



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

March 30, 2012

Dear Referendum Voter:

Enclosed is a ballot for your vote in the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery capacity reduction (buyback) referendum. Our records, as provided by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), indicate that you are the permanent holder of the fishing permit specified on the enclosed ballot which qualifies you to one vote. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a notice of eligible voters in the Federal Register (77 FR 12568) on March 1, 2012.

NMFS approved the reduction plan submitted by the Southeast Revitalization Association (SRA) on February 24, 2012, in accordance with the final rule published in the Federal Register (76 FR 61985) on October 6, 2011. For more program details, please thoroughly read the rule which is available on our website at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mb/financial_services/buyback.htm.

This referendum determines whether voters approve or disapprove the post-buyback landing fees necessary to repay a \$13,133,030 fishing capacity reduction loan. Enclosed is a ballot to vote for or against approving the plan and taking on an industry loan to fund the reduction in S01A permits.

Please note that for your vote to be effective, you must complete the enclosed ballot and return it to us in the enclosed envelope in time for us to receive it not later than 5 P.M. on April 30, 2012. If a majority of the 379 permit holder ballots are in favor of the industry fee system, we will move forward with program implementation.

You may return the completed ballot to us by U.S. mail or through the overnight delivery method of your choice. Whichever method you choose, you must place the ballot in the enclosed envelope.

If you hold more than one permit qualifying you to vote, you will receive one ballot for each permit. You are qualified to vote once for each fishing permit issued by the CFEC for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon (S01A) fishery. You must return each ballot in the separate envelope provided to you.

Following are the results of the fishing capacity reduction plan for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon fishery as submitted by the SRA, which provides information that may inform your vote. The Reduction Plan submitted by SRA is available at:
http://www.psvoa.com/REDUCTION%20PLAN-012312_a.pdf



The following summarizes the results:

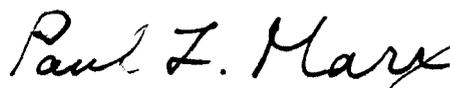
- (1) 64 S01A permits will be relinquished representing 16.89 percent of the total existing permits.
- (2) The total cost is \$13.1 million. The 64 offers range from \$175k to \$240k.
- (3) No vessels will be permanently removed from fishing activity, this is a permit-only buyback.
- (4) The projected initial loan repayment fee percentage is three percent of the post-buyback landing value. This is the maximum allowable rate. However, NMFS will annually review loan amortization progress and adjust the fee to less than three percent if NMFS projects that a lesser rate can amortize the loan over the 40-year term.

Please contact us, at the following numbers and addresses, if you need further referendum or buyback information of any kind:

PERSON	NUMBERS/ADDRESS	
	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Liz Ryan	(301) 427-8777	Liz.Ryan@noaa.gov
Mike Sturtevant	(301) 427-8782	Michael.A.Sturtevant@noaa.gov

We will notify all voters of the referendum results and publish a reduction payment tender notice, depending on the referendum outcome, in the Federal Register as soon as we possibly can. We look forward to receiving your referendum ballot not later than April 30, 2012.

Sincerely,



Paul Marx, Chief
Financial Services Division

ENCLOSURE (one ballot for one permit)