

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Economic Data Reporting (EDR) Stakeholder Discussions

May 2020

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be holding a series of facilitated stakeholder discussions to explore potential revisions to the four existing EDR programs. EDR programs are currently implemented in four fisheries: the BSAI Crab Rationalization program, Amendment 80, GOA trawl fisheries, and the BSAI pollock fishery. The Council and the Council's Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) are engaging with fishery participants to develop a strategy to assess and improve EDR collections and improve their usability, efficiency, and consistency while minimizing their cost and burden to industry and the government.

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, these discussions will be held virtually. The date and times are to be determined. More information will be posted at: <https://www.npfmc.org/edr/>. Staff contact is Sarah Marrinan.

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the EDR stakeholder discussions is generate input and ideas that can inform the Council's consideration of potential revisions to the four existing EDR programs. Specifically, these discussions will help focus and inform the SSPT's development of alternatives for the Council's consideration.

The objectives include:

1. Discuss the Council's existing EDR programs, including their objectives, the use of EDR information to support decision-making, and the relationship between the data elements collected, economic performance metrics, and the management questions they can inform.
2. Generate ideas for improving the usability, efficiency, and consistency of existing EDR programs while minimizing their cost and burden to industry and the government.

Who will attend and how can the public participate?

The Council hopes to hear from a wide range of perspectives and all interested stakeholders are welcome to participate.

Interested participants may include those who complete EDR forms and participate in the fisheries with EDR requirements, including industry, community, and processing sector representatives; business owners, crew members, accountants and other employees involved in the completion of EDR forms. Additional participants may include Council members, Council staff, NOAA Fisheries staff, members of the Council's Social Science Planning Team (SSPT), and others who are familiar with EDR requirements and data.

What outcomes or next steps may result from the EDR stakeholder discussions?

While no decisions will be made during these discussions, they will generate specific ideas and suggestions that can help inform the Council and SSPT's consideration of revisions to the four existing EDR programs. A summary will be available following the meetings.

About the issue

The Council has initiated two actions related to the EDR programs. On one track, the Council has been considering an amendment package for some fine-scale changes to EDRs (i.e., limiting the use of third-party audits and modifying data confidentiality requirements to align them with Federal fishery requirements). However, that package was delayed to include broader consideration of the utility of the EDR programs, with alternatives that would change the frequency of the EDR collections or remove requirements to submit EDRs altogether. On a separate track, the Council had requested a holistic review of the EDR programs considering Council purpose and needs statements for the original data collections, and ways to improve the usability, efficiency, and consistency of existing economic data collection programs while minimizing the cost and burden to industry and the government.

The EDR stakeholder discussions are intended to inform both directives related to EDRs. The intended scope of the meetings will cover both the utility of EDR programs relative to their cost and burden, as well as details of what the ideal program could look like if economic data continues to be collected.