

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

CATCH UP ON CATCH SHARES

The hook up to your bottom line

A DAY IN THE LIFE: NOAA PORT AGENT



Above: Renee Roman, NOAA Port Agent

Below: A port agent toolbox for conducting data collection.

Opposite page, top left: An otolith (ear stone).

Opposite page, top right: Otoliths packaged in envelopes to be sent to the laboratory for aging.

Opposite page, bottom: Port agent supplies for field work, including field guides, packaging equipment, and manuals.

Article by: Catherine Bruger Hayslip

The role of port agents is to sample and collect fisheries data. These data are used by scientists and managers to assess stocks, document changes in a fish stock over time, and help to inform changes in fishing regulations. I sat down with Renee Roman to find out more about her work as a port agent for NOAA Fisheries.

On a typical day, Renee meets with fishing vessels at the dock to interview captains, and obtain counts, weights, lengths, and biological samples from the vessel's harvest. Renee enters interview data and fish measurements directly into a database, collects biological samples (tissues and otoliths) and sends the samples to a lab for processing. Similar to tree rings, otoliths (or ear stones) are used to determine the fish's age by counting the number of annual rings. Different methods are used to remove otoliths, from entering the top of the fish skull to chiseling through the gill arches. Otolith size also varies; faster moving fish, such as cobia, wahoo, and amberjack, typically have smaller otoliths. Smaller otoliths require more finesse by port agents to ensure they do not get lost or broken. For more information on otoliths, see [Southeast Fisheries Biology - Age and Growth Data Sources and Uses](#).

Renee randomly samples the entire catch from a trip, although some species that might not be abundant in the catch, like cobia and greater amberjack, take priority. Renee enjoys sampling unusual species like frog fish and deep-water fish. The information collected by Renee provides critical information on a fish stock such as average age, weight of a species landed, and the sizes and maturity of fish at certain ages. Scientists use this information in assessments to determine the health of a fish stock.





What is the most important skill to have as a port agent?

“Communication.”

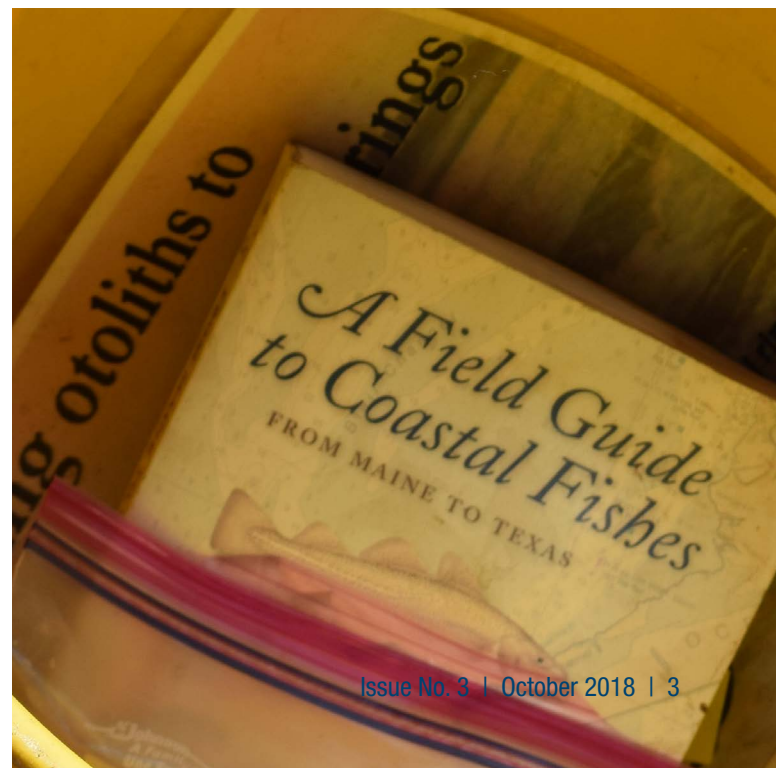
Port agents are often called by fishermen (sometimes at 3 am!) to give the port agent a heads up for when the vessel will be docking. It's a considerate gesture from the captain, to ensure the opportunity for the catch to be sampled and later used in management.

