



C5 Crew Data Collection

October 2024

Action Memo

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Action Required:

1. Review Initial Review Draft
2. Consider next steps, potentially identifying a preliminary preferred alternative and releasing the analysis for final action

BACKGROUND

This action includes an Initial Review of a proposed action to establish a new data collection for crew working on vessels that are active in the federally managed fisheries of Alaska.

The primary purpose of the data collection would be to support economic and community impact analyses required for Fishery Management Plan analysis and regulatory amendments by providing quantitative data on crew and community connections in order better understand potential impacts of Council management decisions. The one action alternative proposes a data collection that would apply to owners of vessels that participate in the federally managed fisheries of Alaska in the BSAI and GOA and would collect information on crew license data, crew compensation, and number of crew positions on vessels operating in federal fisheries. The one option under this alternative would exempt fisheries that are current subject to Economic Data Reports that include crew data collections (i.e., BSAI crab rationalization fisheries and Amendment 80 fisheries); however, existing collections may be modified to be consistent with the data points requested of other fisheries.

The Initial Review analysis details the implementation elements of data collection. The analysis also estimates the potential respondent and agencies costs, and describes the potential benefits of this data collection, including those associated with its primary purpose of strengthening economic and community impacts analyses, as well possible spillover benefits that may be generated with access to this information.

This action was last considered as an expanded discussion paper in June 2023 by the SSC. The AP and Council reviewed the expanded discussion paper in February of 2023. Although the SSC does not always review discussion papers, the Council had requested the SSC in particular also review the staff discussion paper on this issue and provide input to the Council on the proposed mechanism, value of the crew data to be collected, and any additional recommendations that would aid in a simple data collection process. The SSC, AP and Council are all scheduled to review this analysis at this meeting as well.

After review in October, if the Council wishes to move forward on this data collection, it may consider establishing a preliminary preferred alternative and scheduling the analysis for final action.