



Spotlight: West Coast Shorebased IFQ Program
A selection of findings. Complete results available at www.CatchShareIndicators.org

Web-Based Dashboard for Fishery Managers and Stakeholders

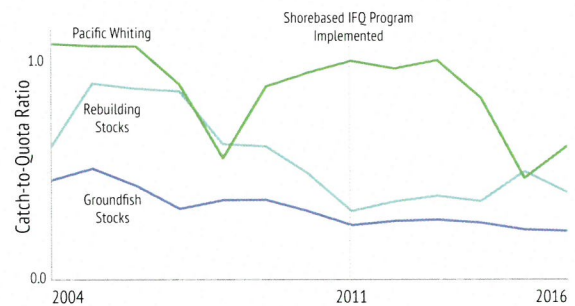
The Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares project provides data and information to answer key questions about how two catch share programs—the West Coast Shorebased IFQ Program and the Northeast Multispecies Sector Program—have affected fish stocks, the fishing industry, and local communities. The interdisciplinary project team developed and analyzed a set of ecological, economic, social, and governance indicators of change. The findings and user-friendly interactive charts are provided at CatchShareIndicators.org.



Ecological Indicators

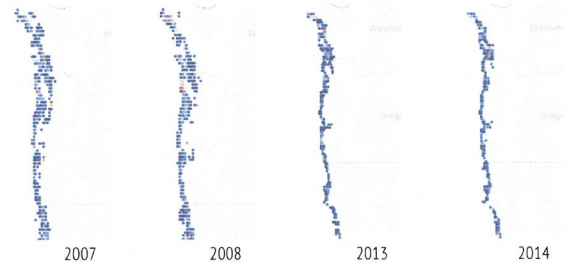
Did fleetwide catches stay within quota?

On average, catches were below quota in the six years preceding the catch share program and decreased further under catch shares. Under catch shares, fishermen were able to land more than 75 percent of quota for the three most valuable species in the fishery (sablefish, petrale sole, and Pacific whiting). Ecologically, the catch share program has been successful in terms of maintaining catches below catch limits. However, the low percentages of quota that fishermen were able to catch led to mixed economic and social effects of the catch share program.



Did fishing effort change in amount, timing, or where it occurred?

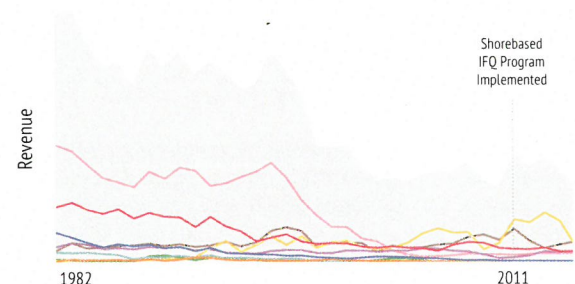
Total effort in terms of number of vessels and number of tows dropped sharply with the onset of the catch share program and has become concentrated nearshore off the coasts of Washington and Oregon. Spatial distribution of effort shifted to areas closer to shore and closer to fishing ports, likely to better target valuable species while avoiding overfished species.



Economic Indicators

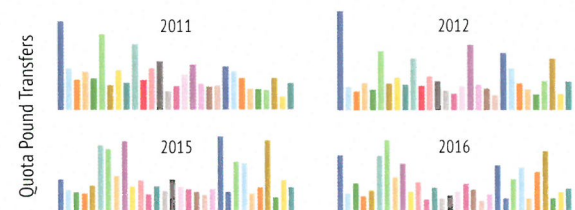
Did the financial viability of the fishery change?

During the first five years of the Shorebased IFQ Program, the average annual ex-vessel revenue in the non-whiting portion of the fishery was about \$32 million (whiting landings were valued at over \$22 million), which is comparable to the average during the baseline years (2002–2010). There has been more stability, albeit with reduced revenues compared to the levels seen in the 1980s to mid-1990s. High revenues in the shorebased Pacific whiting fishery during the first years of the catch share program reflect increases in the ACL and high ex-vessel prices.



Did opportunities or barriers to entering the fishery change?

At the inception of the catch share program, a majority of quota shares for several IFQ species was concentrated among the top 25 quota holders. Quota pound transfers address short-term mismatches between catches and allocated shares, but increased communication and transparency in the quota market are required for an efficient distribution of QP. QS transfers created opportunities for fishermen to participate, but there may remain a barrier to entry from the cost of purchasing shares.