The best part of the job?

“The people. The interaction with the industry. I really enjoy working with them.”

Data Collected:

- Species
- Lengths
- Weights
- Otoliths (ear stones)
- Tissue samples (occasionally)
- Catch and effort data from interviews



THE HOOK UP ON 10% OVERAGES

Sufficient allocation to account for an IFQ species on board a vessel must be in the vessel account or the linked shareholder account prior to landing.

If an account without shares does not have sufficient allocation equal to the catch on board, the shareholder must transfer allocation to the vessel account before completing a landing transaction prior to landing.

If an account that holds shares does not have sufficient allocation equal to the catch on board, the shareholder may either transfer allocation prior to landing or use the 10% overage provision.

The overage provision allows IFQ shareholders to make a landing of 10% over their remaining allocation in a share category once per year. While this typically happens at the end of the year, it can legally occur at any point during the year when allocation is exhausted.

Only accounts that hold shares can apply the 10% overage provision.

The overage provision is allowed for each category where the account holds shares.

The amount of the overage cannot exceed the amount of allocation associated with shares of that category held in the shareholder account.

Because overages need to be subtracted from the shareholder's allocation at the start of the following year, share transfers will not be allowed that would reduce the shareholder's IFQ shares lower than the amount needed to pay back the overage.

If a shareholder uses an overage for one share category and obtains more allocation in that category, they cannot have a second overage in the same year for the same category.

Example

An account holds shares of red snapper and has not used the 10% overage provision for red snapper during the year. The account has 500 lb of red snapper allocation remaining.

Using the 10% overage provision, the vessel may land up to 10% more of the remaining allocation, as long as it does not exceed the allocation derived from shares in the following year. In this case, the vessel may land 500 lb plus 10% of that remaining allocation (50 lb), equal to 550 lb. The vessel actually lands 543 lb, 43 lb more than the remaining allocation, but within the once annual 10% overage allowance. The remaining 7 lb cannot be used.

For the rest of the year, the vessel must obtain allocation to continue fishing and cannot use the 10% overage again for red snapper. On January 1, next year, the system will automatically reduce the allocation issued by the amount of the overage. In the allocation ledger the shareholder will see the deducted 43 lb.

IFQ PRICE SNAPSHOT

Below you will find preliminary 2018 (through September 17, 2018) price summaries for each species and share category in the Gulf Catch Shares programs.

Share Category	Species	Share Price (per 1lb equivalent)	Allocation Price (per/lb)	Ex-Vessel Price
Red Snapper	Red snapper	\$33.99	\$3.46	\$4.91
Deep-water Grouper	Snowy grouper	\$11.31	\$1.02	\$4.63
	Speckled hind			\$4.49
	Warsaw grouper			\$4.00
	Yellowedge grouper			\$4.85
Gag	Gag	\$12.67	\$0.98	\$5.43
			Gag multi-use: \$1.09	
Other Shallow Water Grouper	Black grouper	\$5.88	\$0.59	\$5.32
	Scamp			\$5.21
	Yellowfin grouper			\$3.89
	Yellowmouth grouper			\$4.04
Red Grouper	Red grouper	\$3.60	\$0.31	\$4.53
			Red grouper multi-use: \$0.67	
Tilefish	Blueline tilefish	\$10.76	\$0.63	\$1.94
	Golden tilefish			\$2.96
	Goldface tilefish			*

*Confidentiality standards prevent reporting goldface tilefish ex-vessel price data.

Adaptive Catch Share Concept

An adaptive catch share program is a twist on the traditional catch share program. The goal of an adaptive catch share program is to cyclically redistribute shares to the participants who actively harvest fish. The adaptive catch share concept is being considered for management of the Federally permitted Gulf of Mexico for-hire fleet, which largely has no landings history and a wide, varied distribution of vessels.

