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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Trawl Rationalization Program 2009 & 2010 Economic Data Collection (EDC) Forms due September 1

EDC Background Information

In the next few weeks the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFS) will be sending out questionnaires for the Economic Data Collection (EDC) program. The EDC Program is part of the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program, also known as trawl rationalization. Under this new program, participants in the fishery are required to provide economic information. The first EDC questionnaires are due September 1, 2011, and cover information for 2009 and 2010. These questionnaires are for the baseline period, and the information will be used as a benchmark for comparison to future years. There are separate forms for catcher vessels, motherships, catcher/processors, and first receivers/shorebased processors. If you are required to submit a questionnaire for 2009 and 2010, a separate questionnaire must be completed for each year.

EDC Data

The EDC data will be used by NWFS economists to evaluate the catch share program. Aggregated data and analyses will be compiled into a report and presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. This data will help evaluate whether the goals of the catch share program have been met and help comply with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act for catch share program evaluation.

The data submitted through the EDC program is confidential under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and

NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. The individual level data will only be studied by NMFS employees or their contractors, and everyone who works with this data is required to sign a confidentiality agreement. When reporting the data, individual responses will be aggregated and only reported in summary form so that individual responses cannot be identified.

Thanks and Additional Information

NOAA Fisheries greatly appreciates the assistance of the many people who participated in the development of the questionnaires and EDC program. We received input and considered comments from industry members and their representatives, NGOs, and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important matter. We are available to provide any assistance you may require. We have set up a webpage with EDC forms, frequently asked questions and other useful information. Please visit: http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fram/economic_data.cfm

NMFS Trawl Program website:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm>

Groundfish E-mail Group

Subscribe to "wgroundfish" by visiting the following website: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm> and clicking "sign up".