to empower local fishermen to be more involved in management decisions at a scope and scale that is relevant to the community



# Summary

- Days at Sea have been a costly failure
- Quotas are new management paradigm
- Community Quota Management allows local focus.
  - New England Groundfish Sectors
- Community Ownership allows prioritization of local social, economic and environmental goals.
  - Cape Cod Fisheries Trust is a successful community ownership solution.
- Success relies on accountability and monitoring





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