

## GOA Trawl Economic Data Report Data Collection Project: Public outreach and survey pretest notes

Brian Garber-Yonts  
NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Draft GOA Trawl EDR forms for catcher vessels (CVs), onshore processors, and catcher/processors (CPs) were developed to implement collection of data elements specified per the NPFMC (Council) recommended Preferred Alternative (PA). Where appropriate, the structure and stratification of data elements and phrasing of reporting instructions were designed to replicate the design of existing EDR forms (BSAI crab, Amendment 80, and Amendment 91 EDRs). Data elements specified in the PA are as follows:

### CVs

CV data type	Data element	Alt 2. (PPA)	Notes
Employment	Payments to crew	Annual	GOA Trawl; after all vessel expense deductions
	Payments to captain	Annual	GOA Trawl; after all vessel expense deductions
	Crew license number/CFEC permit number	Annual	GOA Trawl; list of all crew members working on the vessel during the year
Costs	Trawl Purchases	Annual	Fishing gear leases, repairs, and purchases fully expensed in calendar year (e.g., nets, doors, cables)
	Excluder Purchases	Annual	Excluder leases, repairs, and purchases fully expensed in calendar year
	Fuel used - gallons	Annual	GOA trawl fisheries (gallons only)
	Fuel used - cost		GOA trawl fisheries (\$ only)
	Fuel Used fishing	Gallons/hr.	annual
	Fuel used steaming (empty)	Gallons/hr.	
	Fuel used steaming (loaded)	Gallons/hr.	

## Processors

Plant data type	Data element	Alt. 2 (PPA)	Notes
Labor	Average groundfish processing positions	monthly	all fisheries/areas/gear
	Processing employee man-hours	monthly by housing	all fisheries/areas/gear
	Total processing labor payments	monthly \$ by housing	aggregated across all fisheries
	Payments to foremen, managers, and other non-processing employees at the plant	\$ annual	all fisheries/areas/gear
Utility information from Kodiak processors	Water Purchased from Community Provider	gallons/month	groundfish plants
	Water Purchased from Community Provider	\$/month	groundfish plants
	Electricity Purchased from Community Provider	Kw hrs./month	groundfish plants
	Electricity Purchased from Community Provider	\$/month	groundfish plants

## CPs

### Additions to existing A80 EDR form

C/P Data type	Data element	Alt 2. (PPA)	Notes
Harvesting Crew (as defined by those required to have a license/permit)	Crew license number/CFEC permit number	aggregated across all groundfish fisheries	processing only employees are not included

Added Western/Central GOA stratum to reporting of fishing and processing activity days; existing A80 EDR stratifies activity day by A80 fishery and All other fisheries

It is anticipated that the reporting forms will be administered primarily on-line, with secure, password protected access to an interactive web application developed specifically for the data collection program. The web application will incorporate programmed validation logic to minimize submitter data entry errors and item non-response, and functionality designed to reduce submitter burden, including support for copy/paste entry of tabular data from users' spreadsheet/accounting software, and one-click access to online registries to enable the user to look up crew license/permit numbers using crewmember name and residence. Paper forms will be available by request to data submitters who wish to opt out of the online data submission.

Draft EDR forms were distributed via email to industry members for review on March 17, 2014. Outreach to Kodiak-based industry members was facilitated by representatives of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank (AGDB).<sup>1</sup> An informal focus group meeting on April 4,

<sup>1</sup> AGDB is a membership trade organization that includes the majority of both the shorebased processors located in Kodiak and catcher vessels home ported in Kodiak that participate in the Central GOA groundfish trawl fisheries.

2014 in Kodiak, AK<sup>2</sup> was held with owner/operators of CVs active in the GOA trawl fishery to test the preliminary Annual Trawl Catcher Vessel EDR (CV EDR) form design. Sections of the form were reviewed in succession with meeting participants to assess the clarity and completeness of instructions and the description of each variable, identify and resolve any points of ambiguity that could result in inconsistent interpretation of data elements to be reported by submitters, and determine whether typical recordkeeping systems as currently maintained by operators within the sector are likely to permit accurate and consistent data reporting without excessive submitter burden.

Plant managers at four groundfish processors in Kodiak were interviewed individually during April 3-4 to assess the preliminary Annual Shoreside Processor EDR form. The interviews lasted from 20-60 minutes, and in some cases included review of electronic plant operating and payroll records.

Note that the Annual Trawl Catcher/Processor (CP) EDR is a continuation of the ongoing Amendment 80 EDR data collection, expanded to include a limited number of additional vessels and collection of crew member license/permit numbers. As such, all elements specified in the PA and in the draft CP EDR form have been previously implemented, and no additional pretesting is considered necessary.

Participants in the focus group and interviews identified several issues with the draft forms, as summarized below:

#### CV EDR

##### Table 1: Vessel Characteristics, Fuel Consumption

- Fuel consumption rate, generally or by vessel activity, is not monitored or tracked systematically by most vessel operators, and would require purchase and installation of fuel flow meters that many (possibly most) vessels do not currently have. Participants generally agreed that the question should be dropped from the CV EDR.

