

**ADVISORY PANEL**  
**Motions and Rationale**  
**January 28-31, 2020 - Anchorage, AK**

**C4 EDR Reg Changes**

**AP Motion**

The AP recommends the Council suspend the EDR requirement for GOA Trawl fisheries and delay further action on this agenda item until the SSPT and Council have reviewed the other package of potential changes to the EDR program (Issue 2).

*Motion passed 22-0*

*Rationale:*

- *As the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management package is not a current priority (or anticipated to be a future priority), the initial intent for implementing the GOA trawl EDRs is no longer applicable. The Council and NMFS retain the authority to bring this data collection back if the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management package gets reinitiated, or if through the SSPT process, specific reasons are identified for its continued necessity.*
- *Even if the Council were to recommend terminating the GOA EDRs at this meeting, the likelihood of implementation of that action is approximately two years, which would result in about six years of GOA trawl baseline data that would be available.*
- *There are expenses, both financially and with human resources, associated with the continued collection of GOA trawl EDR data without an identified benefit. Critical funding scenarios currently being faced by the Agency require careful consideration of the trade-offs associated with this effort.*
- *Original bifurcation of the EDR agenda item was done because of issues associated with costs of the audits. However, those initial concerns associated with the cost of EDR audits have been addressed by the Agency through the suspension of those audits.*
- *The SSPT has already been tasked with considering potential changes to the EDR program, including the “need and utility of the data”, so it makes more sense to consider any and all changes to the various EDR collection programs in a holistic manner instead of piecemeal fashion.*