

# Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs)

A Survey of North Carolina Commercial Fishermen

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# Scope

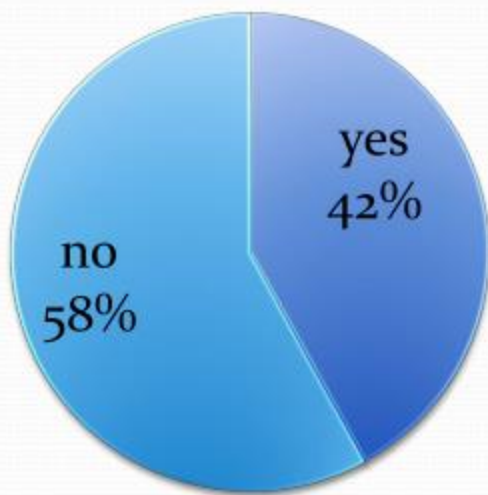
- Simple, eight-question survey was mailed to all 2,499 NC fishermen who had over \$1,000 in landings in 2006
- Included a two-page description of LAPP programs in a question-and-answer format
- Fishermen were asked to return the questionnaire in a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- Had 493 completed returns as of Monday 10/15/2007
- Allows a margin of error of plus or minus 4% for fishermen overall (very good)

# Special Thanks

- Grace Kemp and Gina Griffin organized the mailings and entered the data
- Alan Bianchi provided information on landings and special permit holders
- Dee Lupton pulled everyone together

# Question #1

- Do you think LAPPs make more sense than the current regulations as a way to manage some fisheries?



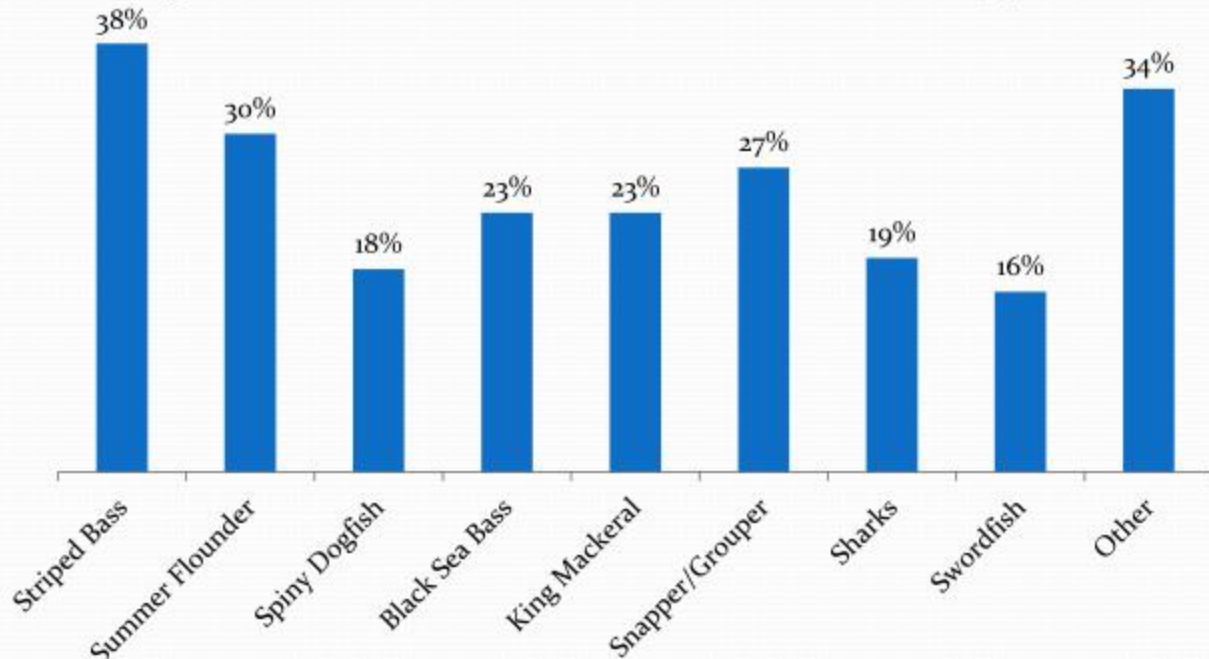
## Question #2

- Do you think the idea of fishermen buying and selling quota shares from each other would be a fair way to allocate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for a species?



