

PROTECTING ACCESS.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY FISHERIES.

Quota Bank and Non-Profit Participation in IFQ Fisheries

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Purpose of Presentation

- Gulf Council considering changes to IFQ programs that would limit fishery participation.
- Provide information on Gulf of America Reef Fish Quota Bank Model.
- Provide information about 501c structure and compliance.



What is a Quota Bank?

- Entity (usually non-profit) that holds fishery quotas and permits.
- Shares/allocation provided to participants that meet eligibility criteria.
- Created to address identified challenges in the fishery.
- Are a public, transparent access point for quota.



Quota/Permit Banks Across the Country

**Sitka
Kodiak
Aleutians East
Borough**

**Stonington
Brunswick**

**Fort Bragg
Bodega Bay
Half Moon Bay
Monterey Bay
Morro Bay**

**Souh Shore
Chatham
Martha's Vinyard
Boston**

A photograph of two fishermen on a boat deck. The man on the left is smiling and holding a large, dark fish. The man on the right is wearing a cap and a light-colored shirt, also holding a large fish. The background shows the boat's structure, including a blue storage bin, a white cooler, and various fishing equipment. The scene is set outdoors, likely in a harbor or dock area.

**Proven, transparent systems
that protect fishermen's access.**

A photograph of two men on a dock or boat deck. The man on the left is smiling and holding a large, dark fish. The man on the right is wearing a cap and a light-colored shirt, also holding a large, light-colored fish. The background shows a dock with various equipment, including a blue storage bin, a metal cart, and a boat. The text "Mission Driven. Industry Led" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Mission Driven. Industry Led



THE REEF FISH QUOTA BANK

Fishermen-led solution

Promoting Conservation and the Next Generation

Vision: The Reef Fish Quota Bank is a replicable, financially solvent program that encourages fishery leadership, promotes sustainable fishing practices and supports the next generation of fishermen.

Mission: The Reef Fish Quota Bank leases fishery allocations to qualified Members to reduce wasteful discards and improve the economic viability of fishing businesses. We help give fishermen a voice in the regulatory process and position them to solve fishery problems.





What the Quota Bank Delivers

- **Conservation:** Reduce red snapper discards.
- **Social:** Support next-generation fishermen.
- **Economic:** Improved profitability
- **Management:** Members are active in the regulatory process.
- **Operations:** A fiscally-healthy, defensible, and replicable model.

Real Impacts. Measureable Results

This is what access looks like.

