

Staff Tasking: Omnibus action for recordkeeping and reporting

Council motion

October 8, 2025

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and alternatives for analysis.

Purpose and Need

The Council and NMFS have identified potential groundfish FMP amendments and regulatory revisions to recordkeeping and reporting requirements that may be considered to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase production within sustainable fisheries. The Council is also considering amending the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs to provide additional clarification on its intent for NMFS to use MSA Section 305(d) authority to take future actions.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: No action

The action alternatives are not mutually exclusive.

Alternative 2: Reduce regulatory burden on vessels that catch and process small amounts of groundfish by exempting 'small operators' from recordkeeping and reporting requirements for groundfish C/Ps.

Option 1: Exempt vessels less than 55 feet (ft) (16.8 meters (m)) in length overall.

Option 2: Exempt vessels participating in a fishery in which the State is exercising management authority in federal waters and process less than 10 mt (22,046 lb) a week.

Alternative 3: Remove the requirement for weekly production reports for at-sea processor vessels.

Alternative 4: Remove references to the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group and allocation.

Alternative 5: Add a framework mechanism to the FMPs to specify that NMFS should use MSA Section 305(d) for the following types of regulatory revisions to recordkeeping and reporting requirements:

- technical changes
- removing obsolete regulatory language
- streamlining procedures and requirements
- administrative actions

Alternative 6: Make housekeeping changes to remove obsolete or duplicative FMP language or to simplify the FMP so that modernization in recordkeeping and reporting could more easily occur under Section 305(d) in future.