

D6: Social Sciences Planning Team Report

SSPT minutes from
Nov 2019
teleconference

Presented by:
Steve Kasperski
February, 2020



SSPT Agenda Items

- EDR Data Collection Framework
- Data Gap Analysis
- Qualitative Social Science Approaches and Utility for the Council Process

EDR Data Collection Framework (1)

- The document is a scoping analysis written by AFSC that supports ongoing SSPT assessment and planning of a process for developing recommendations to the Council regarding EDR program revisions.
- It attempts to clarify conceptual issues, identify and define the multi-faceted problem the SSPT and Council are trying to solve, and outline a decision framework for developing and evaluating alternatives for social and economic data collections that address Council needs and priorities.
- In short, the document and discussion **highlighted the need to develop a process for updating the EDR program to include best practices and maximize utility of the resulting data.** Another key conclusion of the discussion was the need for a more robust approach to assessing the cost and non-monetary burden on those who are subject to EDRs, noting that burden is not fully accounted in the number of hours spent filling out the forms.

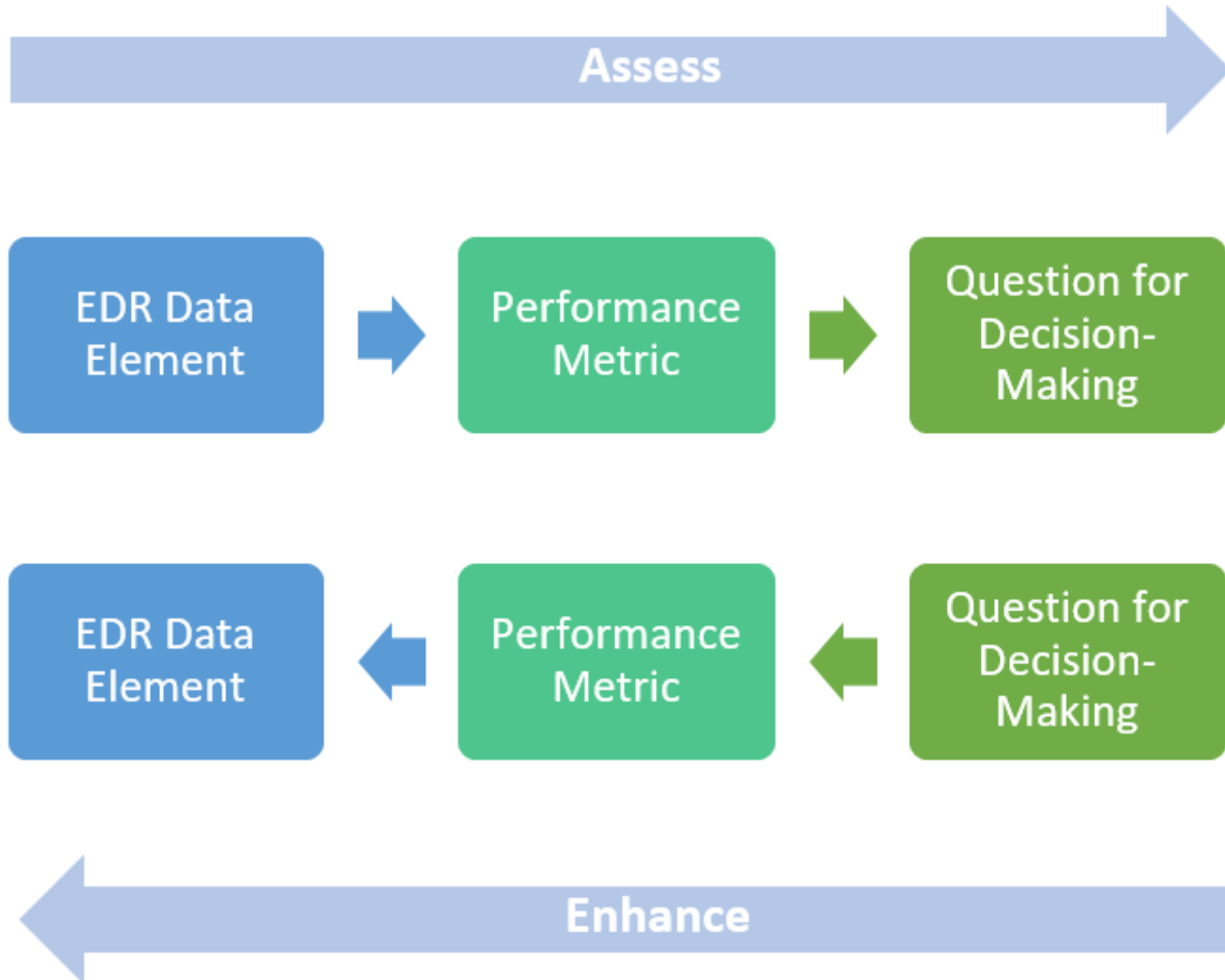
EDR Data Collection Framework (2)

- The SSPT discussed the operationalization of the EDR Framework and the potential utilization of the tier system suggested in the document.
- The discussion amongst SSPT members revealed mixed perceptions about the utility of the tier framework in evaluating current data collection systems.
- Nevertheless, there was consensus about the overall need for the SSPT to work on developing a framework for prioritizing data collections.
- It was also expressed that, no matter the framework or method, EDRs should be focused on addressing identified data gaps.

