



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

March 30, 2009

Dear Quota Share Holder:

This letter is notice of a pending IFQ program change. According to our records, you were issued Quota Share (QS) at the start of the Pacific halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) program in 1995. Our records also indicate that you have never used any of your annual IFQ permits to commercially harvest halibut or sablefish and you have not transferred any QS or IFQ to or from another person. Therefore, we consider your QS to be "inactive."

We are developing regulations that, if approved, would revoke inactive QS. You could prevent revocation of your inactive QS by taking one of the following actions: (a) transfer some or all of your QS to another person; (b) transfer additional QS from another person to you; (c) use your annual IFQ permit by fishing for halibut or sablefish; or (d) at the appropriate time, submit a letter to the Restricted Access Management Program, NMFS Alaska Region, informing us of your interest in continuing to hold these inactive QS.

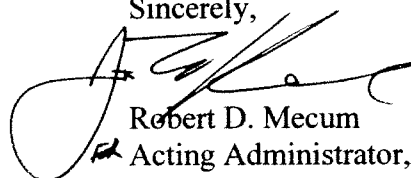
The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended in June 2006 that we implement regulations to revoke QS held by inactive QS holders. In February 2009, the Council again considered this issue and decided not to change its original recommendation. Therefore, we are proceeding with development of regulations that, if approved, would change the IFQ program to revoke inactive QS. Development of regulations involves publication of a proposed rule notice in the *Federal Register* inviting public comment, consideration of the comments and, if the action is approved, publication of a final implementing rule. This regulatory process is not likely to be completed before 2010. We will later provide public notice of this proposed change and opportunity for you to request in writing that your QS not be revoked.

This letter is an advance notice that we have started working on proposed regulations that would implement the Council's recommendation. If this recommendation is approved and implemented as proposed and you take no action to prevent your inactive QS from being revoked as outlined above, then your QS could be permanently revoked without compensation.

Note that there are always persons interested in acquiring QS. We do not assist QS holders to arrange transfers but we provide lists of QS holders with business mailing addresses, and an updated copy of the "Inactive Persons" list on our Internet web site, under the heading "Licenses Issued" on this web page: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/ram/ifqreports.htm> You also may wish to check trade journals for advertisements and with brokers who provide these professional services.

If you have further questions about this proposed change to the IFQ program, please contact the Restricted Access Management Program at: (toll-free) 800-304-4846 option 2.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum

Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

