



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Ave S
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

CATCH UP ON CATCH SHARES

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A Chef's Perspective: Marine Resource Education Program

As an avid fisherman since childhood and a chef reliant upon healthy fisheries, sustainability has always been an interest of Dave Snyder. He was excited to discover the Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) in 2013. He participated in the program, which provides insight into how fisheries data lead to regulations and promotes industry networking in a neutral and professional setting. Participants of this free program leave empowered and better prepared to participate in federal fisheries management.

Now a member of the MREP steering committee, Dave reflected on what he found to be the most impactful workshop, led by Southeast Fisheries Science Center Director, Dr. Clay Porch: ***“He threw up a couple of formulas on the screen, and he took all of the jargon that we don’t understand, and he made it understandable.*** He really got it to a point that we could understand what their job entails...



That continues to be one of my goals through MREP, to take such a complicated process and [describe it] simply enough that people will get it. And [then] they understand it, buy into it, and accept it.”

Q: How did you hear about MREP?

A: I got involved in MREP through Duane Harris... He introduced me to the MREP program about 7 years ago. [After I went through the program] I was asked to join the steering committee, and I was all about it. The program is great!

Q: What was your interest in initially getting involved in MREP?

A: I am a recreational fisherman, and a part-time charter captain. Sustainability is of interest to me because of [that]. Being in the restaurant business, one of our restaurants is about 80% seafood sales. From a business point of view, it’s really important to me to understand the system of how the council process works so that I can participate in that system better, be more ef-



Dave Snyder wetting a line

fective, understand it, because I need fish in my restaurant to survive, quite frankly. If I don’t have fish, my customers aren’t going to be happy.

Q: How have you personally benefited most from the program?

