



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

NWFSC  
Human Dimensions Team  
Seattle, WA

# The Pacific Groundfish Fishery Social Study

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# Overview

- Goal
- Brief Methodology
- 5-year Review
- Selected Results
- Concluding Thoughts



# Research Goals

This research aims to measure social and cultural changes in the Groundfish fishing industry and related communities as a result of the implementation of the catch shares program.



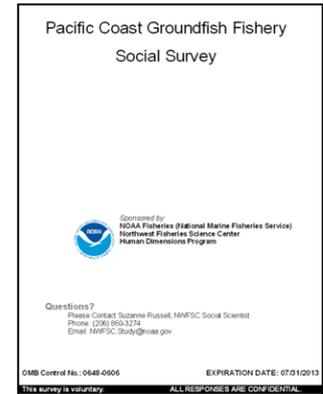
# Management Context

This research aims to contribute to and inform the following management actions:

- The 5-year review of the Catch Shares Program
- Other management needs –
  - Pacific Council Ecosystem Initiative
- Contribute to future management needs
  - Continued reviews of the Catch Shares Program

# Methodology

- Data Collection
  - 2010 - Baseline
  - 2012 - 1 year post implementation
  - 2015/2016 – 1 year post Quota Share trading
  - Surveys and Interviews
  - Administered primarily In-person
  - Geographic range
    - Bellingham, WA to Santa Barbara, CA



# Methodology - Continued

- Participation
  - Anyone connected to the Groundfish Fishery
  - Known Participants
    - 2010 - Limited Entry Permit Holders, Processors, Observers
    - 2012 & 2015/2016 – Quota Share Permit Owners, Processors, Observers
  - Unknown Participants
    - Snowball for Crew, Fishermen's Wives, Industry Suppliers, etc.
  - Unexpected Participants
    - Fixed Gear



# Methodology - Continued

	Survey & Interview	Targeted	Survey & Interview Response Rate
<b>Overall</b>			
2010	201	379	72.3%
2012	235	500	58.0%
2015/2016	263	501	59.5%
<b>Trawl Only</b>			
2010	172	340	70.3%
2012	195	386	63.7%
2015/2016	225	371	66.8%

	2012	2015/2016*
<b>Trawl Return Response Rate</b>	48.9%	34.7%

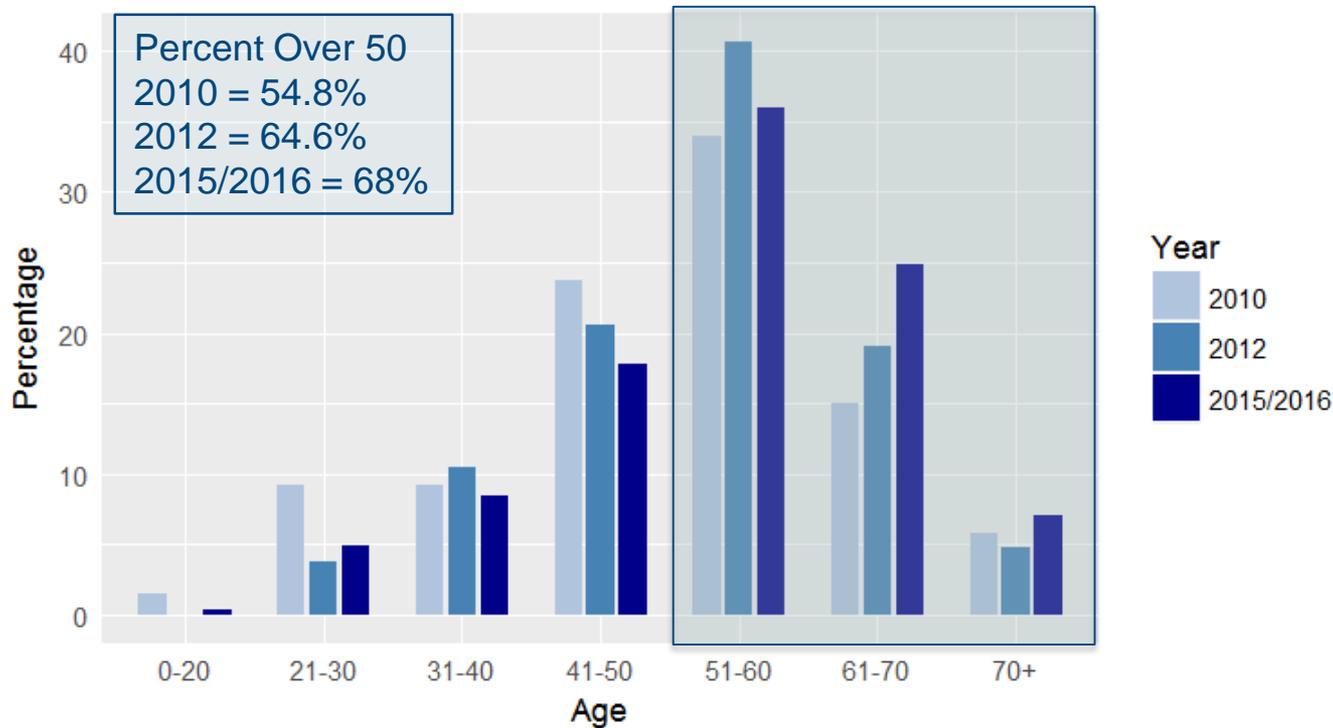
\*2015/2016 only includes those that participated in all survey years

