



February 28, 2025

Dear Editors,

On behalf of the author team, I am pleased to submit our paper, "Quota allocation policies in U.S. federal fisheries management and implications for climate resilience", for consideration as an Original Article in *Fish and Fisheries*.

Quota allocation policies, which divide fishing catch or effort between regions, sectors, subsectors, individuals, and/or seasons, are one of the most important and contentious processes in fisheries management. These policies often aim to advance fairness and equity by preserving historical access. However, this reliance on historical patterns makes allocation policies vulnerable to climate change, which is shifting the accessibility of marine resources. Despite this, there is little guidance on adapting allocation policies to climate change.

In the United States, regional management councils have innovated diverse approaches to allocation that can be studied for their climate vulnerability and/or adaptivity. We synthesize the allocation policies used in U.S. federal fisheries (491 stocks), evaluate the vulnerability of these policies to climate change, and provide eight recommendations for improving the climate-adaptive management of allocation policies:

1. Define clear and measurable management objectives
2. Define and collect data required to assess and adjust allocation policies
3. Facilitate quota transfers between regions, sectors, and individuals
4. Balance historical and contemporary resource access in setting allocations
5. Ensure opportunities for new entrants
6. Allocate quota for research and experimentation
7. Reduce impacts of changes to allocation policies on stakeholders
8. Conduct regular reviews of allocation policies

These recommendations provide a research and policy agenda for advancing climate-adaptive fisheries management in fisheries around the world.

This is a follow up to our 2024 *Fish & Fisheries* paper that reviewed harvest control rules (HCRs) implemented in U.S. fisheries management and implications for climate resilience:

Free CM, Mangin T, Wiedenmann J, McVeigh H, Smith C, Gaines SD (2023) Harvest control rules used in US federal fisheries management and implications for climate resilience. *Fish and Fisheries* 24(2): 248-262. <https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12724>

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, on behalf of all authors,
Christopher Free, Ph.D.