2015 +

69

Individuals/
fishing businesses

700,000

Pounds of allocation

5

Gulf States

2023 +

13

New Businesses

4

Diversifying
businesses

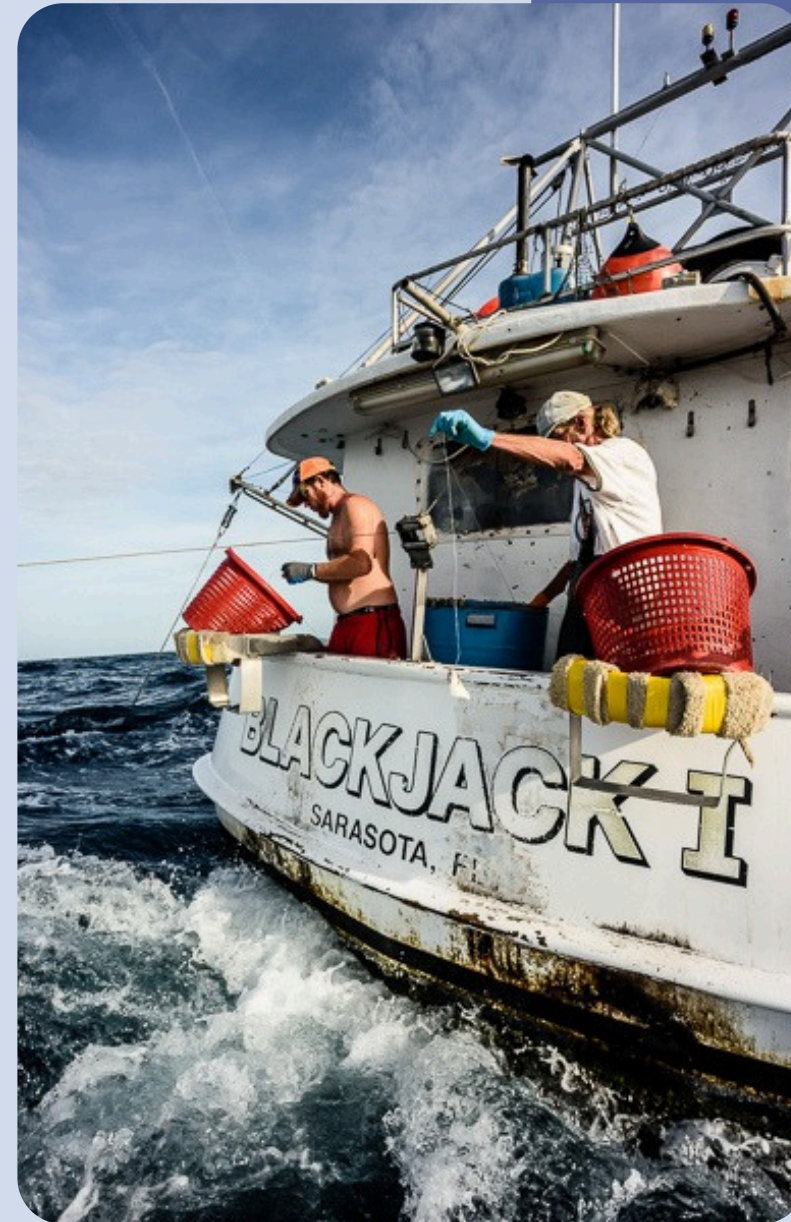


Built on Structure. Backed by Investment.

- Pilot in 2015, full-scale operations in 2018
- Invested in the fishery. Purchased and hold shares for program operation (78,000 pounds)
- Structured process. Applications are reviewed quarterly based on clear eligibility criteria.
- Formula-based allocation. Distribution and proving follow defined, transparent formulas.
- Member-driven. Program reviewed and modified annually based on member feedback.

Who Can Be A Quota Bank Member?

- Own an active reef fish permit.
- Have an IFQ Shareholder Account.
- Compliant with current fishery laws and regulations.





Strict Participation Standards

- Agree to best practices:
 - Cannot re-lease Quota Bank allocation
 - No high grading
- Attend one Gulf Council meeting.
- NEW in 2026: Give testimony at one Gulf Council meeting (virtual or in-person).
- Provide trip tickets.



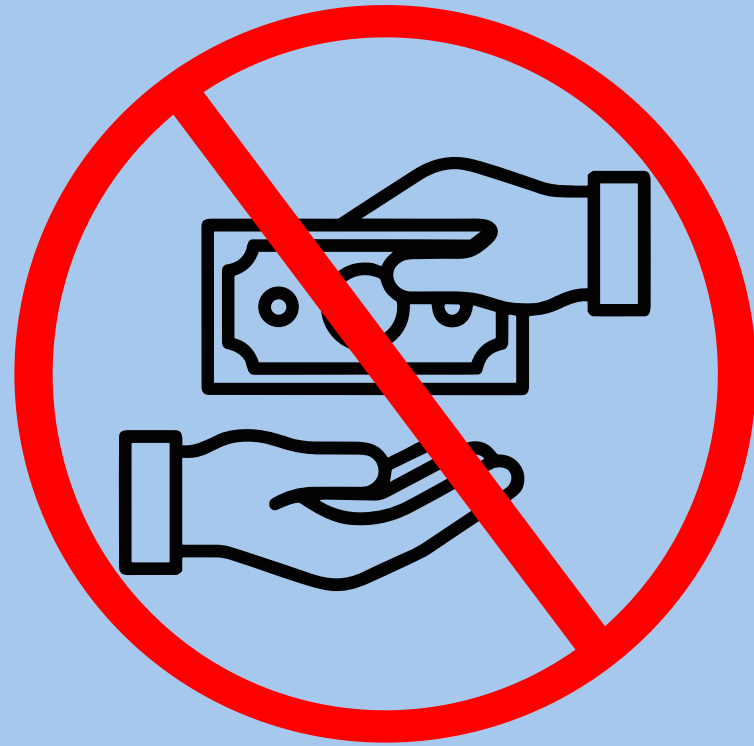
Built to Serve, Not to Profit

What Is a 501(c)?

