



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 2008

Dear BSAI Crab IFQ/IPQ Permit Holder:

Enclosed with this letter are your annual Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) or Individual Processing Quota (IPQ) permits for the rationalized crab fisheries that will open this year (Bristol Bay Red (BBR) king, Bering Sea Snow (BSS), Eastern Bering Sea Tanner (EBT), Western Bering Sea Tanner (WBT), and/or St. Matthew Island blue (SMB) king crab fisheries). These permits identify the IFQ or IPQ that has been issued to you for the 2008-2009 crab fishing year, under the provisions of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization (CR) Program.

Note that several requirements govern the use of these permits, including:

- A copy of the IFQ permit must be on board the harvesting vessel;
- A copy of the IPQ permit must be present at the facility at which the crab are received;
- All crab harvested under an IFQ permit must be delivered to a person holding a valid Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) permit;
- All Class "A" IFQ (as identified on the permit) must be delivered to an RCR that holds an equal amount of unused IPQ;
- IFQ harvests must be delivered within the region for which the permit is designated, except that Captain/Crew IFQ is exempt from this restriction.

A variety of other requirements apply to fishing and processing crab under the CR program; additional information can be obtained on our web site or by contacting our office (see below).

Additionally, some State of Alaska requirements also apply. Questions about State permitting may be directed to the State Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission at (907) 789-6150. For inseason crab management information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dutch Harbor office at: (907) 581-1239.

New web information and online services:

- New online RAM database reports are available to holders of harvester or processor quota share. Registered Crab Receivers can receive a list of their crab landings, and quota holders can receive a list of their quota holdings. Use the secure login to NMFS/RAM online applications, at:
<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/ram/webapps.htm>
- RAM is now posting all "bulk" correspondence (such as this cover letter) and some other documents on a web site. See:
<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/ram/letters/default.htm>

Generally applicable CR Program changes in effect for 2008-2009:

- Expected high TACs for some fisheries this year could have two results in BBR and/or BSS fisheries: (a) "conditional" PQS issued to Blue Dutch may result in IPQ; and (b) a regulatory cap on IPQ issuance may limit the amount of Class A CVO IFQ



issued specifically for the BBR fishery. In this latter case, TAC for CVO QS would result in 90% Class A and 10% Class B IFQ so that the total amount of Class A IFQ is not greater than the IPQ issuance limit (e.g., NMFS will not issue more than 18,000,000 pounds of Class A IFQ or IPQ in the BBR fishery). Any remaining CVO IFQ that would have been issued as Class A IFQ, but which is over the Class A IFQ limit would be issued as a new type of IFQ that may delivered to any RCR within the region for which the QS was designated. This new type of IFQ does not require matching with an RCR holding IPQ, and therefore, would not be subject to the requirements of the arbitration system. This new IFQ which is similar to Class B but has regional delivery requirements will be designated as "Class "R" IFQ on a separate IFQ permit to distinguish it from other CVO IFQ.

- Crew QS has been exempted from regional delivery requirements from the 90:10 split into Class A and Class B IFQ, and from the arbitration system, restrictions which were to have started July 1, 2008.
- Crew IFQ (CVC and CPC types) retained by individuals (i.e., not assigned to a cooperative) may no longer be leased to other individuals as of July 1, 2008. IFQ assigned to a cooperative may be leased to another cooperative through an inter-cooperative transfer.

Finally, regulations to authorize electronic transfers for cooperatives and IPQ holders, post-landing transfers for IFQ and IPQ permit holders, and to modify the calculation of IPQ use caps when crab are "custom processed" are in development within NMFS. No implementation schedules for these actions can be predicted at this time.

Please direct any questions that you may have about these permits to the Alaska Region of NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program as follows:

Telephone: 800-304-4846 (press "2")
907-586-7202 (press "2")
Facsimile: 907-586-7354
E-Mail: RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov
Web Site: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/ram/>

Best wishes for a productive season.

Sincerely,



Jessica Gharrett
Program Administrator
Restricted Access Management

Enclosures