

FACT SHEET:

An Economic Snapshot Of Catch Shares

■ **Catch shares can inject billions of dollars into the U.S.**

economy. In every documented case, catch shares have increased income and asset value in a fishery. Nation-wide projections based on a detailed fishery-by-fishery analysis of 19 fisheries, estimate that a comprehensive shift to catch shares would likely double annual U.S. fisheries profits; larger gains are likely based on global projections. The resulting downstream benefits could mean billions of dollars and thousands of jobs to the U.S. economy.

■ **Catch shares make fishing cheaper and more profitable.**

Unlike conventional management, which manages the details of how fishermen conduct their business, catch shares provide fishermen with flexibility — allowing them to be more targeted and efficient. This results in 100% compliance with catch limits, and 80% higher revenues per boat.

■ **Catch shares create value where none existed.**

They immediately provide a new asset to fishermen, meaning conventional buyouts aren't needed. Under current management, the options are either a government-backed buyout to reduce capacity or fishermen who are left with nothing. In contrast, under catch shares, those who wish to retire or leave the fishery can sell their shares to willing buyers.

These transactions avoid the buyouts that often mandate remaining fishermen to fund the attrition of others, adding a significant financial burden to an already economically-constrained industry.

■ **Catch shares create more high-quality full-time jobs.**

Fishing jobs have been lost every year due to the continued decline in fisheries, even as conventional management approaches seek to halt or reverse the losses. Catch shares transform short, intense, dangerous fishing derbies that provide work for a few days a year into extended and safer fishing seasons. Following catch shares implementation, the average length of a fishing season grew from 27 to 202 days. Until fisheries recover, the total number of hours it takes to catch the fish stays the same and fishing can increase full-time employment while limiting jobs that only last a few days or weeks.

■ **Catch shares can help restore \$50 billion a year to the global economy.**

The World Bank recently concluded that mismanaged fisheries have drained \$2 trillion from the global economy over the last thirty years. Management reforms — including catch shares — can result in fisheries being a driver of economic growth.

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