



Economic Data Collection Program
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
FRAM Division
2725 Montlake Blvd E.
Seattle, WA 98112

Dear Mr. Charles Smith

Our records indicate that you may be required to complete an Economic Data Collection (EDC) questionnaire. All owners, lessees, and charterers of a catcher processor vessel that harvested whiting in 2010 as recorded in NMFS' NORPAC database are required to file an EDC. If you are required under the regulations (50CFR§ 660.114) to submit an EDC questionnaire, it must be completed and submitted to the Northwest Fisheries Science Center no later than September 1, 2011.

The EDC program is collecting information on the costs incurred and earnings generated from participants in the limited entry trawl fishery. Data collected will be used by NMFS to monitor changes in the economic performance of the West Coast groundfish trawl fishery, and will be used to meet the monitoring requirements for individual fishing quota (IFQ) managed fisheries. The data and related analysis will also be used to provide information to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council on changes in economic conditions within the fishery and the potential need for changes in fishery regulations associated with the IFQ program.

We appreciate the confidential nature of the data being collected by this survey. When publishing survey results, we will combine your responses with information provided by other participants, and report it in summary form so that responses for any individual vessel cannot be identified. Responses to this survey are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect the confidentiality of fishery statistics. If a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request is received for the data collected by this survey, we will seek to protect the confidentiality of the survey responses under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

After completing the questionnaire, you should return it to the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. The address is provided above. You will need to keep a copy of your completed questionnaire for your own records.

Sincerely,

Carl Lian
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