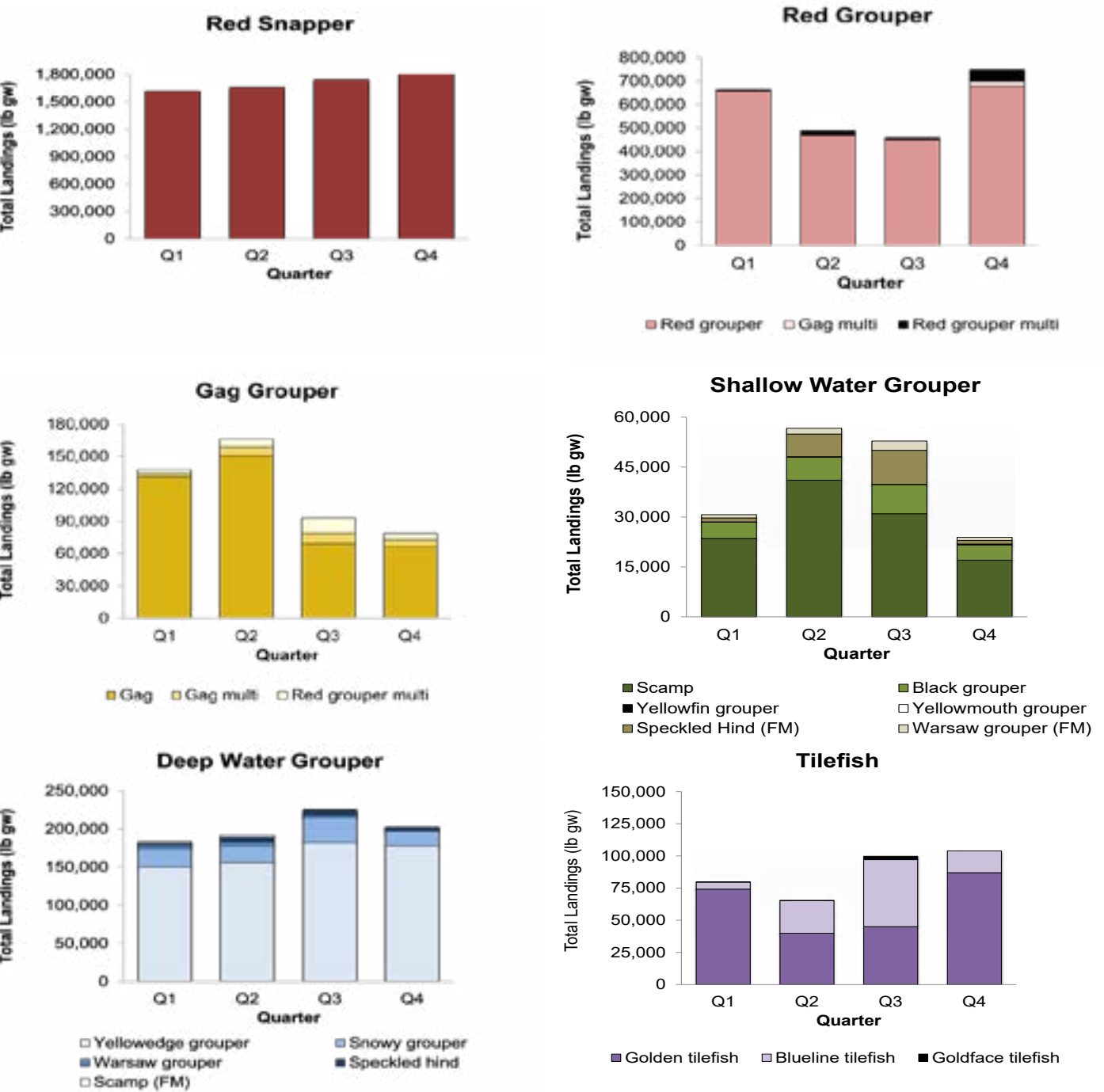
A: I think it’s confidence on a couple different levels. I’m more confident because I better understand the information. I am more confident talking to guests about it, talking to fishermen about it. I probably get 1 comment every 2 weeks in the dining room where people complain about fisheries management. I feel more confident in [my] understanding and being able to tell people how it works. I am also more confident that, given the resources that NOAA has, all the Councils are doing the best that they can and there really is a great, sound, process in trying to figure out the balance of sustaining jobs in the economy and sustaining fish. Before I went through MREP, I didn’t really understand it, but MREP gave me the clarity to understand that this is a real process with real people doing real work, they aren’t just making this stuff up. So its confidence in the system, and confidence in the information, is what [MREP] really gave me.

Interested in learning more about MREP or participating in a workshop?

Visit the Gulf of Maine Research Institute website: <https://mrep.gmri.org>

SPECIES LANDINGS BY QUARTER

The figures below summarize landings by quarter (Q) from the Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish IFQ programs. All landings are from 2020 and are displayed in pounds gutted weight (lb gw). For landings of multi-use flexibility measures, the landings are attributed to the share category from which the landings were deducted. For example, in the gag grouper figure, fish were landed using primarily gag grouper (GG) allocation, then gag grouper multi-use (GGM), and finally red-grouper multi-use (RGM) allocation. The shallow water grouper and deep water grouper figures show how flexibility measures are invoked to land these species under the other share category when the primary share category allocation is exhausted.



NEW FUNCTIONS FOR LANDING TRANSACTIONS



NOAA Fisheries has separated the personal identification number (PIN) used to log into vessel accounts from the PIN used to validate landing transactions. This change adds increased security for the shareholder.

VESSEL ACCOUNT PIN

- Previously used to validate dealer initiated landing transaction.
- Now only used to log into a vessel account.
- Vessel Account PINs expire after 180 days.
- Vessel accounts may view allocation in the vessel account, landing notifications, and landing transaction history.

VS.

VESSEL SIGNATURE PIN

- This is a **NEW** component of the Catch Share Online System.
- Existing users will initially have the Vessel Signature PIN match the Vessel Account PIN.
- NOAA Fisheries recommends changing either the Vessel Account PIN or Vessel Signature PIN on the "Update Account" page, so that they are not the same.
- Users will now input the Vessel Signature PIN to validate landing transactions instead of the Vessel Account PIN.

