

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
GULF OF ALASKA CATCHER VESSEL & PROCESSOR  
TRAWL ECONOMIC DATA REPORT  
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0700**

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

**1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.**

In determining the scope or “universe” of the entities to be considered, NMFS generally includes only those entities that can reasonably be expected to be directly regulated by the proposed action.

Entity Type	Sample Size
15 shoreside processors	100%
2 stationary floating processors	100%
1 fish meal processor	100%
70 catcher vessels	100%

Groundfish harvest includes both the GOA and BSAI; therefore groundfish activity from both areas is included. The owner or leaseholder of a catcher vessel with an LLP license endorsed for catcher vessel operation type, and for trawl gear in the GOA during a calendar year must submit an Annual Groundfish Trawl Catcher Vessel Economic Data Report (EDR) for that calendar year.

The owner or leaseholder of a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor with a Federal Processor Permit (FPP) that processes groundfish caught by vessels fishing with trawl gear in the Western and Central GOA reporting area must submit an Annual Groundfish Shoreside Processor Economic Data Report (EDR) for that calendar year.

**2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

The sample selection method is an annual census of all 88 respondents, as any other sampling methodology would produce too few observations to estimate representative levels of cost,

earnings, and other outputs required for this collection. As this program is a mandatory collection, and valuable fishing privileges will be withheld if an EDR is not submitted, we anticipate a 100 percent response rate from the respondents.

Given that a maximum of 88 respondents will be participating in this fishery, it is not feasible to generate enough observations on any one of the variables without applying this collection annually. And, random sampling from this population is not a viable option for statistical reasons. Based upon the degrees of freedom and number of observations required for estimating the statistical relationship among the variables in this collection, data may be separately pooled to create a time-series of cross-sectional data in order to generate sufficient observations for economic and statistical analysis. The strata to be utilized in preparing analyses (either deterministic or statistical) of management actions for this group will depend on the specific questions of interest.

**3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

Each of the owners and leaseholders in the catcher vessel, shoreside processor, and stationary floating processor sectors is required to submit an annual EDR. Therefore, the response to mandatory data requirements should be very high. Those individuals who do not submit their EDR by the submission date will receive a follow-up phone call from Pacific States. If a solution cannot be reached at that point, their information will be referred to the OLE. Therefore, we are anticipating response rates of 95-100 percent.

Enforcement of the data collection program with regard to non-compliance has been different from enforcement programs used to ensure that accurate landings are reported. The economic data will not be used for in-season management; persons submitting the data are given an opportunity to correct omissions and errors before any enforcement action is taken.

Giving the person submitting data a chance to correct problems is considered important because of the complexities associated with generating these data. Only if the agency and the person submitting the data cannot reach a solution would the enforcement agency be contacted. The intent of this program is to ensure that accurate data are collected without being overly burdensome on industry for unintended errors.

**4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.**

Since the GOA Trawl Program has been under consideration, NMFS has conducted informal testing by meeting with EDR submitters to discuss ways in which the forms used to request information could be created and improved.

In addition, the Alaska fisheries Science Center (AFSC) held two half-day workshops to review the new GOA Trawl EDRs with members of industry.

**5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

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