



# **D5 Crab Electronic Logboks (eLogbooks) Cost Analysis**

February 2020 Council Meeting

## **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham  
Other Presenters: Megan Mackey (NMFS)  
Action Required: Review report; Consider developing purpose and need statement to analyze regulatory amendment to allow eLogbooks for crab fisheries

## **BACKGROUND**

In response to an April 2018 request from the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC), the Council is assessing the benefits and costs of allowing the development of an electronic logbook (eLogbook) program in BSAI crab rationalization (CR) fisheries. The Council received a discussion paper in February 2019 describing the potential benefits of eLogbooks relative to the paper logbooks that are currently required as well as the regulatory authority for logbook reporting requirements. The Council was simultaneously developing an action to allow CR vessels to continue fishing between partial offloads; the Council approved the partial offloads action in December 2019 and rulemaking is in process. Initially, eLogbooks were viewed as both a tool to address management challenges associated with partial offloads and a tool that could improve timeliness, accuracy, and efficiency in catch reporting. The analysis of partial offloads concluded that the potential benefits of eLogbooks do not directly apply to the challenge of accounting for catch by area in a partial offload scenario. Given that conclusion, this report is focused on assessing the fiscal, operational, and management costs and benefits of an eLogbook program to determine whether it is an effective and appealing way to meet the goals of both CR industry participants and federal and state managers.