# Results - 5-Year Review

## Community Performance

- Infrastructure Changes
  - Consolidation Impacts
  - Crew and Production Worker Outcomes
  - Location of Landings
  - Changing Nature of Those Exiting
  - Community Variability
  - Efficiency of Management
  - Interactions Between Trawl and Other Communities
  - Interactions with the General Public
  - Potential for Ownership
  - Fisheries Participation
  - Observers
  - Safety
  - Small Vessels
  - Risk Pools
  - New Entry
  - Quota Share Ownership
  - Costs
- Fishing Heritage
  - Absentee Owners
  - Changing Attitudes
  - Employment
  - Future Participation

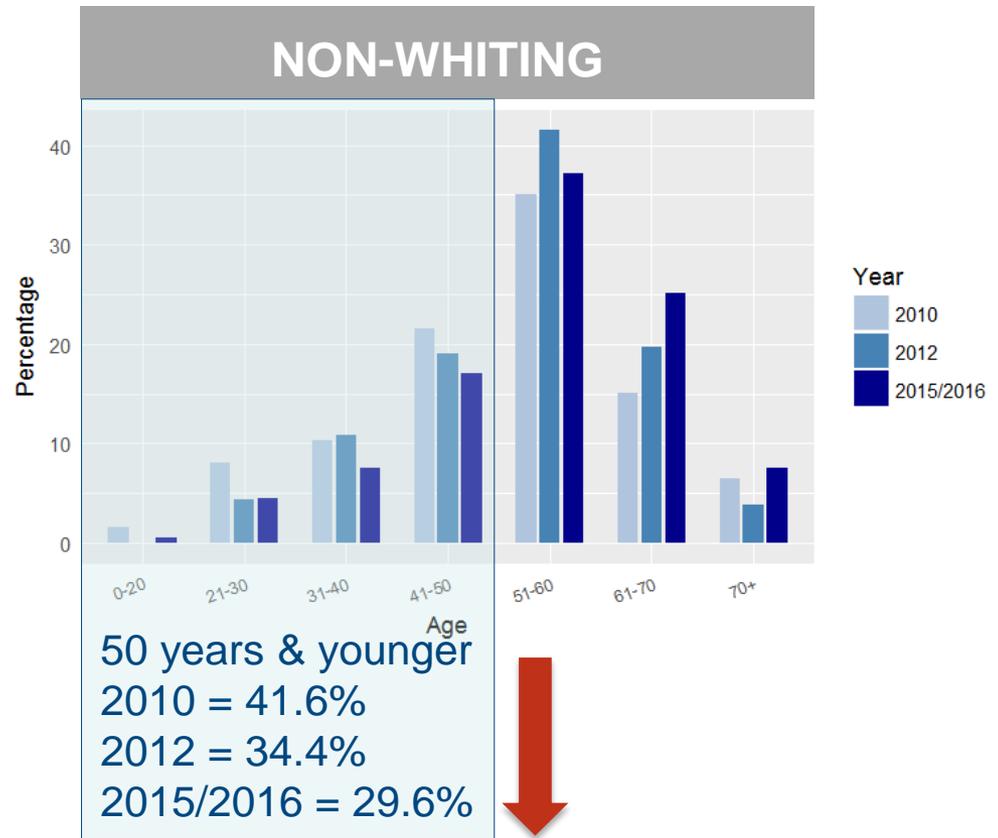
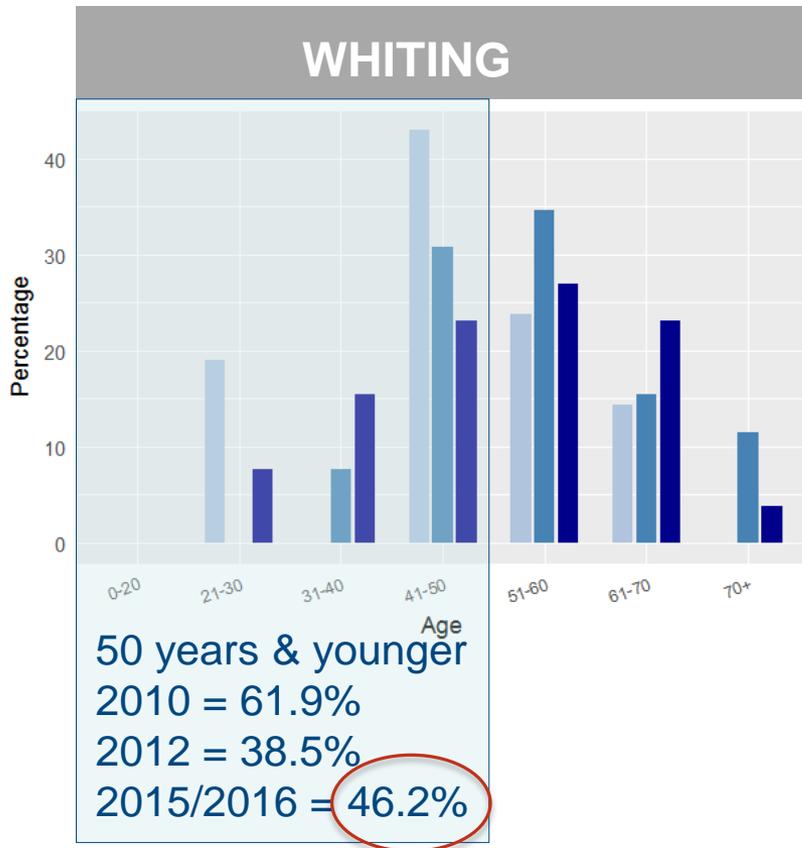
# Results – Fishing Heritage



*“In this port I was the youngest skipper when I started running the boat, I was 18. I am still the youngest skipper at 43.”*  
 Fisherman,  
 Fort Bragg,  
 2010

	Mean Age	Median Age
<b>2010</b>	50.8	52
<b>2012</b>	52.9	55
<b>2015/2016</b>	54.2	57

