

EDR Purpose and Need Statements

BSAI Crab Rationalization Program EDR, June 2002:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service shall have the authority to implement a mandatory data collection program of cost, revenue, ownership and employment data upon members of the BSAI crab fishing industry harvesting or processing fish under the Council's authority. Data collected under this authority will be maintained in a confidential manner and may not be released to any party other than staffs of federal and state agencies directly involved in the management of the fisheries under the Council's authority and their contractors.

A mandatory data collection program shall be developed and implemented as part of the crab rationalization program and continued through the life of the program. Cost, revenue, ownership and employment data will be collected on a periodic basis (based on scientific requirements) to provide the information necessary to study the impacts of the crab rationalization program as well as collecting data that could be used to analyze the economic and social impacts of future FMP amendments on industry, regions, and localities. This data collection effort is also required to fulfill the Council problem statement requiring a crab rationalization program that would achieve "equity between the harvesting and processing sectors" and to monitor the "...economic stability for harvesters, processors and coastal communities. Both statutory and regulatory language shall be developed to ensure the confidentiality of these data.

Any mandatory data collection program shall include:

A comprehensive discussion of the enforcement of such a program, including enforcement actions that would be taken if inaccuracies in the data are found. The intent of this action would be to ensure that accurate data are collected without being overly burdensome on industry for unintended errors.

BSAI Crab Rationalization Program EDR Amendments, Feb 2012:

As a part of its Bering Sea and Aleutian Island crab rationalization (CR) program, the Council developed a comprehensive economic data collection ("EDR") program to provide information to analysts to assess the effects of the CR program and identify problems that may require future amendments to the EDR program.

Council review of the EDR program, development of the EDR metadata through PNCIAC and testimony from the industry has resulted in the identification of substantial portions of the EDR data that are inaccurate. In addition, several elements are wholly or partially redundant with other existing data collection requirements, and some components may not further the Council's objectives. The cost to industry, both directly through data submission, and indirectly through cost recovery funding of program administration, outweigh the benefits of the resultant data and greatly exceed estimates provided in the initial analysis of the EDR program and in the accompanying regulatory analyses.

To address these problems, the Council intends to amend the EDR process so that the data collected is accurate, informative to the Council, not redundant with existing reporting requirements, and can be reported by industry and administered at a reasonable cost.

The Council expressly wants to limit the EDR to the collection of data that have been demonstrated, through the development of the EDR metadata, and other reviews of the data, to be sufficiently accurate. Data collection should be structured and specific elements identified, to minimize costs while maintaining accuracy and providing the greatest information value to the management decision making process.

As analysts develop, refine, and verify methods for accurately collecting additional informative data elements the Council will consider expansion of the data collection program to include those elements. This process can also inform the future Council action regarding other existing and future EDR programs.

Amendment 80 EDR, June 2006:

The purpose of the data collection program is to understand the economic effects of the Amendment 80 program on vessels or entities regulated by this action, and to inform future management actions. The data is needed to assess whether Amendment 80 addresses some goals in the problem statement to mitigate, to some degree, the costs associated with bycatch reduction. Data will be used by Council and agency staff, recognizing that confidentiality is of extreme importance.

Economic data collected under this program include employment data by vessel collected to determine the labor amounts and costs for the sector. In addition, revenue and cost data by vessel will be collected to evaluate trends in returns to the sector that may be compared with elements of the Amendment 80 program, such as bycatch reduction measures

Amendment 91 Chinook Salmon EDR, December 2009:

In April 2009 the Council approved Amendment 91 to the BSAI groundfish fishery FMP to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fleet. Under Amendment 91, the pollock fishery has the option of participating in a NMFS-approved Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) to access a higher hard cap than is available in the absence of an IPA. The IPAs provide a new and innovative method of bycatch management. A data collection program is needed in conjunction with Amendment 91 to understand the effects and impact of the IPAs. The data collection program will focus on: (1) evaluating the effectiveness of the IPA incentives in times of high and low levels of salmon bycatch abundance, the hard cap, and the performance standard in terms of reducing salmon bycatch, and (2) evaluating how the Council's action affects where, when, and how pollock fishing and salmon bycatch occur. The data collection program will also provide data for the agency to study and verify conclusions drawn by industry in the IPA annual reports.

To ensure that a full assessment of the program is possible, the data collection program should be implemented at the time Amendment 91 is implemented or as soon as practicable. To ensure that a full assessment of the program is possible from the start of the program, the data collection program should be separated into two phases, with a suite of data collection measures implemented at the time Amendment 91 goes into effect and sent to the Comprehensive Economic Data Collection Committee after IPAs have been fully developed and submitted to NMFS. The objective of this collection is to provide an improvement in the amount of data available to evaluate the effectiveness of incentives to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch under Amendment 91.

GOA Trawl EDR, February 2013:

The Council is interested in developing a data collection program that can be established prior to the implementation of a trawl catch share program in the GOA. This fast-tracked data collection would provide the Council and analysts with relevant baseline information that can be used to assess the impacts of a catch share program on affected harvesters, processors, and communities in the GOA.

In developing a data collection program that can be implemented quickly, efficiently, and with minimal burden on participating stakeholders, the Council intends to prioritize the collection of information that is relevant, reliable, and for which existing data sources do not exist. Given the potential for implementation of catch shares in both the Central and Western GOA, the scope of the analysis should include participants in both management areas.