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

September 7, 2012

Dear Harvesters and Buyers/Processors of California Dungeness Crab:

In 2005, harvesters in the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery agreed to repay a loan of about $35.7 million to fund a fishing capacity reduction program (buyback). The program is composed of 7 sub-loans for pink shrimp, Dungeness crab, and groundfish species.

The California Dungeness crab sub-loan of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Capacity Reduction (Buyback) loan in the amount of $2,334,334.20 will be repaid in full upon receipt of buyback fees on landings through June 30, 2012. NMFS has received $3,447,437.53 to repay the principal and interest on this sub-loan since fee collection began September 8, 2005. Buyback fees in the California Dungeness crab fishery increased rapidly in December 2011 through March 2012 which reduced the $1 million balance on the loan in a short period of time resulting in early loan repayment. Therefore, these buyback loan fees will no longer be collected in the California Dungeness crab fishery.

Based on buyback fees received to date, landings after June 30, 2012 will not be subject to the buyback fee. Buyback fees not yet forwarded to NMFS for California Dungeness crab landings through June 30, 2012 should be forwarded to NMFS immediately. Fish dealers whose fees for 2012 were not yet due as they have accumulated less than $100 in fees should forward their fees at this time for landings through June 30, 2012. Any overpayment of buyback fees submitted to NMFS will be refunded on a pro-rata basis to the fish buyers/processors based upon best available fish ticket landings data. The fish buyers/processors should return excess buyback fees collected to the harvesters, including buyback fees collected but not yet remitted to NMFS for landings after June 30, 2012.

Any discrepancies in fees owed and fees paid must be resolved immediately. After the sub-loan is closed, no further adjustments to fees paid and fees received can be made.

Please note that all other buyback fees for the remaining five sub-loans in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Capacity Reduction Program remain in effect.

If you have any further questions, you can contact the NMFS Capacity Reduction Program staff listed below.

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

Sincerely,

Paul I. Marx

Paul Marx, Chief
Financial Services Division

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