

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ALASKA INTERAGENCY ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0515

INTRODUCTION

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare and amend fishery management plans for any fishery in waters under its jurisdiction. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the crab fisheries in the waters off the coast of Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab and groundfish under the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMPs). Regulations implementing the FMPs appear at 50 CFR parts 679 and 680.

A new electronic reporting system, the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS), was implemented for use in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program (CR) crab fisheries in August 2005. NMFS requires that eLandings, the data entry component of IERS, be used as a single reporting system for commercial harvest and production of groundfish (including rockfish), halibut, and crab. eLandings allows processors and others to make all three required landings reports with a single reporting system to NMFS, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). NMFS collects groundfish harvest and production data for FMP species in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). ADF&G collects harvest data for groundfish species taken in the State of Alaska (State) waters, and has responsibility for some fisheries in the EEZ, such as lingcod and black rockfish. ADF&G and NMFS cooperatively manage the CR crab fisheries. NMFS and IPHC cooperatively manage Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Pacific halibut in both State waters and in the EEZ.

Using eLandings removes reporting duplications, and once implementation is complete, eLandings will make recordkeeping and reporting simpler. Additional benefits of the eLandings system include:

- Immediate verification of permits and vessel identification;
- Timely catch reports for management agency use;
- Options for processors to import or export catch and production information; and
- Significant reduction in data entry by management agencies and processors.

Processors report groundfish, crab, halibut, and sablefish landings on the eLandings website (<http://www.elandings.alaska.gov>) and print records of those landings in the format of an ADF&G fish ticket. Fish and shellfish are reported and printed as daily at-sea or shoreside production reports. Pacific halibut, sablefish, and crab IFQ information is printed in the format of an IFQ landing report. These paper copies are maintained for enforcement purposes.

Clients with no web access, such as the at-sea fleet, will use eLandings client desktop software and submit landing reports as e-mail attachments. The vessels use satellite communications

which may or may not include telephone, Internet, text messaging, e-mail, and e-mail attachment capabilities.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. **Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.**

eLandings is used to debit annual harvest and production amounts. eLandings is a more convenient, accurate, and timely method of reporting than current paper forms and logbooks, mainly because fishery participants do not have to enter data three times to comply with three different fishery management agencies. Additionally, eLandings provides continuous access to individual accounts by participants. These provisions make recordkeeping and reporting requirements less burdensome by allowing participants to more efficiently monitor their accounts and fishing activities.

eLandings is expected to strengthen the partnership between NMFS, ADF&G, and IPHC by minimizing the burden and maximizing the utility of information created, collected, maintained, used, disseminated, and retained. The use of eLandings incorporates the goals of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) by ensuring that information technology is acquired, used, and managed to improve performance of agency missions, including the reduction of information collection burdens on the public.

2. **Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.**

Hardware, software, and Internet connectivity

A User must obtain at his or her own expense hardware, software, and Internet connectivity to support Internet submissions of commercial fishery landings, production data, and discard or disposition data. The User will enter this information over the Internet at <http://elandings.alaska.gov> by logging on to the eLanding system or by using the desktop client software. Having worked with the industry over the years, it is known that all Users have a computer with these capabilities, and none will need to purchase one.

Joint and several liability¹

The crab IFQ permit holder, crab IFQ hired master, individual processor quota (IPQ) permit holder, IFQ cardholder, Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) cardholder, groundfish mothership operator, groundfish catcher/processor operator, groundfish shoreside processor manager, groundfish stationary floating processor (SFP) manager, and associated buying station are each required to provide accurate information to complete the landing report.

Computer or network failure

¹ The data submitters are both individually and collectively liable for the submission. Should there be a data submission failure, NMFS could act against any one of the submitters on an individual basis, or choose to name the all parties and hold all accountable in common.

Groundfish (including rockfish). In the event the eLandings system and/or the Internet is unavailable for a period longer than the required reporting time, contact NMFS Inseason Management at (907) 586-7228 for instructions. The User must have onsite or onboard prior to fishing activity an appropriate interim paper form on which to record data. A User who for any reason is unable to properly submit a landing report or production report through eLandings must enter the information onto the interim paper form for reference until network connections are restored. When the network is restored, the User must enter this same information into eLandings.

