



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 2008

Dear 2007 Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit Holder:

Enclosed is an application for a Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit for the 2008/2009 crab fishing year. To insure timely issuance of Crab Harvesting IFQ for the upcoming crab seasons, ***we must receive your completed application by August 1, 2008.***

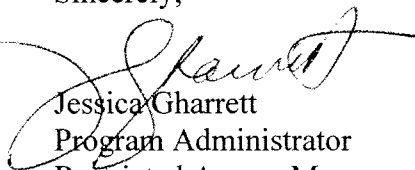
In addition to receiving your application by August 1, we must also be able to verify that you and each prospective cooperative member have submitted any required Economic Data Reports (EDRs) and paid all crab cost recovery fee liabilities. If the cooperative or any members are subject to either requirement, but have not yet fulfilled it, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Please note: The completed application for a Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit must include an Annual Application for Crab IFQ/IPQ Permit application signed by each coop member. On that application the member must list the name of the cooperative(s) he is joining for each crab quota fishery. Additionally, the coop member must indicate whether or not he/she is affiliated with any person holding processing quota share. Failure to complete that or any other section of the application will result in delays in the issuance of annual IFQ to the cooperative.

Annual IFQ and IPQ permits will be issued for each crab quota fishery after the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is announced by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game. The first IFQ/IPQ annual permits to be issued will be for the Western and Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fisheries (WAG and EAG, respectively), which are anticipated to open in mid-August. We do not expect to issue the annual IFQ/IPQ for other fisheries until early October.

If you have any questions about the enclosed form, or about the Crab Rationalization program generally, please give us a call. We can be reached toll-free at 1-800-304-4846 (select option 2) or via facsimile at 907-586-7354. NMFS permit applications and instructions are available from RAM or on our Internet web site at: www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov. Our e-mail address is RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Jessica Gharrett
Program Administrator
Restricted Access Management

Enclosure

