



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

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR

JUL 19 2007

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

Dear Mayor Swetzof:


This is in response to your October 23, 2006, letter requesting a continuation of a commercial fishery failure that was previously determined for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery.

On April 13, 2007, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that the situation continued in 2005 and 2006 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 continued assistance, the actual award of assistance to address the continuing commercial fishery failure depends on an appropriation from Congress for this purpose. Furthermore, if federal funds are provided, the federal share of the cost of any activity cannot exceed 75 percent.

If you have further questions, please contact Robert D. Mecum, Acting Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region, at (907) 586-7221.

Sincerely,


William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.



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THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES

