

CatchShareIndicators.org

An Online Dashboard for Fishery Managers and Stakeholders

The Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares project provides objective information to answer key questions about how catch share programs affect fish stocks, the fishing industry, and local communities.

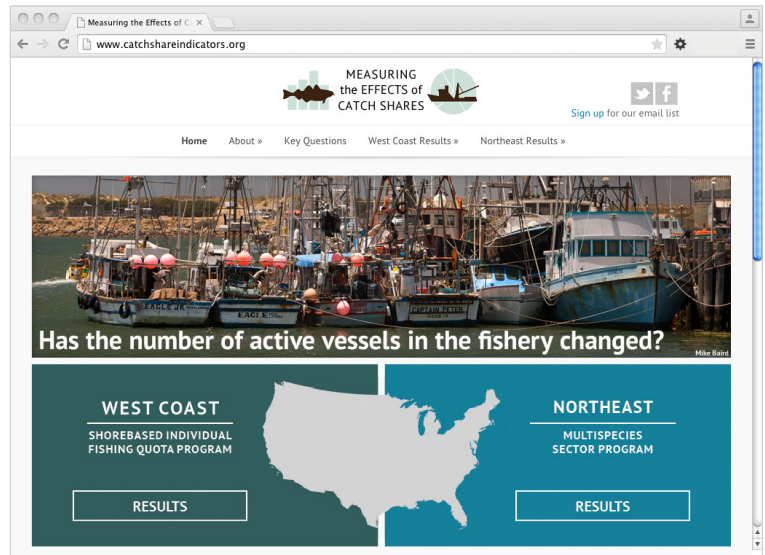
Has the number of active vessels changed? Has fishing effort changed? What about discards? Are fishing vessels participating in a different mix of fisheries and to what extent? Has the cost of fishery management changed?

Those questions and more are answered on the project website, catchshareindicators.org, which reports on fourteen ecological, economic, social, and governance indicators of change for the West Coast Shorebased IFQ Program and the Northeast Multispecies Sector Program.

A Toolkit of Information for Decision-Making

With so many communities dependent on these fisheries, it is especially important to provide data-driven analysis that will allow people to draw their own conclusions and to use the information as a tool for decision-making.

We present the status and trends that exist in the data and offer context and discussion for attributing those trends, including a historic perspective that reaches back further than official baselines or qualifying dates. We lay out the information objectively and transparently to illustrate trends, so that the indicators can be used to support or oppose numerous assumptions. The advantage is that proponents and opponents can use real data to make statements and draw conclusions.



FOURTEEN INDICATORS OF CHANGE

CatchShareIndicators.org provides interactive charts, downloadable data, and objective scientific analysis.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

- Number of Active Vessels
- Financial Viability of the Fishery
- Local Community Effects
- Fishery Diversification
- Access and Exclusion Effects
- Cost of Fishery Management: Private

ECOLOGICAL

- Fishery Stock Status
- Fleetwide Catch Versus Quota
- Discarding
- Fishing Impacts on Seafloor Habitats
- Data Quality: Observer Coverage
- Distribution of Fishing Effort

GOVERNANCE

- Cost of Fishery Management: Public
- Management Time: Public

Looking Beyond Evaluation

CatchShareIndicators.org looks beyond the stated fishery management plan goals of the programs to investigate other effects. We have worked to ensure that this project builds on and does not duplicate related efforts to analyze catch share programs. To fully understand the effects of the programs, we parse the data in ways beyond those required for performance evaluation.