NMFS Policy Guidance for Conducting Catch Share Program Review

The Gulf of Mexico region has two catch share programs: the Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (RS-IFQ) and the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program (GT-IFQ). The RS-IFQ program began in 2007 and the GT-IFQ fishery began in 2010. Together the programs are commonly referred to as the Gulf Catch Shares Programs. Both programs are run within the same online system and participants use the same account for both programs.

The first Catch Share Program in the United States was implemented in 1990 in the Mid-Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahog fishery. Today, there are 17 Catch Share programs across the country. In 2017, NOAA Fisheries formalized the process for reviewing Catch Share programs with the Guidance for Conducting Review of Catch Share Programs policy (Guidance). The purpose of this Guidance is to provide a resource to help ensure comprehensive reviews of [Catch Share Programs](#). The Guidance provides a standardized

methodology to compare programs across regions. A review must be initiated after the first five years of a Catch Shares Program or within five years of the Guidance for older programs. Subsequent reviews must occur at least once every 7 years thereafter. Reviews are jointly conducted by Fishery Management Councils (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service staff.

The reviews evaluate the progress that has been made in meeting the goals and the objectives of the program and the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act \(MSA\)](#). The review process provides an opportunity to evaluate progress towards those goals, determine if any modifications to the program are needed, and to see if the goals

are still applicable. This is done by comparing current standardized performance indicators with those from previous time periods in order to assess program progress. The previous time periods for the first review are the baseline years before the program began, and thereafter are appropriate time periods from past reviews. **The Guidance breaks the review down into 11 portions as follows: Review of goals and objectives, allocation, program eligibility, transferability of rights, sustainability and catch, accumulation limits or caps, cost recovery, data collection (including reporting, monitoring and enforcement), duration, new entrants, and auctions/royalties.** Some of the Gulf Catch Share Programs' performance indicators include the number of active fishing

vessels, number of individuals holding shares, number of calendar days fished, percent usage of allotted quota, ex-vessel fish prices, catch share trip revenue, stock assessments of IFQ species, and safety at sea metrics (e.g., fishing-related accidents).

The consistent, periodic oversight offered through regular Catch Share Program reviews ensures the program is working as intended and provides a mechanism to highlight if changes are needed. This adaptive review process was ultimately implemented to ensure the long-term success of the fishery and its participants. A joint RS-IFQ and GT-IFQ Program 5 Year Review, the second review for each program, is currently in its final stages of publication.

Before the review is finalized, draft documents are shown to the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Advisory Panel, where members provide additional feedback and recommendations. These meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for interested people and organizations to offer feedback on the review. To get informed about upcoming meetings, subscribe to the [Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council newsletter](#) and the [Catching Up With Catch Shares newsletter](#).

For more information, see the [Red Snapper 5 Year Review](#), the [Grouper-Tilefish 5 Year Review](#) or the [Guidance](#) for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs.

DATES & RESOURCES

[IFQ WEBSITE](#)

[IFQ SHAREHOLDERS](#)

[PERMITS](#)

[SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE LAPPs](#)
[BRANCH](#)

[SOUTHEAST REGION ACL MONITORING](#)

[ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL](#)
[REGISTER](#)

[GULF COUNCIL](#)

[GULF STATES COMMISSION](#)

[WRECKFISH SHAREHOLDERS](#)

**OCT
25-28**

Gulf Council Meeting
Orange Beach , AL

**OCT
31**

**3rd Quarter Cost Recovery
Fee Payment Due**

**JAN
24-27**

Gulf Council Meeting
New Orleans, LA
Location subject to change

Like what you see?
Do you have suggested topics to feature?

Please send feedback to
NMFS.SER.CatchShare@NOAA.gov
or call 866-425-7627

secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov

