

fisher to fisher

a documentary about Caribbean fishers leading marine conservation



Catch Shares = No Shares for the Fisher, an interview with Daniel Pauly

(I'm working to get the video embedded, but meantime, here's a link: <http://vimeo.com/13792318>)

Dr. Daniel Pauly, a leading fisheries scientist, discusses the problems with catch shares in an excerpt from an interview given during the [Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference](#) in November 2009.

I was inspired to post the interview with Dr. Pauly after receiving a petition from the Environmental Defense Fund asking me to push my congress people to support catch shares. Had I not had this discussion with Dr. Pauly, I wouldn't have known how controversial they are. I also called Florida fisher and conservationist Don DeMaria to get his thoughts. He was vehement. "Catch shares", he told me, "reward the biggest environmental violators at the expense of small, local fishers and their communities."

So if catch shares are opposed by scientists and small fishers, why are they being so aggressively pushed by the Obama administration and NOAA as well as the EDF? Could it be Walmart?

Don also pointed me to some interesting articles on the history of catch share policy — and the connection to Walmart. Here is a link to one article: <http://bit.ly/9J9Jov>) After reading the article, I have to say, something seems fishy to me. I know the EDF has done some good things, but I'm confused about this. The facts reported are highly revealing – and under reported, considering that there are still U.S. fishing communities out there fighting for their lives. Here's a link to a recent article from the Gloucester Times: <http://bit.ly/94reh7>

From what Don tells me, it's already too late for the small fishers in Florida. After listening to Dr. Pauly and Mr. De Maria, and reading these articles, I'm convinced that there needs to be a lot of discussion about the ramifications of catch shares before it is instituted anywhere else. We, the public, need to support our small fishing communities.

FOOTNOTE: I just got an email from the Pew Environmental Trust saying The Marine Stewardship Council is now considering its "sustainable" label on swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught on surface longlines in waters off the coast of northeast Florida. The Marine Stewardship Council has links to Unilever. (See the excellent book *Four Fish* by Paul Greenberg for some history.) To sign a petition urging the MSC to do the right thing go to: <http://bit.ly/afbWMx>

Possibly related posts: (automatically generated)

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~ by corinmc on August 2, 2010.

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3 Responses to “Catch Shares = No Shares for the Fisher, an interview with Daniel Pauly”

1. Take another look at catch shares and don't compare them to utopia. Compare them to current fishery management which has led to depleted fish stocks, consolidation and droves of fishermen going out of business. The two newspapers you link to are the most biased out there BTW.

One other point – catch shares aren't one-size-fits-all. They can be customized, designed to deliver what communities want – small boats, ports, local fishermen, local processors, less bycatch, etc. There are many good reasons EDF supports catch shares. Read about them here:

<http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=48250>



wreckfish said this on [August 3, 2010 at 7:28 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

2. Thanks for your comment. I had hoped to get some discussion going — I will forward your post to Don De Maria. His experiences in Florida as a small fisher matched Daniel Pauly's description of the results of catch shares exactly. I also spoke to a person at a major foundation who tells me that their organization is backing away from EDF because of what they consider to be a heavy handed push toward catch shares.

On the other hand, I do know Caribbean fishers who are very interested in catch shares as a solution in their countries.



corinmc said this on [August 3, 2010 at 10:00 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

3. Paulys' risk analysis is correct – but it is a risk element not an inherent feature of catch-shares. ITQ's work well in Denmark. The ITQ principle is superior, but the design and implementation is crucial. In DK overcapacity disappeared, profits and investments increased, and the small scale fleet increased their share.



Mogens Schou said this on [August 4, 2010 at 7:36 am](#) | [Reply](#)

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