

# Management Tool Definitions

## DCTF Meeting

### **1: Limited Entry**

#### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Limited Entry
- Restricted Access
- Limited Access

#### **What is Limited Entry?**

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Limited entry is a general term that refers to programs that are implemented to reduce or maintain the capacity of a fishery. Limited entry programs often involve placing a moratorium on issuing new permits but can also put controls on the number and size of vessels and conditions relating to the replacement of vessels or the transfer of fishing rights.<sup>1</sup>

California, Oregon, and Washington have all developed limited entry programs for the Dungeness crab fishery.

There is currently a cap of 600 permits (both active and latent) issued in the Dungeness crab fishery in California. To change this number, the legislature would have to amend the California Fish and Game code.

### **2: Buy-out Programs**

#### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Buy-out
- Buy-back

#### **What are buy-out programs?**

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Buy-out programs involve the purchasing of vessels or permits to maintain or decrease the capacity of a fishery. Buy-outs are voluntary and are often carried out through a reverse auction program in which a fisherman must submit a bid for surrendering their vessel or permit. Once a vessel is bought-out, it is either scrapped or is permanently ineligible to fish. Conversely, if a permit is bought-out, an individual will not be able to fish the species for which they were bought-out. Buy-out program costs can be financed through loans, government funding, industry funding, joint-government-industry funding, or private funding.<sup>2</sup>

Government funded buy-outs are intended to prevent or end overfishing by reducing the number of fisherman and also preventing additional fishermen from entering a fishery. Additionally, buy-outs must: 1) be cost effective; 2) not be a burden on the state and federal agencies that fund them; 3) be capable of paying for themselves or repaying the loans used to finance the buy-outs.<sup>3</sup>

### **3: Seasonal Limits**

#### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Seasonal Limits
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
- Annual Catch Limits (ACL)
- Harvest Cap
- Harvest Level Threshold
- Total Catch Level

#### **What are Seasonal Limits?**

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Seasonal limits are defined as: “maximum quantities of fish that in accordance with the management objectives can be caught from a specific stock over a given period of time.”<sup>4</sup> Seasonal limits as a fisheries management tool generally refer to limits on the allowable or allocated harvest of a particular resource during a fishing season. Limits are often fixed on an annual or biannual basis.<sup>4</sup>

ACLs are a cornerstone in the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006 in fisheries management options. Like seasonal limits, ACLs are vaguely defined in the act as the calculated catch yield that cannot be exceeded for a particular species.<sup>5</sup> Fisheries managers use the best available science to calculate the value of ACLs and seasonal limits.

Seasonal limits may also be used as an indicator of overcapacity. For example, when harvest levels regularly exceed a calculated limit, this may be an indicator of overcapacity. This assumption implies that a seasonal limit is equivalent to the target or optimal capacity level of a single species fishery.<sup>6</sup>

Seasonal limits/TACs/ACLs are sometimes enforced through a catch-share quota system, where the total catch is divided into fishing limits/quotas for an individual or a community of fishermen. (see Quota Shares)

## **4: Quota Shares**

### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ)
- Individual Transferrable Quotas (ITQs)
- Catch Shares
- Tradable allowance
- Cap and Trade
- Limited Access Privileges
- Dedicated Access Privileges

### **What are quota systems?**

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A quota share system “is an allocated privilege of landing *a specified portion of the total annual catch* in the form of quota shares.”<sup>7</sup> Sometimes these quotas are transferable.

The purpose of a quota system is “to provide an incentive to manage capital (i.e., reduce or control overcapitalization) in commercial fisheries, and to improve the overall economic efficiency of the fishing industry. Quotas can provide an alternative to open access. Market, safety, and social benefits are anticipated from controlling overcapitalization. Thus, quota systems are also intended to create a more stable and profitable market-based system for commercial fishing.”<sup>7</sup>

## **5: Gear Restrictions/Pot Limits**

### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Gear Restrictions/Limitations
- Pot Limits

### **What are Gear Restrictions?**

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Gear restrictions are used to “(i) avoid increases in fishing capacity through increased efficiency, (ii) avoid some unwanted impact on non-commercial sizes, species or critical habitats, or, very often, (iii) avoid an injection of new technology which would modify significantly the existing distribution of exploitation rights.”<sup>8</sup> Regulations on gear often include minimum mesh sizes or minimum mouth opening on a trap. Pot limits are a specific form of gear restriction that regulates the number of pots that are allowed to be deployed or used at any given time.