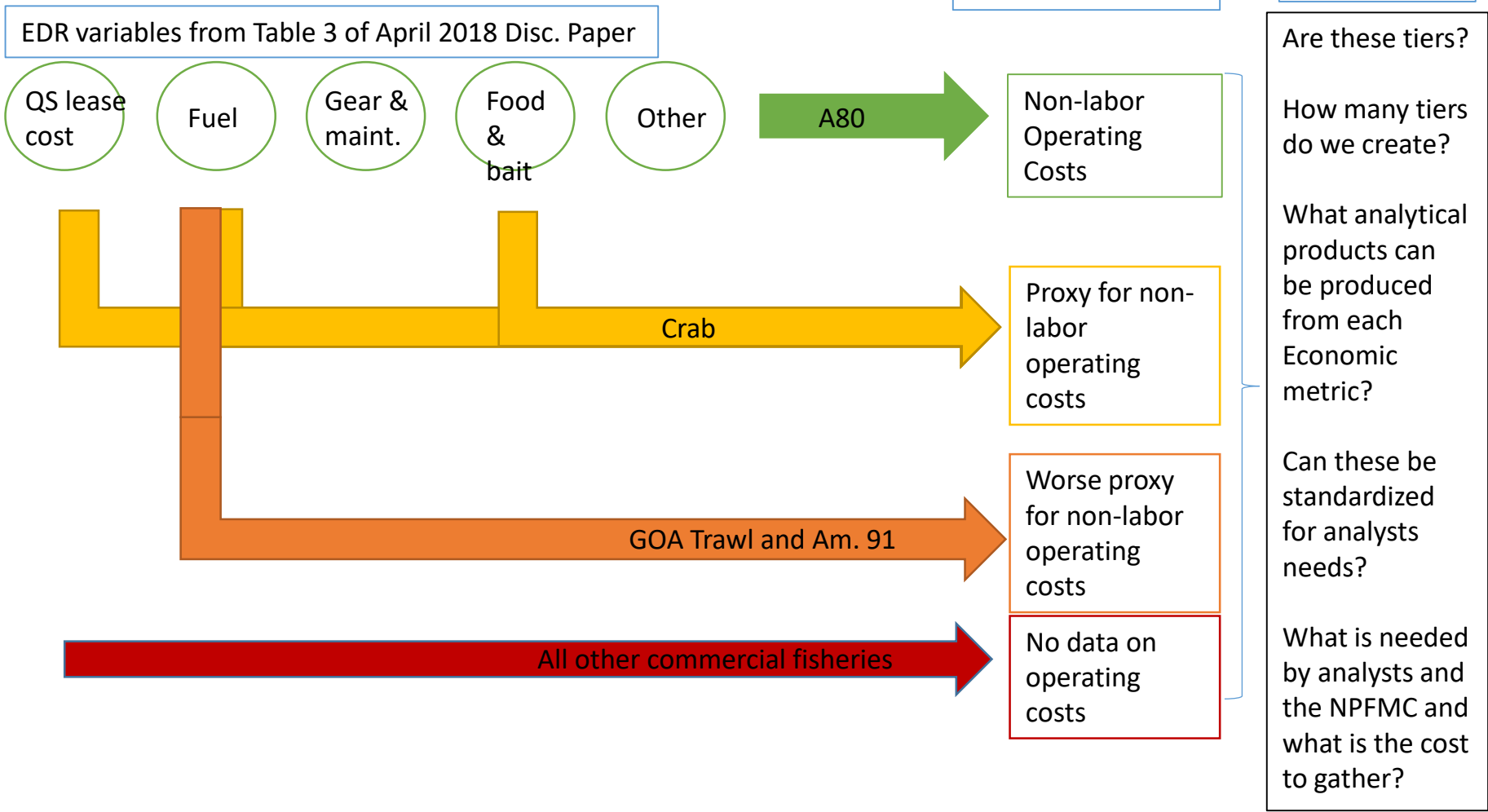
EDR Data Collection Framework – next steps

- Recommend meeting in May to develop further
- Sub-group of SSPT discussing an organizing framework – but legwork will need to be done
- Meeting would refine the framework for a workshop later in 2020 to get industry feedback and discuss recommendations

Framework for EDR information flow



Example of tier framework for one economic performance metric: non-labor operating costs



Data Gap Analysis (DGA 1)

- Discussion of the current DGA draft focused on Section 3.4 (non-economic benefits derived from commercial fisheries), Section 5 (data requirements and gaps for subsistence fisheries), Section 7 (additional data requirements and gaps by unit of analysis), and the data gap summary tables.
- The objective of the DGA is to identify questions that need to be answered through data collections or better use of data that are already collected.

Data Gap Analysis (DGA 2)

- The SSPT is reliant on both practitioners and decision-makers to provide feedback on what questions are not currently being answered but would meaningfully enhance analytical products from the Council-process point of view.
- Small sub-group of SSPT formed to assign tasks based on expertise to complete a version of the document for May

Qualitative Social Science Approaches and Utility for the Council Process (1)

- Courtney Carothers, Mike Downs, and Jim Fall gave a presentation on qualitative methods, examples of their utility, and opportunities/challenges in connecting them to the Council process.
- The presenters highlighted that fields like anthropology and economics make different assumptions and take different approaches to “how we know what we know”.
- The presenters provided examples of qualitative information being used to make resource management decisions in Alaska.

Qualitative Social Science Approaches and Utility for the Council Process (2)

- The presenters facilitated discussion of the ways that analysts could approach defining the “substantial engagement and dependency” of fishing communities.
- Qualitative information can tell a decision-maker what a fishing fleet means to a particular community. Examples include linkages between commercial vessels and access to subsistence uses that are not apparent in the fishery data.



Questions?

Thanks to Sam Cunningham and the rest of the SSPT for summarizing these minutes, and for the public who participated in the meeting.