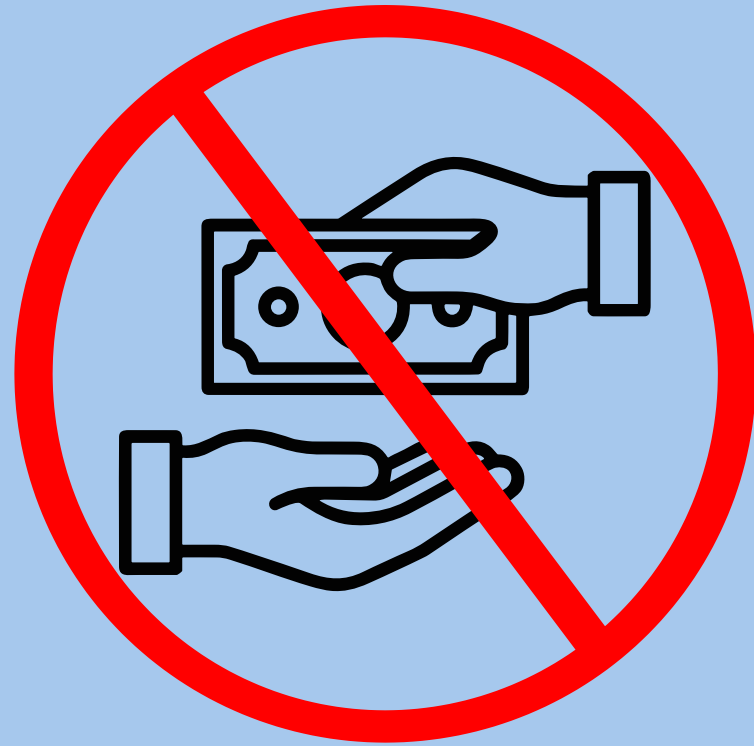
Why Does That Distinction Matter?

What is a 501(c) Organization?

A 501(c) is a section of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code that grants federal tax exemption to non-profit organizations organized for specific purposes.



Cannot distribute profits to individuals.