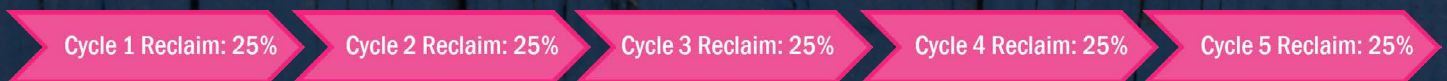
Similar to other programs, an adaptive catch share program begins with initial distribution of shares, annual allocation, and transferability. The adaptive portion begins at the end of a cycle when a predetermined proportion of shares are reclaimed from each account. Those shares are then redistributed to accounts based on their proportion of the overall landings. The next cycle begins at the start of the next year

with the redistribution of the shares and associated allocation.

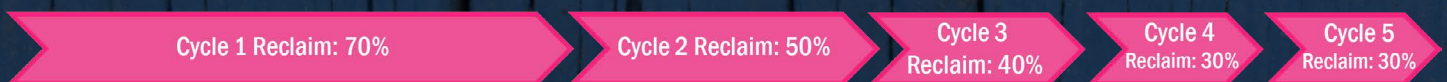
The concept offers flexible solutions to the common criticisms of traditional catch share programs, such as barriers to new entrants, one time distributions, and absentee ownership. Both the reclamation proportion and cycle length can be constant or change over time (progressive).

Reclamation Proportion

The proportion of shares reclaimed can be set from 0% (functions like a non-adaptive program) to 100% (full redistribution each cycle). Reclamation percentages can either be constant (same value each cycle) or progressive (increasing or decreasing values over time). The goal is to determine what reclamation percentage will best accomplish the program’s goals without creating a barrier to the fishing industry.



Set reclamation: The same proportion is reclaimed each cycle.



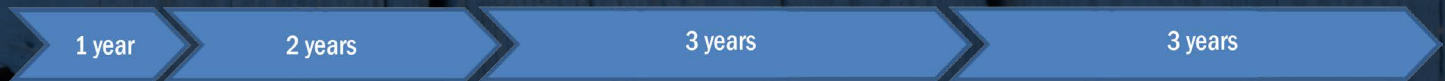
Progressive reclamation: A progressive increase/decrease proportion of shares are reclaimed each cycle, until a set amount to be reclaimed is achieved.

Cycle Lengths

The cycle length can also be constant or progressive. Cycle durations would impact how quickly the shares are redistributed to represent the current fishery, the stability of the market for shares and allocation, and the ability and timeliness for new or replacement entrants to acquire shares. A shorter duration of the cycle would allow changes in the distribution of shares to occur more frequently. Longer cycle durations provide for more stability in business planning and may minimize localized effects, but would take longer to receive shares through redistribution.



Set Cycle: Cycle is the same in perpetuity.



Progressive cycle until cycle length is reached: Length of cycle increases incrementally until a set cycle is achieved.

Concern	Constant Cycle Length		Progressive Cycle Length
	Short	Long	Short to Long
Distribution reflects activity	Faster movement of shares to active fishermen	Slower movement of shares to active fishermen	Intermediate time to move shares to active fishermen
Industry stability	Less stable	More stable	Movement towards stability
Access for new entrants	Faster time to receive shares	Slower time to receive shares	Initially faster time to receive shares, then longer

See [Amendment 41](#) for additional information.

DATES & RESOURCES

OCT
22-25

October 2018 [Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting](#)
Mobile, AL

OCT
31

IFQ Cost Recovery Fees due

NOV
7

[Ad Hoc Red Snapper & Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel](#)
Tampa, FL

In Person IFQ Customer Service

IFQ staff occasionally travel to various regions in the Gulf and meet with industry members in person to discuss upcoming changes to regulations, the online system, and get feedback on improvements to the program. In 2018, we visited IFQ dealers throughout the Gulf.

Based on suggestions from IFQ participants, in December, we will hold a public workshop in Madeira Beach for shareholders and fishermen. In 2019, we are planning to incorporate more shareholder workshops into our travel. If you are interested in participating in these workshops, please let us know by calling or e-mailing us using the contact information provided.

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[IFQ SHAREHOLDERS](#)

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