



D5 Economic Data Reporting Discussion Paper

April 2019

Action Memo

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Action Required: 1) Review discussion paper
2) Consider potential changes including recommendations from NMFS, public testimony, SSC and AP
3) Determine recommendations and next steps

BACKGROUND

This discussion paper provides information and recommendations about the four Economic Data Reporting (EDR) programs that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have implemented in the federally managed groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska. In general, the purpose of the EDR requirements are to gather information to improve the Council's ability to analyze the economic effects of the catch share or rationalization programs, to understand the economic performance of participants in these programs, and to help identify impacts of future issues, problems, or proposed revisions to the programs covered by the EDRs. The following four EDRs are addressed in this discussion paper:

- BSAI Crab EDR, implemented in 2005;
- Trawl Catcher/Processor (CP) EDR implemented in 2007 for Amendment 80, and in 2015 for CPs operating in the GOA groundfish fisheries;
- Bering Sea (BS) Chinook salmon bycatch management program EDR for participants in the BS pollock fishery, implemented in 2012; and
- GOA trawl EDRs for trawl catcher vessels operating in the GOA and processors taking deliveries from these vessels, implemented in 2015.

In April 2018, in response to public comment and further discussion among Council members, the Council requested that NMFS prepare this discussion paper to describe the EDR requirements for all programs, explain how the data are used, and provide estimates of the costs of complying with the EDR requirements. The Council's motion stated that the Council could then use the information in the discussion paper to determine if revisions to EDR requirements are needed and, if so, the priority and process for analysis of proposed revisions. This discussion paper provides the information requested by the Council in April 2018.

In addition to the Executive Summary and Introduction, the discussion paper is organized into four sections. Section 3 addresses scientific and analytical standards relevant to the EDRs. This section includes information about the requirements for economic analysis of fishery conservation and management actions and program to provide the rationale and need to collect economic information about the fisheries. It also provides a review of scientific literature and best-practices regarding the elements of

survey design and data quality that are relevant to evaluation of the EDR programs. Section 4 contains a description of and history of the North Pacific economic data collection programs. Section 5 contains information about EDR program operations, costs, and limitations. Section 6 provides NMFS' recommendations.

After review of the discussion paper, SSC and AP reports, and public testimony, the Council may choose to:

- 1) Endorse one or more of NMFS's recommendations,
- 2) Request NMFS or Council staff to continue working on specific aspects of EDR issues or questions for presentation in an updated discussion paper at a future Council meeting,
- 3) Identify a specific problem or issue with the current EDR requirements or process and task staff to initiate an analysis separate from the discussion paper to address the problem or issue, or
- 4) Any combination of items (1), (2), or (3) above.