

Dear Constituent,

NOAA is pleased to announce that the draft NOAA Catch Share Policy will be released for public comment tomorrow, December 10, 2009. The draft policy encourages and supports the evaluation of catch share programs as authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The draft policy is the result of months of careful consideration by the agency which received input from the NOAA Catch Share Task Force and from a range of stakeholder groups. The draft policy will be open for public comment until April 10, 2010.

We encourage you to read the draft, share it with others and submit comments to NOAA. The draft NOAA Catch Share Policy can be found on NOAA's Catch Shares webpage at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares.

An online comment form has been established to collect public comments on the document. You will find a link to the comment page on the Catch Share website or you can find it directly at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchsharescomments>.

NOAA also plans to hold briefings at various stakeholder venues during the public comment period. More information will be forthcoming and posted online as it becomes available. We hope you can participate. We look forward to receiving your feedback as NOAA works to support the consideration of catch share programs to help ensure the sustainability of our nation's fisheries and the coastal communities they support.