

## NMFS SUMMARY OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In June 2009, the Council recommended as part of Amendment 20 that NMFS establish the Adaptive Management Program (AMP). NMFS approved Amendment 20 and published the Program Components rule on December 15, 2010, which promulgated AMP in regulation (75 FR 78344), setting aside 10% of the non-whiting quota to achieve several purposes.

The purposes adopted by the Council and approved by NMFS were to give managers flexibility to use quota share to address the following objectives:

- 1) Community stability;
- 2) Processor stability;
- 3) Conservation;
- 4) Unintended/unforeseen consequences of IFQ management; or
- 5) Facilitating new entrants.

While the above purposes were identified in Amendment 20, specific implementation details were scheduled for a trailing action. Since January 2011, the resulting quota pounds (QP) from the AMP have been passed through to QS holders in proportion to their QS of each species.

The pass through, in current regulations, is set to expire at the end of 2014. NMFS believes the Council needs to incorporate planning for the AMP program, beginning now, in order to be able to implement provisions by January 1, 2015.

Given the conservation benefits experienced in the first two years of the trawl catch share program, NMFS suggests that the Council may want to focus their initial discussions on AMP implementation toward one or two of the remaining purposes: community/processor stability, and new entrants into the fishery. In particular, there is evidence that early attention to the issues faced by new entrants may be important to address concerns that have arisen in other catch share fisheries. A narrow focus may make the implementation process more achievable and yield positive results for the beginning of the program.

NMFS believes that the AMP was an innovative tool developed by the Council and that it is important that work on achieving its promise needs to begin now. NMFS is prepared to lead preliminary scoping on this issue in 2013. Although NMFS believes this program will evolve as the trawl rationalization program evolves, a narrow focus at the beginning of the program may be the most efficient way to begin and achieve an implementation date of January 1, 2015.