I think our ITQ system with limited entry has worked well to achieve the goal of providing a better-regulated and more stable commercial fishery in Wisconsin waters of the Great Lakes. This had much to do with our ability to ensure that fishery management benchmarks are met and our strategy and programs change as operating conditions change. George H. Beringer (2007:104).

Ted Stevens, US Senator, Alaska (1968–2009): “IFQs allowed halibut fishermen to spread out their effort and avoid bad weather. We see the results at the fresh fish counter almost any time of year—more fresh fish.”

George W. Bush, US President (2001–2009): “Carefully designed catch shares can get overfished fisheries on a path to profitability and sustainability, thereby improving the health of our ecosystems and placing greater control and business decision-making in the hands of fishermen.”

US Catch Shares Over Time

Since the early 1970s, the U.S. has implemented over 25 catch share programs in federal and state waters. As of 2013, 24 active programs manage 117 unique species. Here is a timeline showing each of those programs.