IFQ manual landing report for crab, halibut, and sablefish. If the Internet connection is unavailable or a change must be made to IFQ crab, halibut, and sablefish information submitted through the eLandings IFQ section (IFQ report), the User must complete an IFQ manual landing report to change the data and submit it by fax to (907) 586-7313. Manual landing instructions must be obtained from the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Juneau, AK at (800) 304-4846 (Select Option 1). The User must complete all questions on the manual report, even if only one item has changed. In addition, the following information is required: whether the manual landing report is an original or revised, name, telephone number, and fax number of individual submitting the manual landing report.

a. eLandings processor registration (formerly IERS processor registration)

Before using the eLandings system to report landings, production, discard or disposition data, the User must request authorization to use the system, reserve a unique UserID, and obtain a password by using the Internet to complete the eLandings Processor Registration at <https://elandings.alaska.gov/elandings/Register>.

Upon receipt of the registration information, eLandings verifies that all of the required information is provided in the correct format, and that the requested UserID is not already in use. After completing registration or creating a new operation, eLandings will generate a User Agreement Form. The User must print, sign, and fax the registration form to NMFS Restricted Access Management Program (RAM), eLandings Registration at fax number (907) 586-7354.

The User's signature on the registration form means that the User agrees to the following terms:

- o to use eLandings access privileges only for submitting legitimate fishery landing reports;
- o to safeguard the UserID and password to prevent their use by unauthorized persons; and
- o to ensure that the User is authorized to submit landing reports for the processor permit number(s) listed.

Upon registration acceptance, the User must print, sign, and mail the registration form to NMFS RAM, eLandings Registration, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; or fax a signed form to (907) 586-7354, Attn: eLandings Registration; or deliver the signed form by courier to NMFS RAM, eLandings Registration, 709 West Ninth Street, Suite 713, Juneau, AK 99801.

Confirmation will be emailed to indicate that the User is registered, authorized to use eLandings, and that the UserID and User's account are enabled.

Information collected on an eLandings registration is necessary to identify the participant and to provide authorization for the participant to use eLandings.

The User must enter the following information to obtain operation registration and UserID registration:

eLandings processor registration

Operation type

Operation name

ADF&G processor code and home port of shoreside processor, SFP, mothership, or catcher/processor

Federal permit number

If a shoreside processor or SFP, enter the Federal processor permit (FPP) number

If a catcher/processor or mothership, enter the Federal fisheries permit (FFP) number

If a Registered Buyer, enter the Registered Buyer permit number

If a Registered Crab Receiver, enter the Registered Crab Receiver permit number

If a buying station, enter the home port code

If a tender, enter the ADF&G vessel registration number

If a vehicle, enter the vehicle license number

Physical operation. If a buying station or custom processor, identify the associated processor

UserID registration for primary User

Requested UserID

Initial password

Company name and user name

City and state

Business telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address

Security question and security answer.

eLandings processor registration, Respondent	
Number of respondents	1,277
32 trawl groundfish catcher-processors	
78 longline or pot groundfish catcher/processors	
37 groundfish motherships	
58 groundfish shoreside processors or SFPs	
1042 IFQ halibut and sablefish and CDQ halibut registered buyers	
30 CR crab registered crab receivers	
Total annual responses	1,277
Frequency of response = 1	
Total burden hours	319 hr
Time per response (15/60 = 0.25) x 1277	
Total personnel cost (\$25/hr) x 319	\$7,975
Total miscellaneous cost	\$562
Photocopy = 0.05 x 1 x 1277 = 63.85	
Postage = 0.39 x 1277 = 498.03	

eLandings processor registration, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	1,277
Total burden hours	319 hr
Time per response (15/60 = 0.25)	
Total personnel cost (\$25/hr)	\$7,975
Total miscellaneous cost	0

b. eLandings landing report

Signature.

