



DEPARTMENT OF FISH
AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 16th, 1999

To: Neal Coenen

From: Jim Golden

Subject: EDCP status

Background:

The EDCP project was designed to sample the trawl fishery with observers and provide an estimate of discard and retained catch for groundfish species. On-board samplers or observers and/or EDCP logbooks were employed to obtain discard information on a tow-by-tow basis. When the project was designed, a decision was made to utilize ODFW logbook and fishticket databases to measure retained catch. Discard and retained catch thus would provide estimates of percent discard by major groundfish market categories.

Deliverables were to be a database that would allow summarization of discard rates by different fishing time periods, trip limits, and fishing strategies.

Data Base Preparation:

Observers were not able to estimate discard on 100% of the tows on an observed trip. As a consequence, fishticket files alone could not be used as a source of retained catch, and logbooks must be used to match observer discard data to retained catch on a tow by tow basis, for sampled tows. One possible remedy would be to provide a smaller database of only trips with 100% tow observation.

Some difficulties were encountered in preparing the ODFW logbook files for use to estimate retained catch. Discrepancies occurred between logbook data and observer data – in particular with time and date set records. It was felt that these errors and others needed to be corrected in the logbook files – and staff began doing so.

Market categories on fishtickets and logbooks compared with EDCP discard samples and logbooks are not consistent. Staff has been re-defining appropriate market categories to ensure consistency.

Status Report:

The primary programming to match up different databases is nearly done. A few more routines are needed to integrate files and will take less than a week to accomplish.

All of the Date/Time problems have been fixed in the 1996-98 logbook files. Additional errors and inconsistencies (market category and species pounds) are being corrected.

If no additional significant errors occur in matching up and error checking discard and retained databases, the final data set should be ready by sometime in September.

If OTC with holds payment, we are prepared to continue work for at least three months after the beginning of the new biennium to complete the project.