

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director

DATE: June 5, 1996

SUBJECT: Electronic Reporting

ESTIMATED TIME

1 HOUR

ACTION REQUIRED

Initial Review of a regulatory amendment to require groundfish processors to utilize electronic recordkeeping and reporting.

BACKGROUND

The proposed regulatory amendment prepared by NMFS staff would require groundfish processors in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska to utilize an electronic recordkeeping and reporting system for NMFS-required documents. The analysis was mailed to you on May 30. The two alternatives discussed in the analysis are:

Alternative 1: No Action: This would continue the current system of recordkeeping and reporting in which processors maintain paper logbooks and submit NMFS reports via conventional methods (i.e., fax and telex transmissions).

Alternative 2: Require groundfish processors that are subject to observer coverage to use NMFS-supplied software to electronically record harvest and processing activities on computer equipment. Conventional logbooks and associated NMFS reports would be replaced by electronic versions. At-sea processors would be required to transmit in-season NMFS reports using Inmarsat satellite equipment and shore-based processors would be required to use modems and phone systems. All processors using the electronic reporting system would be required to have a computer-operated printer to make paper copies of electronic logbook pages and transmitted reports at the processing site.

The NMFS electronic reporting system would be implemented in two stages. Phase 1 would consist of electronic versions of the daily production, weekly production, and check-in/check-out reports and would be implemented in early 1997. Phase 2 would consist of electronic logbooks, vessel activity reports, and product transfer reports and would be implemented in 1998.

ADDENDUM FOR ITEM C-9

PROPOSED REGULATORY AMENDMENT REQUIRING GROUND FISH PROCESSORS TO USE ELECTRONIC RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING FOR NMFS DOCUMENTS

An upcoming regulatory amendment that would require groundfish processors that are subject to observer coverage to obtain computer and communications equipment for electronically transmitting observer reports has been changed.

The Proposed Rule required a computer configuration of at least a 486DX processor, 8 megabytes of RAM, 50 megabytes of free hard disk storage, and a 14.4 kbs Hayes-compatible modem for shore plants and at-sea processors with Standard-A and Standard-B satellite units.

The Final Rule will require that processors have (as a minimum) a Pentium 100 Mhz processor, 16 megabytes of RAM, 75 megabytes of free hard disk storage, and a 28.8 kbs Hayes-compatible modem for shore plants and at-sea processors with Standard-A and Standard-B satellite units. The Final Rule is expected to be implemented prior to January 1, 1997.