If delivery is groundfish (including rockfish), and reported by a shoreside processor or SFP, both the User of the shoreside processor or SFP and the operator of the delivering catcher vessel must sign the completed landing report (ADF&G fish ticket). If delivery is groundfish, and reported by a mothership, both the User of the mothership and operator of the delivering catcher vessel must sign the landing report (ADF&G fish ticket). If IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish delivery, the Registered Buyer and the IFQ cardholder or CDQ cardholder must sign the landing report (ADF&G fish ticket), IFQ receipt, and IFQ manual landing report. For an IFQ crab delivery, the Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) must sign the landing report (ADF&G fish ticket) and the IFQ receipt. When appropriate, the IFQ permit holder or hired master must also sign the landing report and the IFQ receipt.

Submittal time limits.

The User of a shoreside processor, SFP, or mothership must enter the indicated information for each groundfish delivery from a specific vessel by noon of the day following the delivery day. A landing of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish may commence only between 0600 hours, A.l.t., and 1800 hours, A.l.t., unless permission to land at a different time (waiver) is granted in advance by a clearing officer. A Registered Buyer must submit a completed IFQ Landing Report within 6 hours after all IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish are offloaded from a specific vessel and prior to shipment or transfer of said fish from the landing site. The User is required to submit a landing report within 6 hours after all crab that is offloaded from the vessel, except for IFQ crab harvested on a catcher/processor. In that case, the operator is required to submit an IFQ crab landing report to NMFS by Tuesday noon after the end of each weekly reporting period in which IFQ crab was harvested.

Printed report.

The User must print onsite, daily, through eLandings each landing report (ADF&G fish ticket), eLandings production report, and if an IFQ delivery, each IFQ receipt. The parties to the information must acknowledge the accuracy of the printed reports by signing them and entering date signed. The User must retain the printed copies and make them available upon request of NMFS observers and authorized officers.

Information collected on an eLandings landing report is necessary to identify the participant and to monitor the deliveries to the facility as well as discard and disposition of species.

Information entered automatically for eLandings landing report

eLandings autofills

- UserID
- Processor company name
- Business telephone number and e-mail address
- Port of landing
- ADF&G processor code and Federal permit number
- Unique landing report number assigned by eLandings upon completion of data entry

Information entered for each groundfish delivery to a shoreside processor or SFP

- Number of observers present
- Crew size_(including operator)

Delivery information

- Management program name and identifying number (if any)
- ADF&G groundfish statistical area of harvest

Date (mm/dd/yy) of delivery
Indicate (YES or NO) whether delivery is from a buying station
If the delivery is received from a buying station, indicate the name of buying station
If delivery is received from a catcher vessel
 Name and ADF&G vessel registration number of the vessel
Indicate whether a discard report was received from catcher vessel
 If NO, select reason provided by the catcher vessel for not supplying this copy
Indicate gear type of harvester
Total estimated hail weight (in pounds)
ADF&G fish ticket number assigned by eLandings

Landings (retained species)

Date of landing (mm/dd)
Weight (in pounds) by species code and delivery condition code

Discard or disposition information

Record discard or disposition information
 that occurred on and was reported by a catcher vessel
 that occurred on and was reported by a buying station
 that occurred prior to, during, and after production of groundfish at the shoreside processor or SFP
 when no groundfish are delivered but the blue DFL is submitted containing records of discards or
 disposition
If groundfish or prohibited species herring
 Species code
 Delivery condition code
 Disposition code
 Weight (in pounds)
If prohibited species halibut, salmon, or crab
 Species code
 Delivery condition code
 Disposition code
 Count (in numbers of animals)

Information entered for each groundfish delivery to a mothership

Number of observers present
Crew size (including operator)
Date (mm/dd/yyyy) that delivery was completed
If the delivery is received from a buying station, indicate the name of the buying station
Indicate whether a discard report was received from catcher vessel.
 If NO, select the reason provided by the catcher vessel for not supplying this copy
If delivery received from a catcher vessel, enter the ADF&G vessel registration number of the vessel
Total estimated round weight by species (pounds)
ADF&G fish ticket number of delivery assigned by eLandings
Management program name and identifying number (if any)
Gear type of harvester

Discard or disposition information

Record discard or disposition information
 that occurred on and was reported by a catcher vessel
 that occurred on and was reported by a buying station
 that occurred prior to, during, and after production of groundfish at the mothership
 when no groundfish are delivered but the blue DFL is submitted containing records of discards or
 disposition
If groundfish or prohibited species herring
 Species code
 Delivery condition code
 Disposition code
 Weight (in pounds)
If prohibited species halibut, salmon, or crab
 Species code
 Delivery condition code
 Disposition code

Count (in numbers of animals)

Information entered for each IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish delivery

NMFS person ID of User
Date (mm/dd) of the landing
Location of the landing (port code)
Permit number of the IFQ cardholder or CDQ halibut cardholder and permit number of Registered Buyer receiving the IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut
Harvesting vessel's ADF&G vessel registration number
Gear code used to harvest IFQ species or CDQ halibut (as reported by the IFQ cardholder or CDQ halibut cardholder)
ADF&G fish ticket number(s) for the landing (after the initial eLandings report is submitted, eLandings assigns an ADF&G fish ticket number to the landing report)
ADF&G statistical area of harvest (as reported by the IFQ cardholder or CDQ halibut cardholder)
If ADF&G statistical area is bisected by a line dividing two IFQ regulatory areas, provide the IFQ regulatory area of harvest reported by the IFQ cardholder or CDQ halibut cardholder
Except as indicated below, initial accurate scale weight(s) (in pounds) made at the time of offloading for IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut sold and retained (where retained includes: fish intended for personal use, fish weighed and reloaded for delivery to another processor, and fish landed but rejected at the dock by the Registered Buyer)
Species codes, delivery condition code, and disposition code for each ADF&G statistical area of harvest
Exception. Accurate weight of IFQ sablefish processed product obtained before the offload may be substituted for the initial accurate scale weight described above, at time of offload if the vessel operator is a Registered Buyer reporting an IFQ sablefish landing
Indicate whether initial accurate scale weight is given with or without ice and slime
Indicate whether IFQ halibut is incidental catch concurrent with legal landing of salmon or concurrent with legal landing of lingcod harvested using dinglebar gear

Information entered for each IFQ crab delivery

RCR permit number and IFQ permit number, and IPQ permit number, as appropriate
ADF&G vessel registration number of the delivering vessel
Date (mm/dd) fishing began
Date (mm/dd) of the IFQ crab landing
ADF&G fish ticket number (automatically supplied)
If a shoreside processor or SFP, type of processing operation; enter port code from Tables 14a or 14b to part 679
If a catcher/processor, enter operation type from Table 14c to part 679
ADF&G statistical area of harvest reported by the IFQ permit holder
Species code of catch from Table 2 to part 680
Delivery-condition codes of catch from Table 3a to this part
Number of crab retained and sold condition code, product type, size/grade, and sold pounds
Scale weight of deadloss (in pounds) and scale weight of crab retained for personal use (in pounds)

Information entered for IFQ crab custom processing landings. In addition to the information required above for an IFQ crab delivery, if custom processing IFQ crab, enter the ADF&G processor code of the person for which the IFQ crab was custom processed.

eLandings landing report, Respondent	
Number of respondents	1,277
32 trawl groundfish catcher-processors	
78 longline or pot groundfish catcher-processors	
37 groundfish motherships	
58 groundfish shoreside processors or stationary floating processors	
1042 IFQ halibut and sablefish and CDQ halibut registered buyers	
30 CR crab registered crab receivers	
Total annual responses	57,080
32 x 200 = 6400 trawl C/P receiving or	

ADF&G processor code
 User name
 email address
 Telephone number

In addition, the User must enter the following information:

Reporting date (mm/dd)
 Number of observers
 Printed name and signature of the manager
 Indicate if no production occurred

Product information

Whether harvested in GOA or BSAI
 Product by species code, product type, and product code
 Product weight in pounds

Catcher/processor or mothership information entered for eLandings production report

eLandings autofills

FFP number
 Company name
 ADF&G processor code
 User name
 email address and telephone number
 Week-ending date

In addition, the User must enter the following information:

Reporting date (mm/dd)
 Crew size (including operator)
 Operator printed name and signature.
 Indicate if no production occurred.
 Federal reporting area where harvest occurred and any special management area information, if appropriate.

Product information

Product by species code, product type, and product code
 Product weight in metric tons

Gear type

If a mothership, ADF&G fish ticket numbers issued to catcher vessels at delivery

eLandings production report, Respondent	
Number of respondents	205
32 trawl groundfish catcher-processors	
78 longline or pot groundfish catcher/processors	
37 groundfish motherships	
58 groundfish shoreside processors or stationary floating processors	
Total annual responses	41,000
32 x 200 = 6400 trawl C/P receiving or processing days/processor/year	
78 x 200 = 15,600 longline C/P receiving or processing days/processor/ year	
37 x 200 = 7,400 MS receiving or processing days/processor/year	
58 x 200 = 11,600 SS or SFP receiving or processing days/processor/year	
Total burden hours (35/60=0.58) x 41000 complete & print receipts (30 min) electronically submit (5 min)	23,780 hr
Total personnel cost (\$25/hr)	\$594,500
Total miscellaneous cost	\$4,100
Photocopy = 0.05 x 1 x 41,000 = 2050	
Internet = 0.05 x 41000 = 2050	

eLandings production report, Federal Government

Total annual responses	0
Total burden hours	0
Total personnel cost	0
Total miscellaneous cost	0

d. Catcher/processor offload report [removed and placed in new crab reports collection]

e. Eligible crab community organization (ECCO) annual report [removed and placed in new crab reports collection]

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

This collection is estimated to be 98% electronic. The eLandings registration, landings report, and production report are submitted by Internet data entry at <http://elandings.alaska.gov/>. For catcher/processors and motherships that do not have Internet service, a Desktop Client Application (software package) can be used to generate files for submitting via email.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

None of the information collected as part of this information collection duplicates other collections.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The proposed collection-of-information does not impose a significant impact on small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

This action is necessary to improve recordkeeping and reporting efficiency for processors and to improve the quality of data obtained by NMFS, ADF&G, and IPHC for fishery management purposes. Advances in technology, public expectations, Congress’s mandate in the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, and Administration policy all require that agencies of the United

States government move expeditiously to adopt electronic processes. If this collection were not conducted, NMFS fishery data collection would be set back.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

No inconsistencies occur in this collection.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

The NMFS Alaska Region published a proposed rule, RIN 0648-AT91, on June 29, 2007. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift will be provided under this program.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The information collected is confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*); and under NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Total estimated unique respondents: 1,277, an increase from 44. Total estimated responses: 100,317, an increase from 6,261. Total estimated burden: 57,762, an increase from 3,343 hr. Total estimated personnel cost: \$1,444,050, an increase from \$83,575.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

Total estimated miscellaneous costs: \$14,931, an increase from \$13,044.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Total estimated annual burden: 319, a decrease from 1,204 hr. Total estimated personnel cost: \$7,975, a decrease from \$30,100.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

1,233 participants in groundfish, IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, and CDQ halibut are added. Associated responses total 96,464. Associated burden hours total 55,531. Miscellaneous costs total \$9,135.

Two forms are removed and placed into a new collection for crab reporting forms, unchanged.

- The Catcher/processor offload report is removed; this form has: Total estimated respondents: 30. Total estimated responses: 2,400. Total estimated burden hours: 792. Total estimated personnel cost: \$19,800. Total estimated miscellaneous cost: \$7,200.
- The ECCO annual report for an ECC is removed; this form has: Total estimated respondents: 8. Total estimated responses: 8. Total estimated burden hours: 320 hr. Total estimated personnel cost: \$8,000. Total estimated miscellaneous cost: \$48.

Net response increase is 94,056 (96,464 new responses minus 2,408 responses removed). Net hourly burden increase is 54,419 (55,531 minus 1,112). Net cost increase is \$1,887 (\$9,135 minus \$,7248).

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The information collected will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

In accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements, the control number and the expiration date of OMB approval are shown on the opening screen.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

No exceptions to the certification statement are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.