



# **C1 Economic Data Report (EDR) Amendments Final Action**

February 2022 Council Meeting

## **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan  
Other Presenters: Scott Miller (NMFS)  
Action Required: 1. Review the Final Analysis for EDR Amendments  
2. Select a preferred alternative

## **BACKGROUND**

At this meeting, the Council will consider final action recommendations for amendments to the Economic Data Report (EDR) collection programs, including whether to retain the data collections.

There are currently four EDR collection programs in place in the North Pacific under Federal regulations. These programs represent mandatory annual data reporting requirements for regulated entities participating in the BSAI Crab Rationalization fisheries, the BSAI American Fisheries Act pollock fishery, the BSAI Amendment 80 fisheries, and the GOA Trawl fisheries. The purpose of the EDR program is to gather data and information to improve the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's ability to analyze the social and economic effects of the catch share or rationalization programs, to understand the economic performance of participants in these programs, and to help estimate impacts of future issues, problems, or proposed revisions to the programs covered by the EDRs.

The action alternatives analyzed in this RIR would (1) revise authorizations for third party data verification audits, (2) eliminate blind data formatting for the crab EDR (note this alternative, as written does not apply to GOA trawl EDR, which the Council may wish to consider), (3) standardize data confidentiality procedures, (4) change the frequency of EDR information collections, or (5) remove individual EDR program requirements. The purpose and need for this action states that the Council intends to review whether some revisions are needed to improve the usability, efficiency, and consistency of the data collection programs in its responsibility and to minimize cost to industry and the Federal government. This includes evaluation of whether the value of EDRs to management outweighs the cost to industry and NOAA, and/or whether annual submissions of EDRs is necessary. Based on the description in the purpose and need statement, the Council could choose to modify either the design and/ or the purpose and need statement for the GOA Trawl EDR if it appears to be out of alignment with the Council's objectives.

At this meeting the analysis will be reviewed by the SSC, AP and the Council. While the SSC previously reviewed an Initial Review Draft of this analysis, since that time the Council has added alternatives that would potentially discontinue individual EDRs. Thus, the analysis has been expanded to evaluate the impacts of this decision. In addition, while ultimately a policy decision, the SSC advises the Council on providing the best scientific information available, and therefore may have additional perspective on the utility of these data collections.