



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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D2 BSAI Crab eLogbooks

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Action Memo

Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Action Required: Discussion paper – review

BACKGROUND

NMFS requires daily fishing logbooks for vessels 60 ft length overall (LOA) or greater that participate in the Crab Rationalization (CR) Program fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). The logbooks that the crab vessel operators fill out are paper, as opposed to the electronic logbooks (eLogbooks) required to be filled out by the catcher processors participating in the hook-and-line Pacific cod fishery, American Fisheries Act (AFA) pollock, or Amendment 80 fisheries.

In April 2018, the Council received a proposal from the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC), requesting the Council and NMFS develop and authorize eLogbooks for the BSAI king, Tanner and snow crab fisheries. In response the Council initiated a discussion paper.

Much of the work on this discussion paper was not able to be completed as scheduled due to the shutdown of the Federal government. What is included is a description of the problem, the authority relating to logbooks, the use of the logbook in the BSAI crab fisheries, and a preliminary discussion of the costs and benefits of developing and implementing this system.