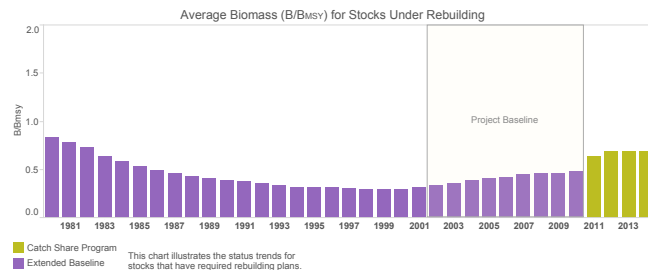
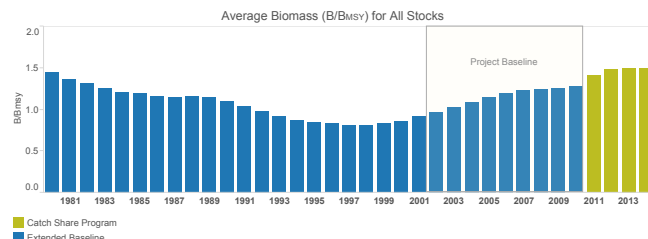
For example, in our data requests to NOAA we have asked that landings by volume and revenue (ex-vessel value) be reported from two different geographic perspectives. First, we asked for data by the primary port of landing, which is probably the most often reported method used to categorize landings geographically. Second, we asked that landings be reported by the vessel owner's place of residence. This geographic categorization is often not reported, and it allows us to describe the economic impacts that vessel owners are able to bring to their home communities.

Another variable that we are requesting is information on whether the vessel was active in trawl fisheries during the catch history years, whether the vessel entered the fishery in the “gap” years between the catch history years and the first year of the program, or finally whether the vessel entered the fishery only after the IFQ program began. These “entry” categories will allow us to report on the number and activities of “historic” vessels, “gap-year” vessels, and “new” vessels.

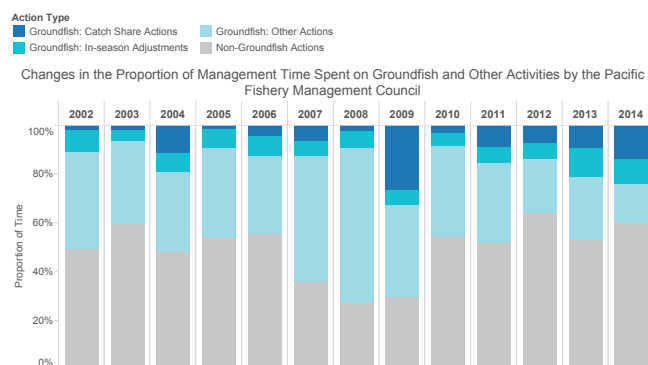
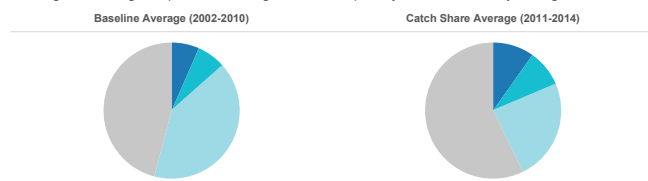
Building on NOAA Data and Conducting New Studies

Many compelling stories can be told using the project's fourteen indicators, but only if the data are accessible. In late 2013, we released interim results based on publicly available data for the Shorebased IFQ Program. Those results cover a baseline period of seven years before the program began and the initial years of the program. We have begun receiving detailed data from PACFIN and NOAA that will allow deeper analysis of the effects of the program, a longer baseline period, and updated results.

On a rolling basis we release new and updated charts, graphs, and analyses, enabling website visitors to compare periods before and during the catch share program. New results for some indicators are pending release, with more detailed updates expected in fall 2015. Soon we will also be initiating data collection by conducting interviews with fishery managers, participants, and other community members reliant on these fisheries to provide context to observed trends. Findings for each fishing year will be added to the website through early 2017, and enhancements to the design and functionality of the dashboard are in continual development.



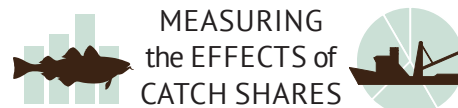
Changes in Average Proportion of Management Time Spent by the Pacific Fishery Management Council



Examples of interactive charts at catchshareindicators.org.

How Can We Help You?

Join the conversation! Suggest information sources, tell us how you use the indicators, contact us with questions and suggestions, and stay updated on project news and releases. Please let us know if you are interested in being interviewed as part of our research. We welcome requests for presentations or webinars about the project and its latest findings.



Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares is led by MRAG Americas, Inc., and is conducted with a team of academic and private-sector partners.