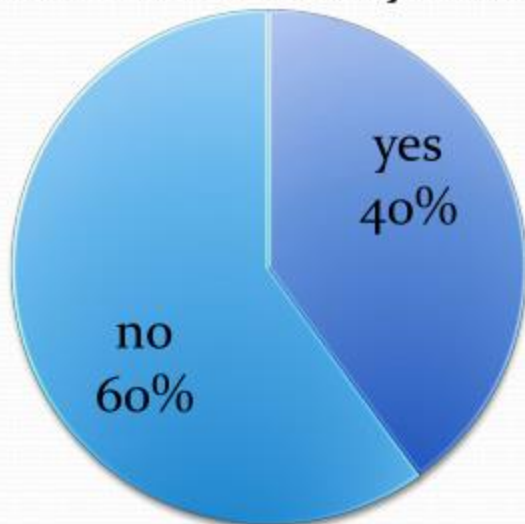
## Question #3

- Check any [species] that you believe might be better managed under a LAPP than the current regulations



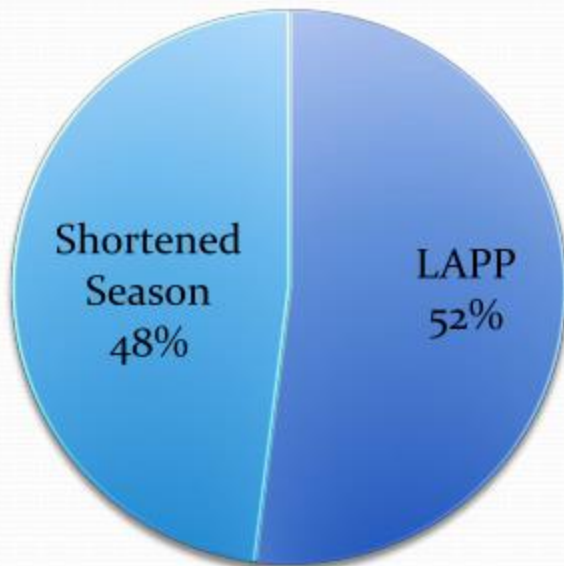
## Question #4

- Do you think owning quota shares would make it easier to make long term decisions and investments in your business than the current system allows?



## Question #5

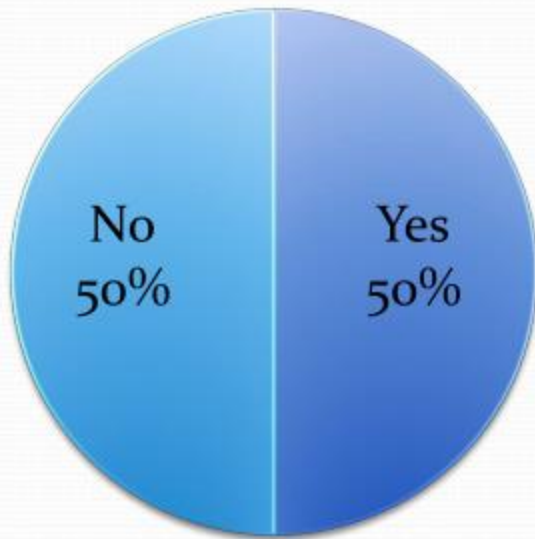
- If given a choice between a shortened season and a LAPP, which would be preferable?





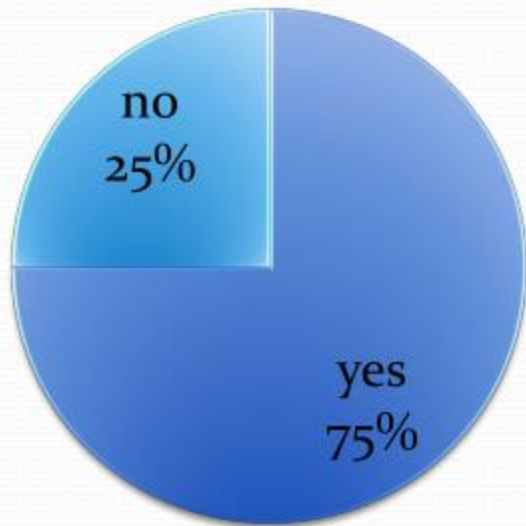
## Question #6

- Should the Marine Fisheries Commission continue to investigate whether LAPPs could be used in North Carolina?



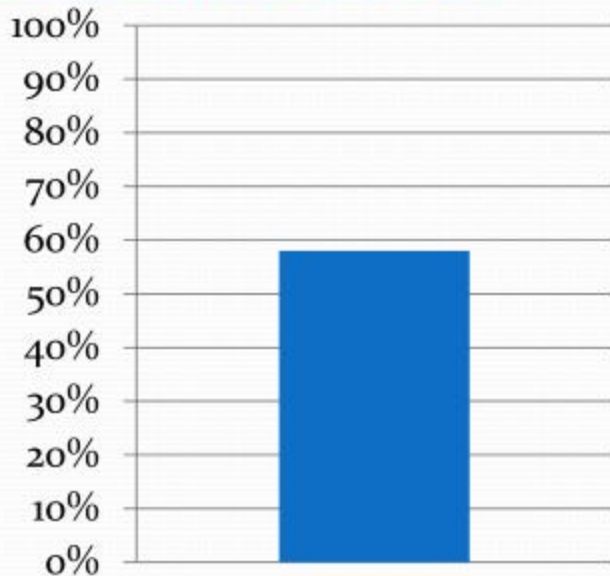
## Question #7

- Do you feel you had enough information to make informed answers to these questions?

