



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 29, 2015

Dear Harvesters and Buyers/Processors of Oregon Dungeness crab:

In 2005, harvesters in the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery agreed to repay a \$35.7 million loan to fund a fishing capacity reduction (buyback) program. The program was originally composed of seven sub-loans for pink shrimp (CA, OR, and WA), Dungeness crab (CA, OR, and WA), and groundfish species.

The Oregon Dungeness crab sub-loan will be repaid in full upon receipt of buyback fees on landings through December 31, 2014. Please see the enclosed Federal Register Notice for additional information.

If you have not submitted buybacks fees for any Oregon Dungeness crab landings through **December 31, 2014, please immediately submit the fees owed.** The fees must be received by NMFS **no later than February 14, 2015.** Fees submitted to NMFS for the December 2014 landings may be subject to a partial refund, based on landing data, once we complete the final reconciliation. For example, if fees received for landings through December 23, 2014 pay the loan balance in full, NMFS will refund fees paid in excess of \$25 for landings after the December 23, 2014.

Oregon Dungeness crab landings **after December 31, 2014 will not be subject to the buyback fee.** The fish buyers/processors should provide refunds to the harvesters for any buyback fees which were collected, but not yet remitted to NMFS, as well as any partial refunds from NMFS that they receive.

Please note that all other buyback fees for the remaining three sub-loans in the Pacific Coast Groundfish buyback program remain in effect (Federal Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish, WA coastal Dungeness crab, and CA pink shrimp).

If you have any questions, contact the staff listed below.

CONTACT	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Elaine Saiz	(301) 427-8752	Elaine.Saiz@noaa.gov
Liz Ryan	(301) 427-8777	Liz.Ryan@noaa.gov

Sincerely,

Paul Marx, Chief
 Financial Services Division

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