



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 2011

Dear Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit Holder:

Enclosed is an application for a Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit for the 2011/2012 crab fishing year. To insure timely issuance of Crab Harvesting IFQ for the upcoming crab seasons, ***we must receive your completed application by August 1, 2011.*** We regret that we cannot accept applications by e-mail.

In addition to receiving your application by August 1, we must also be able to verify that you and each prospective cooperative member have submitted any required Economic Data Reports (EDRs) and paid all NMFS fee liabilities. If the cooperative or any members are subject to either requirement, but have not yet fulfilled it, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Please note: The completed application for a Crab Harvesting Cooperative Permit must include an Annual Application for Crab IFQ/IPQ Permit application signed by each coop member. On that application the member must list the name of the cooperative(s) he is joining for each crab quota fishery. Additionally, the coop member must indicate whether or not he/she is affiliated with any person holding processing quota share. Failure to complete that or any other section of the application, or discrepancies between applications submitted by cooperatives and quota holders will result in delays in the issuance of annual IFQ to the cooperative.

You will be able to verify that NMFS/RAM has received your application by late June or early July through a new online report that soon will be accessible on our website at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm>. This report will be updated daily. **This report is not an indication that the application is complete; only that it was received by NMFS/RAM.**

Annual IFQ and IPQ permits will be issued for each crab quota fishery after the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is announced by the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game. The first IFQ/IPQ annual permits to be issued will be for the Western and Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fisheries (WAG and EAG, respectively), which are anticipated to open in mid-August. We do not expect to issue the annual IFQ/IPQ for other fisheries until early October.

If you have any questions about the enclosed application or about the Crab Rationalization program generally, please give us a call. We can be reached toll-free 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: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>. Our e-mail address is RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gharrett

Program Administrator

Restricted Access Management

Enclosure

