

2006 Economic Data Report (EDR) Data Collection Difficulties

July 2007

Report Prepared by
Geana Tyler

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202-6413
503-595-3100

geana_tyler@psmfc.org ~ alaska_crab@psmfc.org ~ http://www.psmfc.org/alaska_crab

The purpose of this document is to provide information on elements in the 2006 Annual Economic Data Reports (EDRs) that caused confusion or created problems for submitters. At the current time, the data for EDRs has not been analyzed so it is unknown if there were problems with data that arose because of EDR design or instructions.

This document will address difficulties that were brought up in phone conversations by PSMFC staff with submitters, in-person conversations with submitters and examination of submitted EDRs. As of July 9, 2007, 35% or 52 of the 147 submitted EDRs had to be contacted to complete or correct information on submitted EDRs.

The 2006 Annual Catcher Vessel EDR was also made into a web version, allowing EDR submitters to log in using a password which was mailed to them and complete their requirement online. They were required to send in Certification Pages (3 & 4) because a signature was still required to meet the submission requirements. The web version of the EDR had 26 users; the Adobe PDF version had 22 and 61 vessel submitter sent back the booklet versions of the EDR. Processors were an even split between the Adobe PDF and booklet versions of the EDRs.

Catcher Vessel

Certification Pages

The most common element we had to deal with on the Certification Pages this year was verifying that leaseholder information was indeed for the vessel and not quota being leased. In most cases submitters filled out the leaseholder boxes for their quota. Adding the word "Vessel" to page 3 at the "Person completing this report section" as well as to the "Buyer/Leaseholder Information" box on the back might alleviate this problem. PSMFC staff also suggests to bold the words "catcher vessel leaseholder" in box 2 instead of just "leaseholder" as it currently is. Wording could be added that indicates it should NOT be leaseholder information for the quota could be added to clarify as well.

Table 1 BSAI Crab Activity Chart

We did not have much difficulty with this table, most often we had to explain that it was for crab landed on the vessel in the calendar year and to record the full fish ticket number, the prefix (E06) was left off in several EDRs.

Table 2 Crab Sales, Gross Revenue

The most common question we had on the pounds sold was if they should record the "live pounds sold" which we told them it was. The other question was how to record crab that was for personal use that was kept out but "landed". We explained that this table's pounds sold and deadloss needed to match the pounds recorded on the fish tickets in Table 1. Perhaps adding directions on what to do with "personal use" crab would benefit the submitters filling out this table.

Table 3.1 Catcher Vessel IFQ Allocation

Table 3.1 and 3.2 were still the most difficult tables of the EDR, we had most of the phone calls asking where they needed to put quota that was transferred on or off their vessel for no cost by the coop (overages), how to record personal use crab, crab they were paid by the processor to catch, inner-company leases and quota that was leased in 2006 but landed in 2007.

There were also basic questions on how to record crab landed by the vessel that was their own quota, where to record quota that was leased in or out and C-shares. It seemed it was easier for them to call for an explanation than to try and read through the instructions.

Directions should be added to explain how they should record catch that was transferred in/off their vessel for overages or businesses with multiple vessels, where no transfer of money took place as those were the most common of those questions. Also, information should be added to the directions explaining that pounds harvested needs to include deadloss.

Table 3.2 BSAI Crab CDQ and IFQ Lease Costs

The third paragraph down where it refers to section “6.1” should be changed to “5.1m”. A recommendation for this table would be to replace the “Number of Crew” column with “Number of C-shares” because people who didn’t record pounds and costs for C-shares still recorded the number of crew they had on board in that column. Some of the values in that column may reflect more the crew they had on board the vessel rather than the actual number of shares that made up that particular catch.

Table 4.1 Crab Harvesting Labor Costs

Information on what to do about post season payment adjustments should be added to the instructions.

Table 4.2 Labor Payment Details

No difficulties with this table.

Table 4.3 Revenue Shares

No difficulties with this table.

Table 4.4 BSAI Crab Crew Licenses

A majority of the problems with this table arose from trying to convince people that the crew license numbers are publicly available and that it is not confidential data they are recording. Once we had the information about ADF&G to give out to callers, more tables came in completed.

We called back all of the vessels that submitted EDRs before the list was available and asked for the crew names, which we added to the EDRs. If the contact information for

ADF&G as well as a statement that it is public record was printed in future versions of the EDR, there will be less problem with this table being completed correctly.

We did have a few crew members that we could not find numbers for, their first and last names were recorded instead.

Also, in the first paragraph, the reference to "Table 4.6" should be changed to "4.4".

5.1 Costs for BSAI Crab Fishing Only

The most common items we had to make calls for were the location where their bait was purchased and if the fuel costs included lube and fluids. Most everyone responded that they just didn't see those questions.

It may be necessary to consider adding a location for submitters to record moorage and storage as that is one of the more common costs listed under "5.1n.". Also cargo insurance could be added as a variable as it was pretty common written in item as well.

5.2 Annual Vessel Costs

"City and State:" should be changed to "Location code:" to be consistent with the rest of the EDR.

It may be necessary to consider adding a location for submitters to record annual moorage and storage as that is one of the more common costs listed under "5.2e.".

6. Annual Totals for All Fisheries

This table would benefit from a longer set of instructions because we had to make many calls on it. Need to note that the "Days at Sea" are for all the days the vessel is active and that gross revenue should not include income from leasing quota but can contain revenue from chartering and tendering. "Pounds Retained" should be changed to "Landed Pounds" because we still have people record a zero as they believe it means the pounds taken home for personal use. It should also explain that the pounds should not include tendering pounds.

2006 Annual Processor EDRs

PSMFC received very few calls from processors so all comments will be grouped under this general processor heading. In tables that are similar to the Catcher Vessel EDR the same questions and concerns were raised and addressed above.

Processor Certification Page

Another box should be added to the Certification pages where they can check off that they are the processor owner but had another company custom process their crab and didn't operate their own plant. This was the most common case we had this year, we asked them to either write a letter to mail along with the Certification Page or make a note on the Certification Page and return to us.

BSAI Crab Processing Activity

There appears to be two seasons that the processors are active for a given fishery so another “Dates Covered” location should be added to the tables.

BSAI Crab Fishery Activity

There appears to be two seasons that the processors are active for a given fishery so more rows should be added to the table.

Annual Totals for All Fisheries

FOB Revenues should specify that they are the gross value including sales from inventory as we had a few calls on this item.