



**LENFEST
OCEAN
PROGRAM**

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February 17, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Catch share programs can create more consistent and predictable fisheries but do not necessarily lead to larger fish populations, according to a study published in December in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Used by nations around the world, catch share programs, in which a percentage of the total allowable catch is allocated to individual fishermen or groups of fishermen, have generated controversy over their ability to encourage sustainable fishing practices. Yet previous studies on their effectiveness have come out with markedly different conclusions.

Dr. Tim Essington, supported by the Lenfest Ocean Program, compared a variety of indicators of fishery health across catch share programs in North America. He examined changes in average values of these measurements over time and how much they varied each year. His study shows that these programs help to eliminate erratic swings in fishing rates, catch landings and fish population size, but may not result in larger fish populations. Dr. Essington's findings of more predictable fisheries may also shed light on mixed results from previous studies of catch share programs. If catch shares lead to more predictable or consistent fisheries, previous results might mean that catch share programs result in both fewer fishery collapses (because of smaller swings in fish population size) and no significant increases in fish population sizes.

We hope you find the attached summary of the scientific paper useful. For a copy of the paper, please see http://lenfestocean.org/publications/catch_shares.html. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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