

History of South Atlantic Catch Shares Development Process

Kate Quigley, Economist,
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council



Catch Share Programs Under Consideration (amendments under development)

- **Snapper Grouper** – prevent derby fisheries
 - Golden tilefish, vermilion, BSB – derby fisheries
 - Greater amberjack, gag, red grouper, black grouper – quota species
- **Golden Crab** – want to minimize new entrants and prevent a derby after ACL implemented
- Revised **Wreckfish IFQ** – update



Process for Development of Snapper Grouper Catch Share Program

- March 2007 – SG LAP Exploratory Workgroup formed – 12 voting members (11 from fishing industry), 5 non-voting members (Sea Grant and NMFS staff)
- April 2007 – Workgroup meets for the first of eight multi-day meetings
- March 2008
 - Workgroup Final Report delivered to the Council outlining goals, objectives, and the design for a catch share program
 - Report includes survey results: 55% (6 people) agreed with the statement that they saw “a strong potential in adopting a LAP program for the snapper grouper fishery, provided it is enforced, there is money to pay for it, and that there are tangible economic and conservation benefits resulting from it”. Two people (18%) disagreed with this statement and 3 people (27%) were undecided.
 - The Council decides to not pursue a LAP amendment at that time due to lack of sufficient support

Snapper Grouper Catch Share Program

- Sept 2009
 - Two commercial fishermen present a sign-on letter and survey requesting a catch share for snapper grouper
 - Another commercial fishermen presents a sign-on letter in favor of trip limits
 - The Council motions that a catch share amendment be created for snapper grouper that compares catch shares and trip limits. Staff to work on the amendment as time allows with wreckfish being a higher priority

Snapper Grouper Catch Share Program

- March 2010
 - Catch share workshop held and catch share amendment for snapper grouper is given higher priority
- Outreach
 - 1) DVD with presentations on LAPs and potential ACLs distributed to all permit owners; 2) Information on LAPs distributed on SAFMC website and mailed by the SG LAP Workgroup Outreach Team via Sea Grant; 3) Initial allocation models presented by Council staff and NMFS staff; 4) Ongoing outreach at scoping meetings, public hearings, and fishermen requested workshops.

Golden Tilefish Catch Share Program

- March 2008 – Council directs staff to find people interested in serving on a Golden Tilefish LAP Exploratory Workgroup and assess interest in a golden tilefish LAP program.
- June 2008
 - Informal survey indicates that 62% of golden tilefish fishermen landing over 500 pounds annually are in favor of a catch share, 21% against, and 15% want a LAP only with a new stock assessment. Those in favor want an end to race to fish.
 - Workgroup members (all commercial industry) are chosen



Golden Tilefish Catch Share Program

- Oct 2008 - GT LAP Workgroup meets and produces a report outlining an endorsement and a LAP program. They prefer an endorsement now and a LAP when a new stock assessment is complete. They are not sure that a LAP can work economically without a TAC equal to the current level or higher.
- Dec 2008 – Council receives Tilefish Report and begins analysis of a golden tilefish catch share program which is still under development.
- Nov 2009 – Public hearings for golden tilefish catch share are held.



Golden Crab Catch Share Program

- Jan 2009 – Council staff meets with golden crabbers at their request, all permit holders invited
- March 2009 – Golden Crab fishermen present the Council with a letter stating their interest in a golden crab catch share program and preferred ACL. They fear new entrants (buying of latent permits) that will endanger coral habitat and put fishery at risk. They want increased stewardship of the resource.



Golden Crab Catch Share Program

- June 2009 – The Council tasks the Golden Crab AP with designing a draft catch share program. Staff is tasked with drafting Amd 5 which has a golden crab ACL action and a catch share program action.
- August 2009 – AP meets to complete a draft report outlining a catch share program.
- Sept 2009 – Report is delivered to the Council.



Revision of the Wreckfish IFQ

- March 2009 – Staff begins drafting Amendment 20 to consider changes to the Wreckfish ITQ. Amd 20 given priority over other catch share program amendments.
- Sept 2009 – Informal survey of wreckfish shareholders completed.



Revision of the Wreckfish IFQ

- Dec 2009 – Review of Wreckfish program completed and presented to the Council.
- March 2010
 - Options paper presented to the Council for review and approved.
 - Shareholder meeting scheduled to review Amd 20 at the end of March.