## **6: Permit Stacking**

### **What is permit stacking?**

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Permit stacking refers to a program in which more than one limited entry permit can be attached to a vessel, along with all, or part, of the landing limits of each permit. The presumption is that

the purchased permit would be retired and a resident permit holder would have the opportunity to increase his/her allowed gear or quota amount.<sup>9</sup>

Potential goals of a pot/permit stacking program include:

- Provide a limited opportunity for permits to move to higher production tiers
- Reduce the number of latent permits in the fishery
- Further reduce the amount of effort (i.e. number of pots for each, total allowable catch, number of days fishing, etc) in the fishery

## **7: Regional Management**

### **Related/Similar Terms**

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- Regional Management
- Splitting the State
- Area-based Management

### **What is regional management?**

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Regional management plans for fisheries “aim to conserve and rebuild fish stocks through developing a regionalized regulatory structure that takes into account local biological and economic factors. The hope is that this will give some measure of control to smaller, more local and responsive political bodies, thus creating more effective and long-lasting conservation of the resource.”<sup>10</sup>

Regional management is a very broad term. Regional management can be implemented on a broad scale such as the management of blue fin tuna by each country, to a much finer scale such as the management of Dungeness crab by individual states. A form of regional management already exists within California in the Dungeness crab fishery. The district 10 commercial Dungeness crab season opener is in November while districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 must wait until December to begin fishing. Additionally, the director of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) may delay the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishing season in districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 past the December 1 season opener.

## **8: Fair Start and Simultaneous Start**

### **What are Fair Start and Simultaneous Start?**

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#### **Fair Start**

- While no formal definitions of fair start provisions have been found, a fair start clause, as described by several Members of the Dungeness Crab Task Force, would require all fishermen to select and commit to fish a particular region for a certain period of time, prior to being able to leave that region to go fish another area. For example, a fair start clause for district 10 (Central California) might require all fishermen to commit to fish 30 days in district 10 prior to being able to leave and fish another region (this may occur during normal season openers and/or delayed openers). DCTF members did not specify whether the

proposed fair start clause would occur during seasons with regular or delayed opening dates.<sup>11</sup>

### **Simultaneous Start**

- A single opener, or simultaneous start, where all districts open on the same day. This would likely have to be on or near the later of the two current start dates –December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **9: Marketing Programs & Approaches**

### **What are Marketing Programs and Approaches?**

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New marketing approaches provide fishermen, producers, and handlers a greater power within the market place to set prices and tailor specific products for high-end consumers to improve the price per catch.

Ensuring the long-term profitability is a priority for the California Dungeness fishery.**Error! Bookmark not defined.** Different marketing approaches can be used to decrease intermediaries in the production chain, increase the demand for Dungeness crab, improve “quality” and therefore price of the product, and maintain the long-term economic viability of the fishery.

Examples of marketing approaches include:

- MSC Certification
- Marketing Commission
- Market Expansion Operations
- Direct to consumer markets/slow food movement
- Expanding the live/fresh market

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### **References**

<sup>1</sup> Fishbase System Glossary.

<http://fishbase.mnhn.fr/glossary/Glossary.php?q=limited%20entry%20fishery> Last visited June 15, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Buck, E. and Waldeck, D.. “The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Reauthorization Issues.” CRS Report for Congress.  
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/permalink/meta-crs-10098:1> Last visited June 16, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service. “NOAA’s Fisheries Service Proposes Guidelines for Future Fishing Vessel and Permit Buyouts.”  
<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases99/feb99/noaa99-13.html> Last visited June 16, 2009

<sup>4</sup> European Commission. 2009. “TACs: Restricting Catches.”  
[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/management\\_resources/conservation\\_measures/tacs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/management_resources/conservation_measures/tacs_en.htm)  
Last visited June 11, 2009.

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<sup>5</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2009. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorized.”

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/catchlimits.htm> Last visited June 11, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> FAO. October 2002. “Report of the Expert Consultation on Catalysing the Transition Away from Overcapacity in Marine Capture Fisheries - Rome, 15-18 October 2002”

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y8169e/y8169e00.HTM> Last visited July 2, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Buck, E.H. “Individual Transferable Quotas in Fishery Management.” CRS Report for Congress. <http://ncseonline.org/nle/crsreports/marine/mar-1.cfm> Last visited August 10, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> FAO. 1997. “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries.”

[http://books.google.com/books?id=O22nsS6TUvcC&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=fisheries+management+gear+restrictions&source=bl&ots=iwRkaXSn9z&sig=sxsA4YNvsKD50530go0l66ZhNz0&hl=en&ei=qN9oSo7iBtW0tgeoza3FCw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=O22nsS6TUvcC&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=fisheries+management+gear+restrictions&source=bl&ots=iwRkaXSn9z&sig=sxsA4YNvsKD50530go0l66ZhNz0&hl=en&ei=qN9oSo7iBtW0tgeoza3FCw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1) Last visited July 7, 2009.

<sup>9</sup> Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Information Sheet 2006 – Pot/Permit Stacking. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/06/june/Exhibit%20H/H\\_4\\_pot%20permit%20stacking%20fact%20sheet.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/06/june/Exhibit%20H/H_4_pot%20permit%20stacking%20fact%20sheet.pdf) Last visited August 11, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> Neal, B. “New England is cool to area-based fisheries management.” The Working Waterfront. July 2007. <http://www.workingwaterfront.com/articles/New-England-is-cool-to-area-based-fisheries-management/11749/> Last visited July 8, 2009.

<sup>11</sup> T.C. Hoffmann and Associates, LLC. 2009. “The Situational Analysis.” (No published)