



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 1315 East-West Highway
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
 THE DIRECTOR

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 K7C
 Snow Crab
 Disaster
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JAN 22 2003

The Honorable Simeon Swetzof
 Mayor of Saint Paul
 P.O. Box 901
 Saint Paul Island, Alaska 99660

Dear Mayor Swetzof:

This letter is to follow up on your request to Secretary Evans for continuation of a previously determined commercial fishery failure for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery.

The National Marine Fisheries Service determined on November 13, 2002, that the situation that was the basis for commercial fishery failure determinations in May 2000 and November 2001 continued in 2002 to constitute a commercial fishery failure under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Although this action may clear the way for assistance, the actual award of assistance to address the continuing commercial fishery failure depends on an appropriation from the Congress for this purpose. Furthermore, if Federal funds are provided, the Federal share of the cost of any activity cannot exceed 75 percent.

I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

cc: ES-GC-EXSEC F/CU F/GC F/CS F/CS2 E/AKR

*Followup to 77345 - 3283 -
 21634*

