

TRAWL LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS

At the November 2018 meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [informed](#) the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) that the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) was considering changes to the State's commercial fishery logbook regulations. In December 2018, the Commission repealed state commercial fishery logbook requirements for Federal fisheries, including groundfish trawl. This change will be effective July 1, 2019.

Trawl logbooks have long been required via state regulation, yet, at present, there is no existing Federal requirement for trawl vessels to complete and submit logbooks. While Oregon and Washington continue to provide logbooks, the loss of logbook data from California would be significant to those who utilize the trawl logbook data set for analyses. Logbook data are used in many critical activities necessary in the Council's decision-making process, such as stock assessments, specific area management, and bycatch interactions.

In the past, the Council has made it clear that collection of fishery dependent data was necessary for the implementation of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP). In [Amendment 4](#) (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1), the Council prepared for the potential requirement of a Federal logbook should State systems not provide adequate data, stating:

Catch, effort, biological and other data necessary for the implementation of this FMP (i.e. PCGFMP) will continue to be collected by the states of Washington, Oregon, and California under existing state data collection provisions. Federal reporting requirements will be implemented only when the data collection and reporting systems operated by the state agencies fail to provide the Secretary with statistical information for adequate management (6-16)

To address the issue, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed regulations (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2) to create a Federal requirement for vessels operating under a limited entry trawl permit off the three West Coast states (California, Oregon, and Washington) to continue completing and submitting the existing logbook form (Agenda Item I.3.a, Attachment 3). This regulation will allow for a Federal data collection program to be in place for California at present, as well as provide coverage for Oregon and Washington should either state remove its logbook requirement in the future. It is anticipated that this solution would avoid the creation of substantial gaps in the trawl logbook dataset.

In order to complete the process for this rule, NMFS requests that the Council consider a federally implemented and administered trawl logbook program under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act §402(a)(1) (Agenda Item 1.3, Attachment 4) which states:

If a Council determines that the additional information would be beneficial for developing, implementing, or revising a fishery management plan or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Council may request that the Secretary implement an information collection system (p. 152)

This agenda item provides the Council the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to data collection programs, review the existing trawl logbook program, and consider recommending that NMFS formally implement and administer this trawl logbook information collection system.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider reaffirming the Council’s intent under Amendment 4 regarding Fishery Data Collection Programs.**
- 2. Consider implementation of a Federal Trawl Logbook Program.**
- 3. Consider recommending Federal Data Collection Program for Trawl Logbooks to NMFS.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1: Excerpt from Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.
2. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2: NMFS Trawl Logbook Program Regulation.
3. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3: Trawl Logbook Form.
4. Agenda Item 1.3, Attachment 4: Excerpt from MSA Sec. 402(a)(1).
5. If received, public comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| I.3 | Trawl Logbook Requirements | Todd Phillips |
| | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | b. Public Comment | |
| | c. Review the Trawl Logbook Program and Provide Recommendations to NMFS on a Federal Data Collection Program | |

PFMC
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