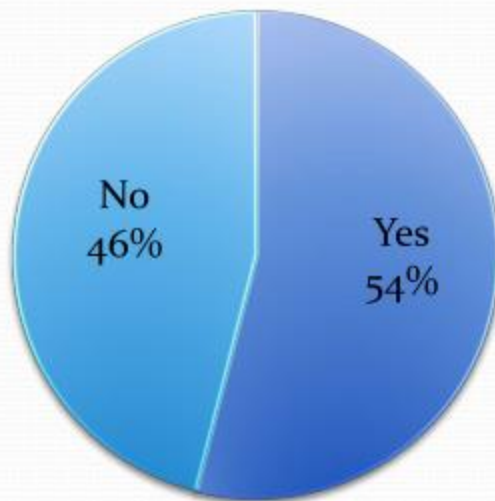


# Striped Bass Ocean Fishermen

Striped Bass might be better under a LAPP...



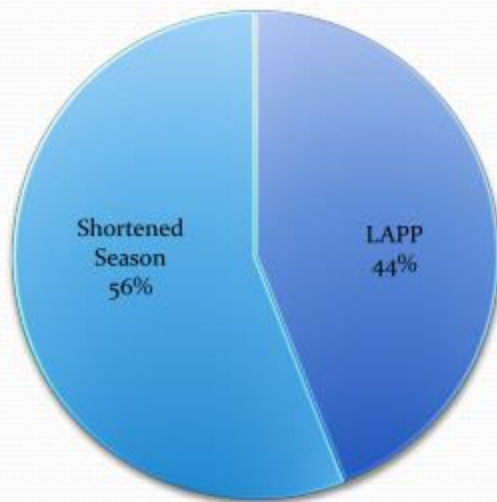
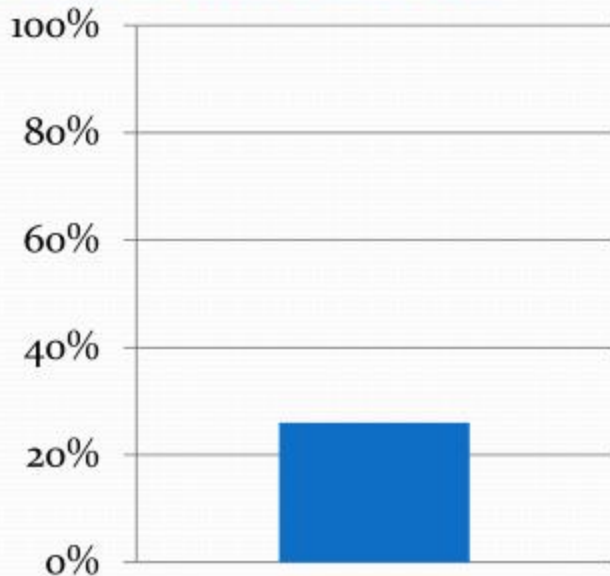
MFC should continue to investigate LAPPs...



# Snapper/Grouper Permit Holders

**Snapper/Grouper might be better under a LAPP...**

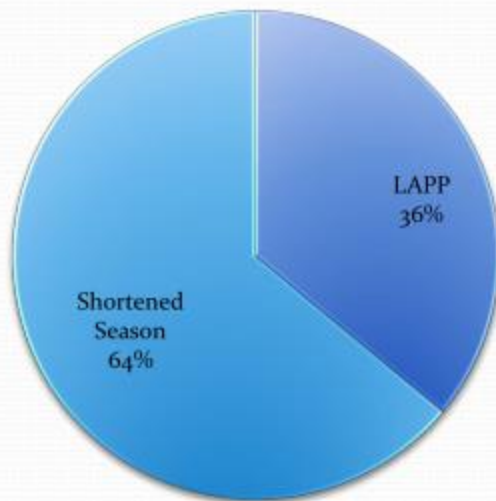
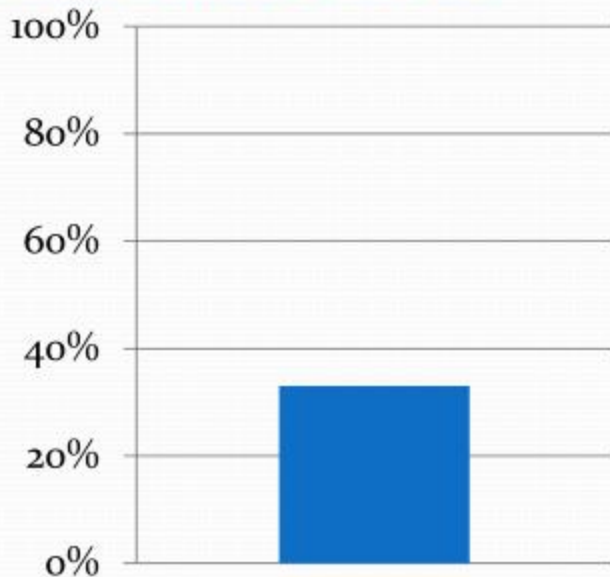
**Would prefer a shortened season to a LAPP...**