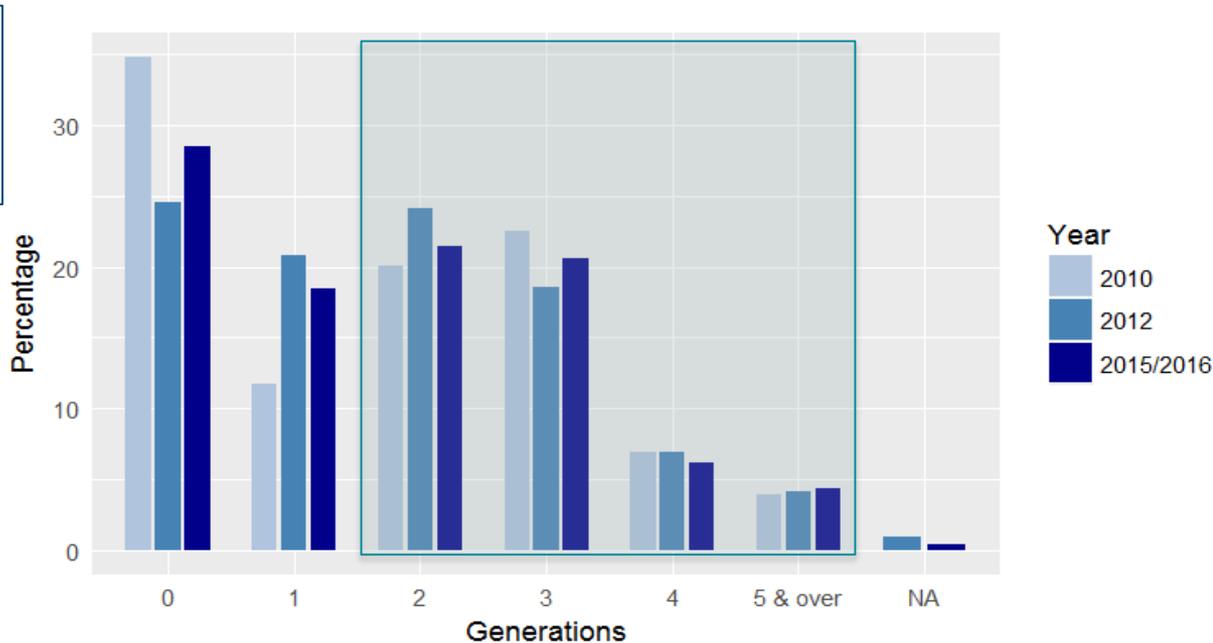
# Results – Fishing Heritage



*“If you just look at the owner, yeah maybe the owners are getting a year older every year. But if you go down to the docks, you’re gonna see tons of young guys...”* Industry Participant, Newport, 2015/2016

# Results – Fishing Heritage

- Groundfish fishery has a strong inter-generational history



*“...we’re a fishing family. We invest together. I’m lucky I got my father and mother, you know they were willing to invest in us and go in partners, take that risk and go in partners with me and [Name omitted – brother] and buyin’ a boat...” ~ QS Permit Owner, Newport, 2015/2016*

