Catch shares in New England

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An article in Nature magazine by freelancer Mark Schrope examines the introduction of catch shares in the New England groundfish fishery. It outlines the pros and cons of catch shares as viewed by various scientists, managers, fishermen and others. Catch shares represent a radical departure from past management in New England which relied for years on a Days at Sea system which is generally acknowleged to have been a disaster.

Since the revision of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 2007, managers were tasked with eliminating overfishing by 2010, by setting a total allowable catch for each stressed population each year. If a stock is overfished total allowable catches needed to be set low enough to allow stocks to rebuild within a decade. Needless to say, this was easier said than done. Catch shares became a feasible option under these circumstances.

More here

TAGS: New England groundfish, catch shares, Days at Sea, Magnuson-Stevens Act, overfishing, sustainable, fisheries, fishing, Nature, Mark Schrope

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