# License to Land Flounder Holders

**Summer Flounder might be better under a LAPP...**

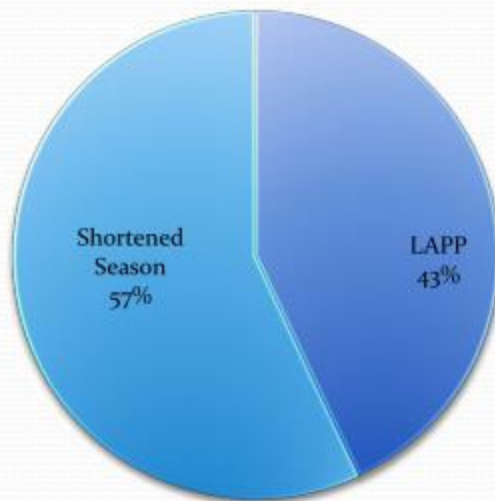
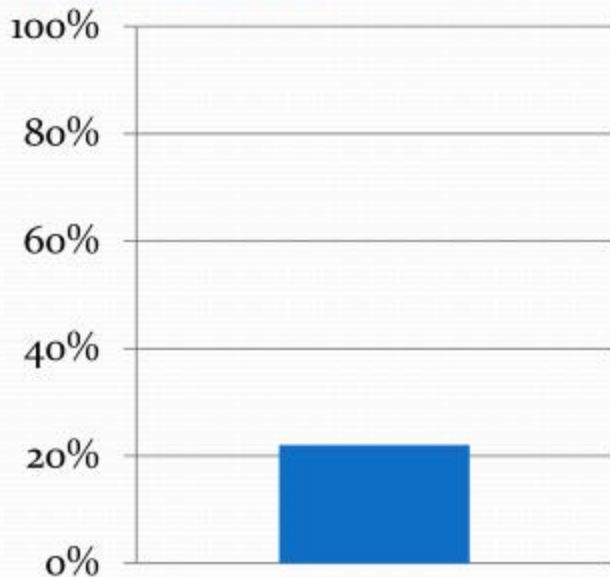
**Would prefer a shortened season to a LAPP...**



# King Mackerel Permit Holders

**King Mack might be better under a LAPP...**

**Would prefer a shortened season to a LAPP...**



# Other Findings

- One out of the ten shark permit holders was in favor of LAPPs.
- No significant differences on any questions by fishing income, no matter what standards are used (\$10k, \$20k, \$30k, \$50k...)
- The fishermen who did not yet have sufficient information about LAPPs felt the MFC should continue to investigate by a 2-to-1 margin.

# Additional comments against

- “LAPPs [are] a way for the big fishing companies to control the fishing industry in N.C.”
- “With an individual quota, the fleet owners would wind up with all the fish.”
- “LAPPs will hasten the decline in the number of commercial fishermen. As commercial fishermen numbers drop, it will be easier and easier for anti-commercial fishing groups to convince legislation that commercial fishing should be banned in state waters. Buying and selling quota seems okay on the surface, but I believe it will be detrimental to the commercial community in the long term.”



# Additional comments in favor

- “LAPPs need to be enacted in the striped bass fishery before someone is killed due to this derby [fishing].”
- “If [everything] was taken into consideration in a fair way to allocate IFQ's I would be fine with that. Otherwise the small skiff fisherman would not have a chance.”
- “I would bet 90% of fishermen could not tell you what a LAPP is or how it is used to help rebuild fish stocks. It has taken me lots of reading and investigating current LAPPs to understand them. People are going to be reluctant to change unless they understand how it will help the fisheries.”

# Summary

- Fishermen are evenly split on whether the MFC should continue to investigate. Strongest support among fishermen who felt they did not currently have enough information.
- If forced to choose between further season reductions and a LAPP, a majority would go for a LAPP (but this is within the margin of error).
- 58% of striped bass fishermen feel that species might be better under a LAPP, versus 33% of flounder permit holders and 26% of snapper/grouper permit holders.
- The most common concern about LAPPs is a fear they will lead to a few “big players” controlling all the fish.

# DISCUSSION