




February 11, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

FROM: 
Andrew Katsaros
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: Review of NOAA's Catch Share Programs

In an August 17, 2011, letter to our office, Congressmen Barney Frank and John Tierney expressed concerns over the fisheries regulatory process at NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Fishery Management Councils (FMCs). In response, our office initiated a multiple-phase review of NMFS and FMCs related to developing rules for the commercial fishing industry. We issued our first report on January 16, 2013. As a continuation of that review, we are initiating a review of the controls and processes associated with NOAA's catch share programs.

The objective of our review is to determine the adequacy of controls NOAA has in place to make decisions related to catch share allocations.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-7859 or David Sheppard, Regional Inspector General for Audit, at (206) 220-7970. We appreciate the cooperation of NOAA staff during this review.

cc: Samuel Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
Carrie Selberg, Chief of Staff, Fisheries Regulatory Program, NOAA
Emily Manashes, Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA