

**D-2 Discussion paper on economic data collection**  
**North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**  
**February 2010**

Using the process suggested in the February 2010 discussion paper on economic data collection, the Council tasks staff, with input from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), to begin a process of assessing and refining the crab EDR and Amendment 80 economic data collection programs. The purpose of this assessment is to identify refinements to these data collection programs so that they more effectively address Council objectives for these data collections consistent with the Magnuson-Steven Act and ensure that quality information is collected to support analyses to assess and meet management objectives. This process of assessment should be completed before new data collection programs are developed.

To begin this process, a discussion paper assessing the crab EDR should be developed first, followed by an assessment of the Amendment 80 program. Both discussion papers should focus on an assessment of the Council's purpose for establishing each data collection program. As framed by that purpose, and based on the written assessments of the existing collection by AFSC staff and industry, a summary will be developed evaluating each variable's informative value, accuracy, and collection cost. Using the assessment as a starting point, the Council's intent would be to then develop modifications to the data collection programs, as necessary.