

# NATIONAL PANEL ON THE COMMUNITY DIMENSIONS OF FISHERIES CATCH SHARE PROGRAMS

The National Panel on the Community Dimensions of Fisheries Catch Share Programs is the first national, bi-partisan panel to address the important issue of how communities can participate and benefit under a catch share model of fisheries management. Comprised of 11 diverse experts from around North America, the panel spent a year reviewing existing and emerging catch share programs, and issued a report and recommendations on March 15, 2011.

Although communities are included in the definition of catch shares, there has been a notable lack of implementation of existing provisions for communities in the nation's fisheries law.

As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils begin implementing NOAA's Catch Share Policy, both agency and councils have an important opportunity to emphasize and support fishing communities and jobs in the development of catch share programs.

## THE PANEL'S KEY FINDINGS



Members of the Bristol Bay, Alaska small boat halibut fishery.

### Catch shares: a definition

Catch shares are a means of managing fisheries by allocating a specific portion of the total allowable catch of a fish stock to individuals, cooperatives, communities or other entities.

☀ A healthy, economically-viable fishing industry is vital to our nation's economy and food security. Done right, catch shares enhance economic development in our coastal communities, create opportunity for individuals and boost the resilience of our nation's fisheries;

☀ NOAA and councils should support and encourage Community Fishing Associations, which provide affordable, local industry access to fisheries and opportunities for qualified new fishermen. There are currently about a dozen CFAs nationwide and we hope to see many more;



Port Orford, Oregon Water Festival.

☀ It's crucial that fish allocations be traded, tracked and reported in a transparent and accessible manner. Catch share programs should consider performance-based renewals rather than just allocations in perpetuity;

☀ We strongly encourage councils to consider initial allocations of fish quota to communities and for NOAA to expand its financial tools to include public-private partnerships, loan guarantees and a dedicated loan program to help communities purchase catch shares.

### The Panel:

John Campagna  
Managing Partner, Restore Capital

John Ledyard  
Alan and Lenabelle Davis  
Professor of Economics and Social Sciences  
California Institute of Technology

Mike Chrisman  
Director, Southwestern Partnership Office  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Bonnie McCay  
Board of Governors Distinguished Service  
Professor, Department of Human Ecology  
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Larry Collins  
Commercial Fisherman  
President, Crab Boat Owners Association of  
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Paul Parker  
Director, Cape Cod Fisheries Trust

Wayne Embree  
VP, Entrepreneur Services  
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Ronald L. Phillips  
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Arne Fuglvog  
Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator  
Lisa Murkowski

Rashid Sumaila  
Associate Professor and Director, Fisheries  
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University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre

Theodore Groves  
Professor and Director, Center for Environ-  
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University of California, San Diego

### Special Advisor to the Panel

Elinor Ostrom  
2009 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences,  
Arthur F. Bentley Professor of Political Science,  
Senior Research Director, Workshop in Political  
Theory and Policy Analysis

## THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel developed 16 recommendations directed at NOAA and the eight U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils responsible for managing U.S. fisheries. These include:

- ❖ NOAA should require that a significant and appropriate baseline percentage of fisheries quota be anchored in communities in each council region through entities like Community Trusts, such as the Community Quota Entity program in Alaska;
- ❖ NOAA should invest in the research and development of business models for new private/public financing mechanisms that promote its program goals, as well as the capacity of fishermen and communities to utilize these mechanisms;
- ❖ NOAA budgetary resources should be used to further define and develop guidelines for implementation of the community provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to be applied by all fishery management councils;
- ❖ NOAA and councils should ensure that monitoring standards and costs do not disadvantage smaller scale fishing enterprises and the communities dependent on them.



*Some vessels of the Chatham, Mass., groundfish and scallop fleet in Aunt Lydia's Cove.*



*Aaron Longton, F/V Goldeneye unloads black cod at Port Orford, Oregon dock.*

Panel convened by Ecotrust

Please see the full set of recommendations in the Panel's executive summary and report: [www.ecotrust.org/fisheries](http://www.ecotrust.org/fisheries) For further information contact Megan Mackey, Fisheries Policy Associate, 503-467-0784.