

MEMORANDUM

TO: SAFMC Council Members

FROM: Rita Merritt, Chair of the Catch Shares Committee **RM**

SUBJECT: Catch Shares Workshop scheduled for March 1, 2010

A Catch Shares Workshop has been scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2010 from 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. prior to the start of the Jekyll Island Council meeting. This Workshop is being held by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council for all Council members interested in brainstorming regarding the future of catch shares in South Atlantic fisheries. This meeting will be open to the public but discussions limited to participating Council members.

The agenda will consist of: 1) a presentation regarding the new catch shares policy and any other guidance offered by NMFS on catch shares, 2) a summarization of past Advisory Panel and LAP Exploratory Workgroup motions and reports regarding catch shares (wreckfish, golden tilefish, snapper grouper), 3) an outline of the process and timeline for a catch shares amendment from a joint NMFS/Council staff perspective, and 4) a discussion of possible outcomes from no action on catch share type programs, voluntary catch shares program, pilot catch shares program, sector allocation programs, and a full scale catch share program.

Again, all Council members are invited. Please inform staff if you will be able to attend so that the appropriate amount of materials can be made available.