



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

November 2008

**To: *Federal Fisheries Permitholders
Federal Processor Permitholders***

Dear Permitholders:

Enclosed are the application materials necessary for renewal of your Federal Fisheries or Federal Processor permit(s). Your current Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) or Federal Processor Permit (FPP) expires **December 31, 2008**.

The enclosed form(s) must be completed, signed, and returned to our office for processing; you cannot commence fishing or processing activities until you have received your new permit. **Please allow at least ten working days for processing of applications.** Please note that we may request evidence supporting any changes to vessel ownership, processing plant ownership, or vessel characteristics such as length overall. If you are a new owner of a processing plant, or if your vessel has been modified, please provide evidence supporting the requested changes with your application to avoid processing delays.

Because this is a renewal year we anticipate we will be receiving several hundred applications for processing before January 1, 2009. Therefore, we urge you to submit your application early and not to wait until right before you intend to fish to ensure that you receive the new permit on time. You may FAX your permit application to us at (907) 586-7354. Unfortunately, we are unable to FAX the permit back to you since it is required by law that you have the original permit on board when you are fishing, or receiving or processing fish.

Participation in the Aleutian Islands Harvest Limit Areas (HLA) Atka Mackerel Fisheries

For those wishing to participate in the Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel directed fisheries in the HLAs, be advised that special permitting requirements, and certain deadlines, pertain, as follows:

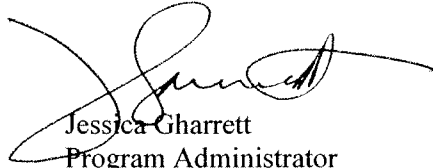
If you wish to participate in the "A" season, you must register to do so, by the first working day after **January 1, 2009**.

In 2008 NMFS implemented regulations under Amendment 80 for the Atka mackerel fisheries in the Aleutian Islands. Three trawl sectors will have separate allocations of HLA Atka mackerel: BSAI trawl limited access sector (trawl catcher vessels and AFA catcher/processors), Amendment 80 cooperatives, and the Amendment 80 limited access sector. NMFS plans to operate a separate lottery for each sector. Vessels registering to participate in the HLA directed fisheries are prohibited from participating in any groundfish directed fishery, other than Atka mackerel, during the opening of the first HLA directed fishery assigned to the vessel in a season, as specified in 50 CFR § 679.7(a)(19).



If you need application assistance, please call RAM 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 <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Gharrett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Gharrett
Program Administrator
Restricted Access Management

Enclosures