

**CHANGE REQUEST
ALASKA CRAB REPORT FORMS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0570**

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE: A program change associated with a final rule, RIN 0648-AY28, “Groundfish Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Recordkeeping and Reporting,” to remove reporting requirements for a crab offload report and shoreside weighing requirements

The Crab Rationalization (CR) Program is a limited access system that allocates Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) crab resources among harvesters, processors, and coastal communities.

Currently, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires that: 1.) all crab individual fishing quota (IFQ) harvested and processed by catcher/processors be weighed at sea prior to processing and 2.) crab weights obtained from at-sea scales be audited at the point of offload. This requires a crab catcher/processor to offload all product shoreside at a designated port and weigh that product again on a scale approved by the state in which the CR crab is removed from the vessel.

In addition, the owner or operator of a catcher/processor that harvested and processed CR crab must complete a catcher/processor offload report at the time of offload of CR crab, and attach a scale printout showing gross product offload weight.

Advancements in at-sea reporting (eLandings, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 0648-0515) and the reliability of the at-sea motion-compensated hopper scales have changed the need for CR catcher/processor offload reporting. Catcher/processors use eLandings to report total harvest of CR crab to NMFS weekly while at sea, which provides NMFS with up-to-date accounting of total crab harvested.

NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) has the ability to conduct inspections and audits at the offload of any vessel. OLE has found eLandings reports, the printouts from the hopper scales showing the total weight of crab harvested, and their own auditing methods more useful for the monitoring and enforcement of CR quota accounting than the catcher/processor offload reports.

To avoid redundancy in accounting and to reduce costs to NMFS and the industry, NMFS removes the requirement to weigh all offloaded crab on a state-approved scale and removes the requirement to report this information to NMFS on a catcher/processor offload report.

This change request removes 2,400 responses, 792 hours and \$7,260 from this information collection.