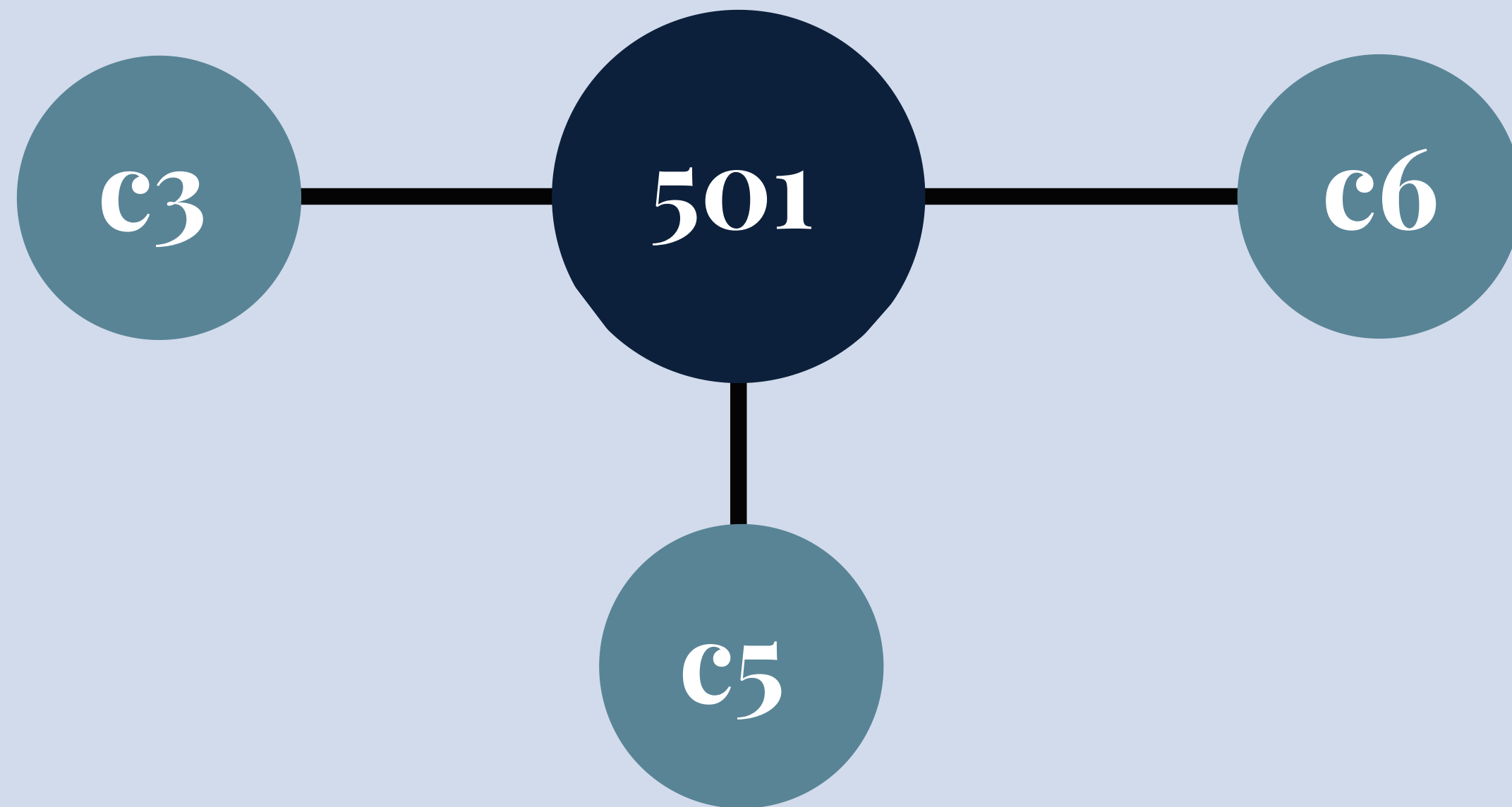


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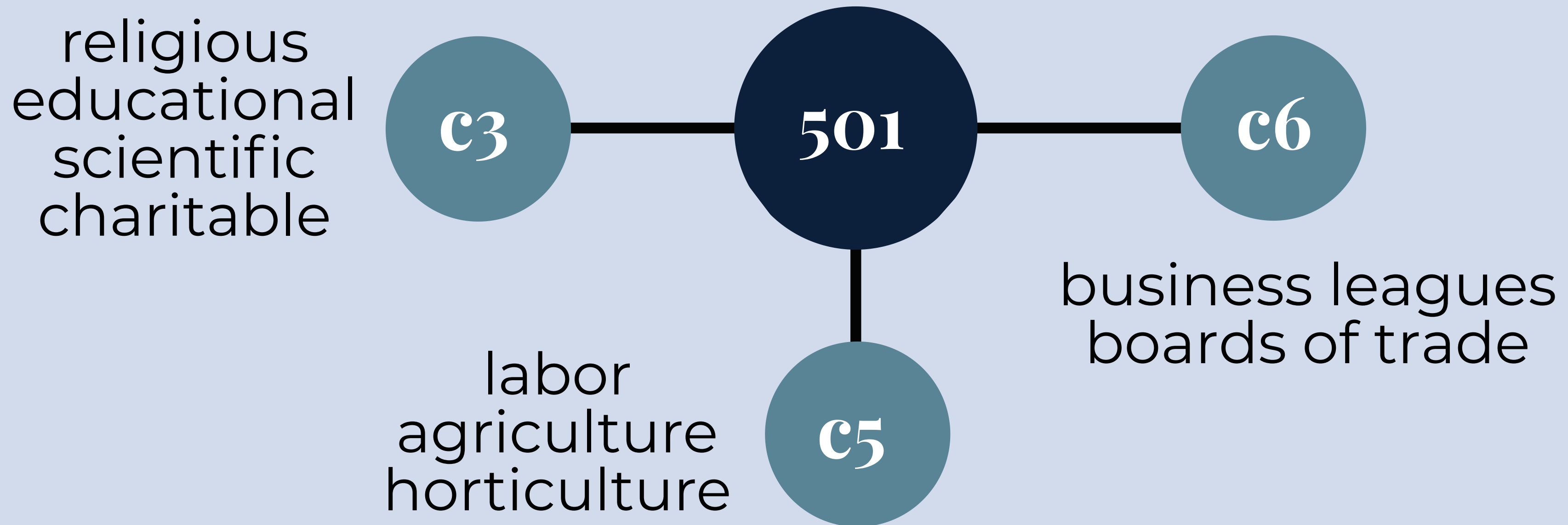


Must operate within a defined mission.