# Results – Absentee Owners<sup>1</sup>

- **Percentage of owners that are Absentee -**
  - Self-identified as QS owners/co-owners AND who did not identify as captain/crew

2012

50.0%

2015/16

47.3%

*“The quota leasing aspect provides retirement income. That’s about it.” – Industry Participant, Puget Sound Area, 2015/2016*

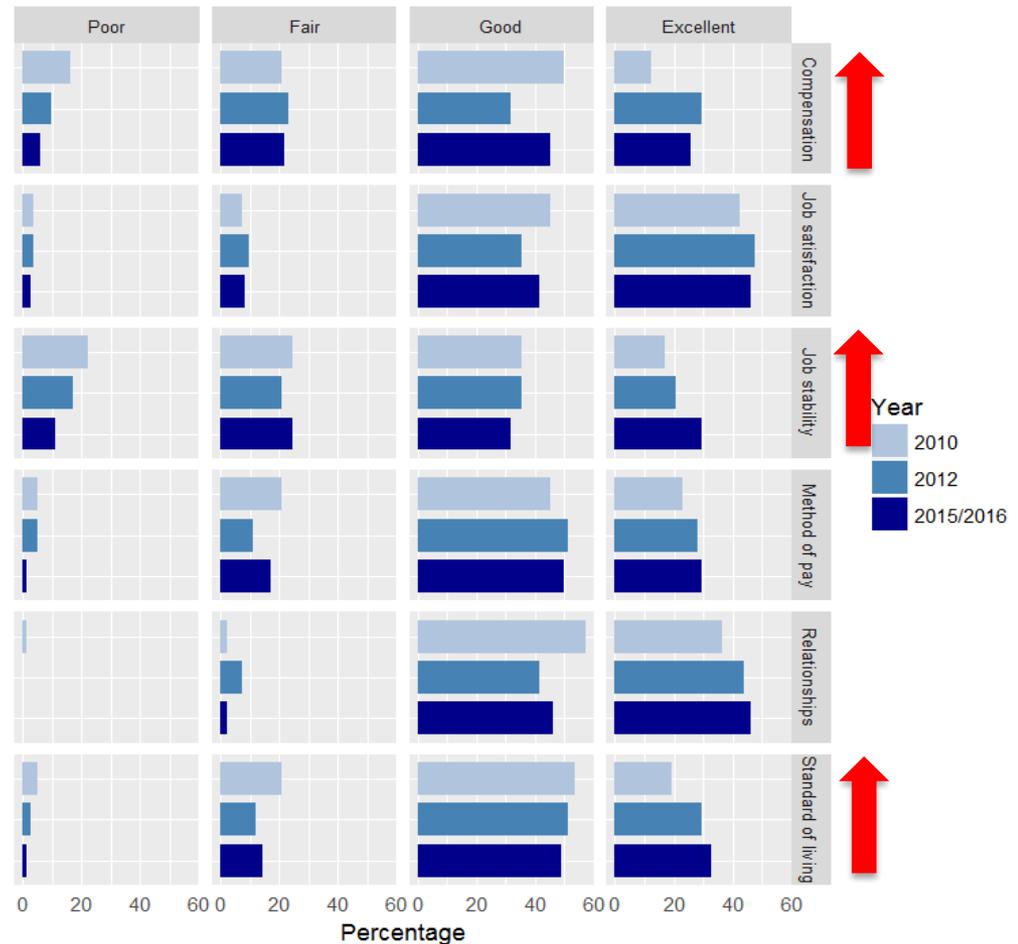
*“As we speak, both the permit and the quota is leased out right now. We can’t afford; we’re too scared; we can’t afford to fish it. Those two reasons: the fear and can’t afford it.” – QS Permit Owner, Astoria, 2015/2016*

