



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

January 2008

Dear Quota Share Holder:

This letter is early notice of an anticipated change to the Pacific halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program. According to records maintained by the Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program, you were initially issued Quota Share (QS) but you have never used any of your annual IFQ permits to make landings, nor have you ever participated in transfers of any QS or IFQ to or from another person. Therefore, we consider you to be an "inactive" QS holder.

Background

In response to constituent inquiries about IFQ program administration costs and unfished IFQ, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has recommended that NMFS implement regulations that would revoke all QS held by "inactive" QS holders. This action would occur only after: (1) publication in the Federal Register of a proposed rule inviting public comment and a final rule which would implement this proposed regulation change, if it is approved; (2) ample notice to the public about this regulation change; and (3) an opportunity for you to request in writing that your QS not be revoked.

Program Development

We are developing regulations to implement the Council's recommendations. At present, we have no definite implementation schedule, but this change would not be effective before at least 2009. This letter is just a notice that program development has begun. If you act to fish your QS or transfer it to another person before this program is implemented, we would no longer consider you "inactive." On the other hand, if you do not take some action to change your inactive status, or *at the appropriate time* provide notice in writing to RAM of your interest in retaining your QS, your QS could be permanently revoked without compensation. Note that we do not assist Quota Share holders in arranging transfers. You may wish to check trade journals for advertisements and for brokers who provide these professional services.

Again, this letter is notice of pending IFQ program changes; your QS would not be revoked until new regulations are approved, published, and effective and you are provided written opportunity to respond. If you have further questions about this proposed change to the IFQ program, please contact NMFS/RAM at: (toll-free) 800-304-4846 option 2.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gharrett
Acting Program Administrator
Restricted Access Management, Alaska Region