##### Table 2: Vessel Expenses, Annual

- 
- Issues with fuel costs:
  - Fuel gallons and cost is likely to be somewhat more burdensome to report than for crab fleet or CPs due to greater frequency of fuel purchases
  - PA didn't specify whether lubrication costs to be included in fuel costs
  - Fuel gallons and cost will have to be extracted from itemization on fuel invoices to back out fuel and lubrication totals
- Specification of trawl gear and excluder costs as fully expensed doesn't adequately describe how to treat depreciated costs (note: when gear costs have been collected previously (original crab, A80 EDR), costs have been segregated into purchase costs of capitalized assets and expenditures on fully expensed items; unclear what is most consistent with Council intent)
- Excluders may be used for other purpose than halibut/salmon - should costs for excluders used for other purposes be included in trawl gear costs or excluded altogether.

---

<sup>2</sup> Eight individuals attended in person, 6 by telephone conference; meeting announcement is attached as appendix. Consistent with outreach efforts, the majority of focus group participants were bookkeepers and similar personnel likely to be tasked with completing and submitting EDR forms on behalf of vessel owners.

Table 3: Labor Payments to Captain and Crew

- Clarify whether GOA groundfish trawl fisheries includes or excludes GOA rockfish fishery; would be easier to report inclusive
- Possible to have more than 1 captain during the year; change reference to "captain" to plural, as appropriate
- Instructions should direct submitters to report total crew count/pay for all crew, including full- and part-time

Processor EDR

Table 1: Groundfish Processing Labor Cost

- Processing "positions" may be difficult to quantify; more straightforward to report total # of payrollees
- Clarify treatment of other hourly labor types that not part of the "processing line", i.e., dock, QC, case up, maintenance, and administrative personnel; supervisory personnel in each group are salaried, not hourly and should be treated as non-processing, as well as hourly admin staff
- Monthly totals for man-hours may reflect variation in shift-length over time and across processors; as reported, it will not be possible to differentiate variation due to expanding/contracting shift lengths and/or changes versus number of individual shifts; suggestion that alternative reporting structure would be to collect man-hours segregated by normal and overtime hours.
- Besides total employment and wages, note that employment stability is important performance metric, may not be identifiable with data as currently specified.

Table 3: Kodiak Processor Utility Consumption and Cost, by Month

- Waste disposal costs (solid waste, fish meal) are a significant portion of utility costs but are excluded from EDR reporting; note that fish meal disposal can act as capacity constraint during peak periods when meal plant backs up.

Meeting Invitation: GOA Groundfish Trawlers

Meeting Topic: GOA Groundfish Trawl Economic Data Report - Industry Outreach and Consultation

When: Friday, April 4, 2014, 1:00-2:30

Where: Kodiak Public Library (612 Egan Way), Alaskana Room.

Teleconference #: 1-800-791-2345, participation code 95539#.

Brian Garber-Yonts, economist with NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), will host an informal meeting to discuss plans for implementing the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's economic data collection initiative for the groundfish trawl fisheries in the Central and Western GOA, and the voluntary *GOA Groundfish Trawl Fishery Social Survey* currently being conducted by AFSC social science staff.

Topics to be addressed are:

- consultation with industry members that would be affected by the mandatory GOA Trawl EDR data collection
- NMFS' plans for conducting the data collection in collaboration with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- review draft EDR forms
- questions and suggestions to ensure the program works efficiently and with minimum cost and burden for submitters.
- Ongoing research by AFSC focused on social dimensions of the fishery and potential effects of bycatch management on individuals and communities

Copies of draft EDR forms will be available at the meeting or can be obtained by contacting Brian Garber-Yonts by email at [brian.garber-yonts@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.garber-yonts@noaa.gov), or by phone: (206) 920-8377. When posted, documents for the Council meeting will be available at <http://goo.gl/QU98Vb>. Information about the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Trawl Fishery Social Survey is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/GOATrawlSurvey>.

## Background

In October, 2013, the Council took final action on its preferred alternative to initiate a program to collect baseline economic and employment data from vessels and processors in the GOA groundfish trawl fishery to better understand the fishery before a bycatch management catch share program is implemented. The GOA Trawl Economic Data Report (EDR) Program would be a mandatory annual reporting requirement for owners and operators of trawl vessels and processors that harvest or process groundfish from federal fisheries in the Central and Western GOA. At the upcoming April Council meeting, NMFS will

present Draft EDR forms and a Draft Proposed Rule that would implement the data collection (agenda item [C-2](#)). Pending NMFS' publication of the final rule, the expected initial due date for EDR submission is June 1, 2015 for data pertaining to the 2014 fishery.

The EDR program would collect employment data from catcher vessels and catcher/processors that harvest GOA groundfish using trawl gear, and from processors that receive landings from the fishery. The data would be collected for NMFS by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). All data would be treated as confidential, and PSMFC would be required to anonymize all data before making it available to authorized agency analysts.

Catcher vessels would be required to report total annual aggregate payment to harvesting crew and aggregate payment to the captain(s), and provide a list of the crew license numbers or CFEC permit numbers for each harvesting crew member that worked on the vessel. Vessel operating cost data would be collected on fuel purchased, gear costs, and excluder purchases during the calendar year.

Catcher/processors operating in Central and Western GOA would submit EDRs under the ongoing program for the Amendment 80 C/P sector, with the addition of license numbers for harvesting crew.

Processors that take deliveries of trawl caught groundfish would be required to submit monthly data on water and electric utilities purchased from the community provider in Kodiak, monthly averages of numbers of groundfish processing positions, processing employee man-hours, and total processing labor payments. Processors would also be required to submit annual aggregate payments to foremen, managers, and other non-processing employees at the plant.