<sup>1</sup> | Not all QS owners/co-owners may be captured in survey data.

# Results – Monitoring Change

## Attitudes about role in commercial fishing industry<sup>1</sup>

- Job satisfaction
- Job stability
- Compensation amount
- Method of compensation
- Standard of living
- Relationships with co-workers

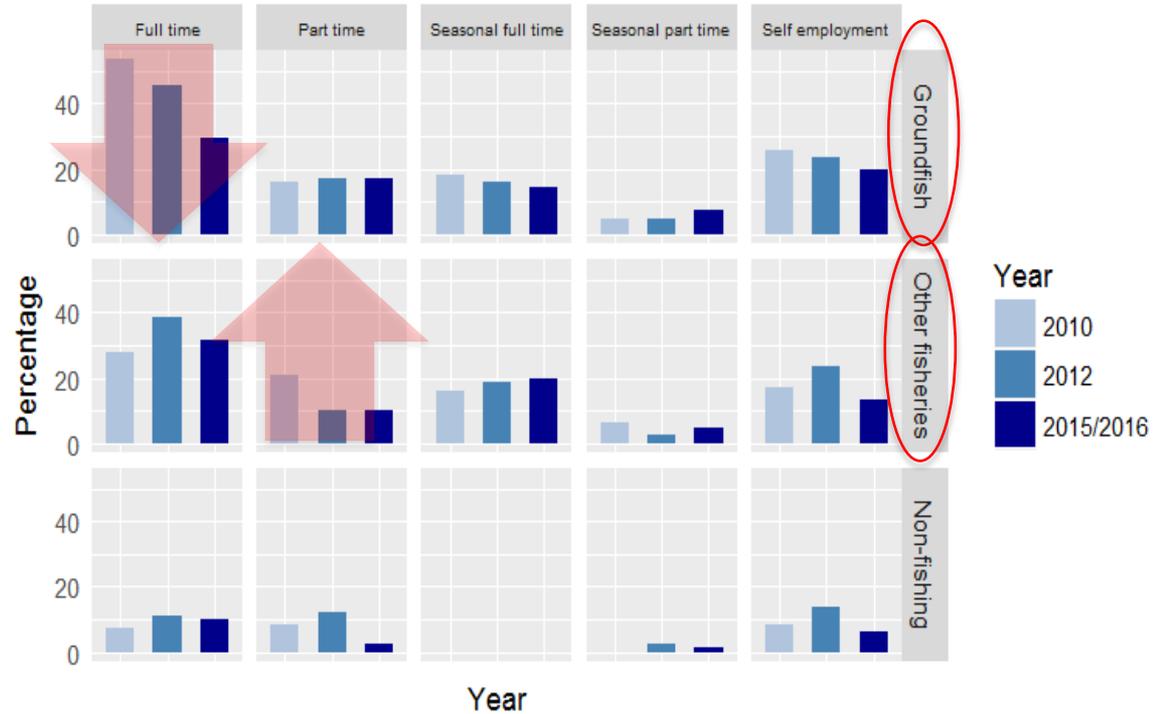


1 | Response variable: Likert-scale, Friedman's Test. Return Respondents

# Results – Monitoring Change

## Level of employment in groundfish and other fisheries<sup>1</sup>

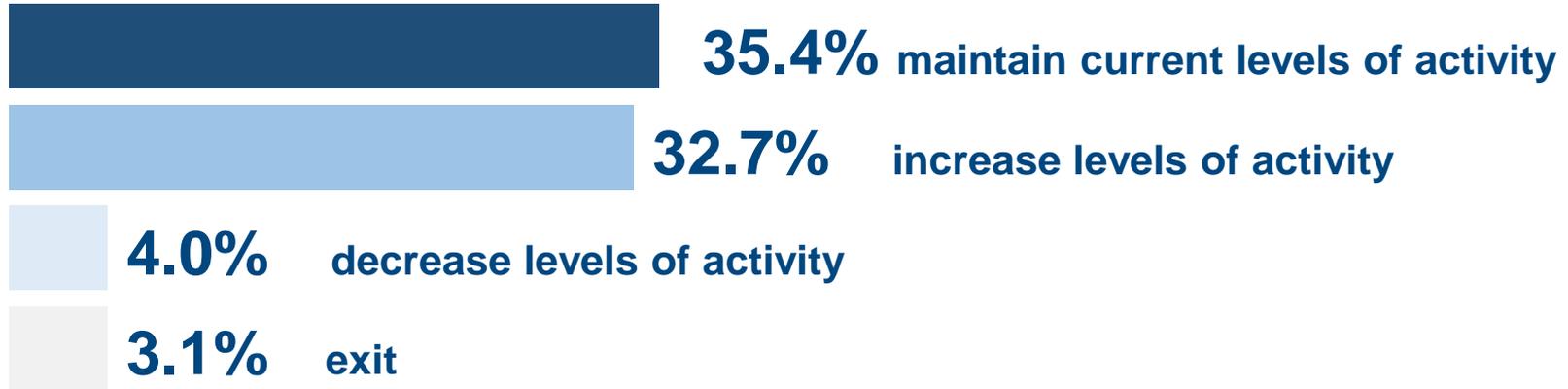
- Full-time
- Part-time
- Seasonal full-time
- Seasonal part-time
- Self employment



1 | Response variable: Proportions, Cochran's Q Test. Return Respondents

# Results – Future Participation

## Future plans for groundfish participation (2015/2016)

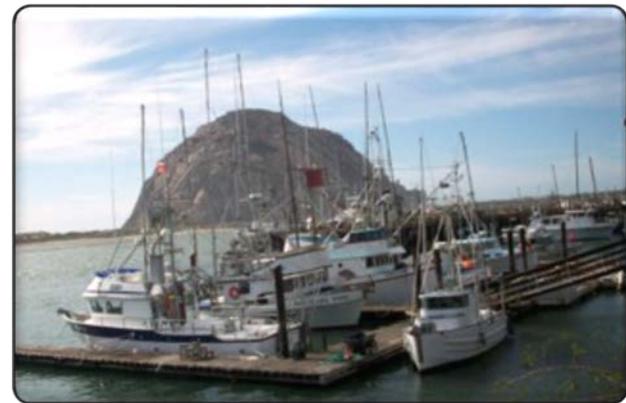


*“.... If the stocks increase at some point, it would be nice to have enough to continue to operate without relying on leased fish all the time.” – QS Permit Owner, Puget Sound Area, 2015/2016*

*“And so what our job now is for the future is to continue to acquire additional quota share because we really don’t have enough.” – QS Permit Owner, Fort Bragg Area, 2015/2016*

# Concluding Thoughts

- Updated 5-year Review with additional analysis
- Still early in this catch share program, making it difficult to detect changes
- Much more data to analyze
- Develop data needs & new questions
- Continue to work with industry members to understand complex issues



# Acknowledgements

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# Questions?

