



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

February 15, 2017

Dear Harvesters and Buyers/Processors of BSAI Aleutian Island Brown (Golden) King Crab:

In 2004, harvesters in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) King and Tanner crab Fisheries agreed to repay a \$97.4 million loan to fund a fishing capacity reduction (buyback) program. The program was originally composed of six sub-loans for the following crab fisheries: 1) Bristol Bay Red King; 2) Bering Sea Snow (Opilio) and Tanner (Bairdi); 3) Aleutian Island Brown (Golden) King; 4) Aleutian Island Red King; 5) Pribilof Red King and Blue King; and 6) St. Matthew Blue.

The Aleutian Island Brown (Golden) King sub-loan has been repaid in full upon receipt of buyback fees on landings through October 31, 2016. Please see the enclosed Federal Register Notice for additional information.

If you have not submitted buybacks fees for any Aleutian Island Golden (Brown) King crab landings through October 31, 2016, please immediately submit the fees owed. The fees must be received by NMFS no later than March 17, 2017. Fees submitted to NMFS for the October 2016 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 October 3, 2016 pay the loan balance in full, NMFS will refund fees paid in excess of \$25 for landings after October 3, 2016.

Aleutian Island Golden (Brown) King crab landings after October 31, 2016 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 sub-loans in the BSAI King and Tanner buyback program remain in effect (1) Bristol Bay Red King; 2) Opilio and Bairdi; 3) Aleutian Island Red King; 4) Pribilof Red King and Pribilof Blue King; and 5) St. Matthew Blue).



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

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Sincerely,

Paul L. Marx

Paul Marx, Chief
Financial Services Division

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