What is a 501(c) Organization?



What is a 501(c) Organization?



Highly Regulated. Fully Accountable.

**Legally
Structured**

**State and Federal
Requirements**



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IRS Approved

**Clear public or
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**Governed
by a Board**

**Decision-making
and conflict
protocols**

Why This Matters in the Fishery

- Not profit-driven.
- Legally bound to a mission.
- Subject to federal oversight.
- Group decision making



What the Fishery Risks Losing

- Public, transparent access for new fishermen.
- Removes quota from community use.
- Eliminates solutions that are already working.
- Concentrates access.
- Restricts industry-led innovation.

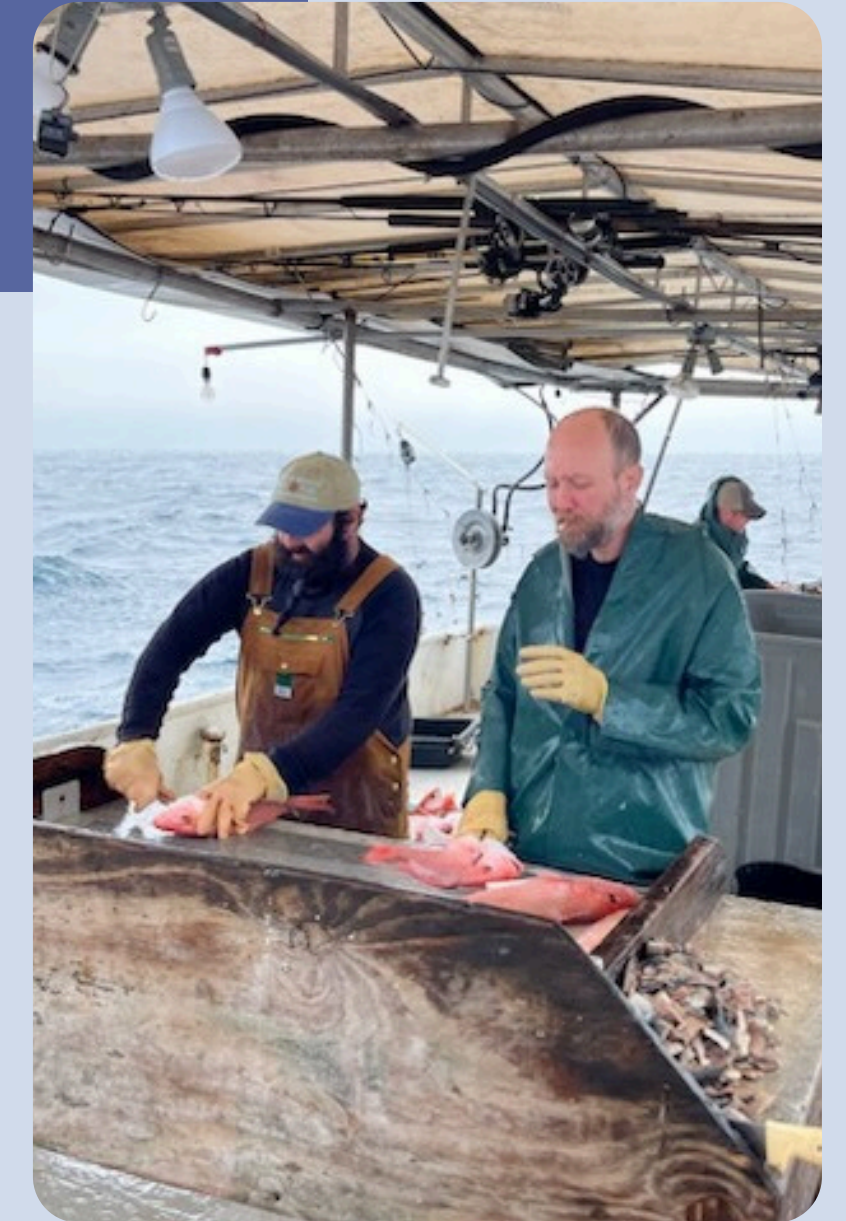


Decisions Before You

Should management restrict:

1. allocation access for next-generation fishermen?
2. novel community-based approaches for share/allocation ownership?

1. non-profits with regulatory oversight from serving fishing communities?



Thank You.

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