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World renowned fisheries scientist Dr. Brian Rothschild has sharply criticized the US "catch shares" program. He claims that the rush to create a catch share commodities market in New England's groundfishery has meant a transfer of "public resources to private individuals" yielding an unnecessary government-made "economic crisis." Rothschild argues that the catch share program, which took effect last May 1, was implemented illegally, prematurely and somewhat cavalierly "without the level of analysis, planning, budgeting and community dialog that would be expected of a major federal action." He noted that the Magnuson-Stevens Act states that no "conservation and management measure ... shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose." More here at the Gloucester Times.

TAGS: Brian Rothschild, USA fisheries, catch shares, New England groundfish, economic allocation, sustainable, fishing, fisheries

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