

May 10, 2006

Dear Crab Buyers:

This is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published the final rule regarding exemptions for crab landed under the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program from the fee regulations for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fishing Capacity Reduction Program. NMFS will separately contact and issue full refunds to crab buyers of any fees paid on CDQ crab landings.

This final rule also provides that crab buyers disburse fee collections to NMFS not later than the 7th calendar day of each month, and requires that the annual report from each crab buyer shall be submitted to NMFS by July 1 of each calendar year. The fee regulations otherwise remain unchanged. The rule is effective on June 9, 2006.

We have enclosed a copy of the final rule, published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2006 (71 FR 27209). We have also enclosed a copy of the annual report which should be filled out and submitted to NMFS by July 1, 2006. This information is also available on our website at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mb/financial_services/buyback.htm.

Please use the following telephone numbers or e-mail addresses to call or write us if you have any questions:

PERSON	NUMBERS/ADDRESS	
	TELEPHONE (301) 713-2390	E-MAIL
Patrick Wilbert	Extension 210	patrick.wilbert@noaa.gov
Meredith Walz	Extension 206	meredith.walz@noaa.gov
Mike Sturtevant	Extension 212	michael.a.sturtevant@noaa.gov

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Cooper, Acting Chief
Financial Services Division