Interactive Dashboard of Fishery Data

Best available data • Objective expert analysis
At-a-glance summaries • Interactive, shareable charts

CatchShareIndicators.org provides user-friendly public access to high-quality, unbiased scientific information to support fisheries decision-making.

Social Indicators

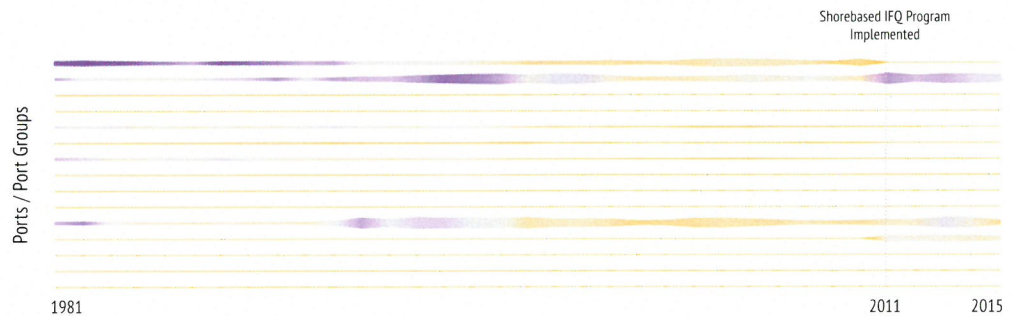
Did economic and social effects on local communities change?

During the baseline period (2002–2010) before catch share implementation, non-whiting groundfish landings and revenue in some ports and port groups declined due to the vessel and permit buyback program, management measures that restricted landings, and consolidation of West Coast processing groups. With the consolidation that occurred in the shorebased Pacific whiting fleet following implementation of the catch share program, together with the shift of the Pacific whiting fishery away from northern California, landings of Pacific whiting in Eureka and Crescent City effectively ended. Newport and Astoria, Oregon, and south-central Washington ports saw increases in the overall value of groundfish landings after the catch share program began.

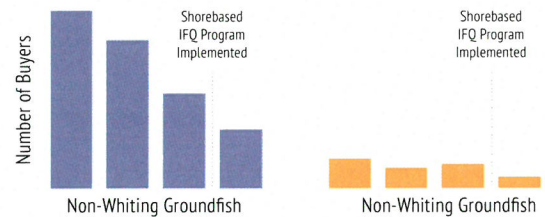
Each line represents landings and revenues at a port or port group.

A thicker line means more landings.

Blue means higher revenues, and orange means lower revenues.



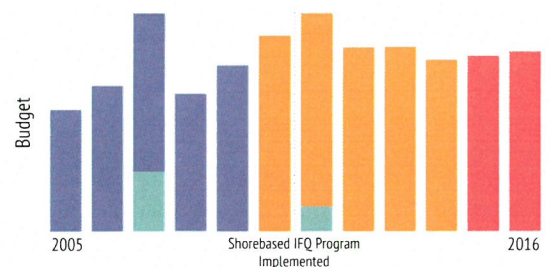
During the first five years of the Shorebased IFQ Program the number of non-whiting groundfish and shorebased whiting buyers substantially declined. Coos Bay, Fort Bragg, San Francisco, and Monterey showed the greatest decreases in non-whiting groundfish buyers. Morro Bay had a substantial increase in buyers due to an increase in the number of vessels landing sablefish in the port.



Governance Indicators

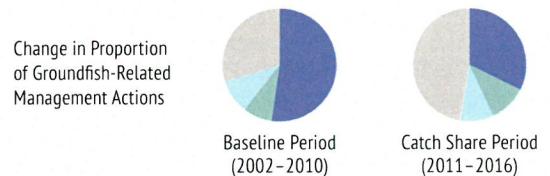
Did the public cost of fishery management change?

Public investment in managing the West Coast groundfish trawl ITQ program decreased with implementation of a cost recovery program. The primary cost to the public during the baseline period (2002–2010) was expenditures related to development of what eventually was adopted as the Shorebased IFQ Program. Overall national catch share program funding received an initial appropriation of \$41 million in FY2011, and then the appropriation dropped and remained constant at levels below \$28 million for FY2012–2016.



Did the efficiency of fisheries management change?

The development of the IFQ program required intense upfront investments of time by the fishery management council and fishery stakeholders in the years preceding implementation. After 2011, the proportion of time spent by the council on groundfish measures fell from nearly fifty percent to less than ten percent.



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

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