



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

February 27, 2017

Dear Harvesters and Buyers/Processors of Washington coastal 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 Washington coastal Dungeness crab sub-loan will be repaid in full upon receipt of buyback fees on landings through January 31, 2017. Please see the enclosed Federal Register Notice for additional information.

If you have not submitted buybacks fees for any Washington coastal Dungeness crab landings through January 31, 2017, please immediately submit the fees owed. The fees must be received by NMFS no later than March 31, 2017. Fees submitted to NMFS for the January 2017 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 January 23, 2017 pay the loan balance in full, NMFS will refund fees paid in excess of \$25 for landings after January 23, 2017.

Washington coastal Dungeness crab landings after January 31, 2017 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-loan in the Pacific Coast Groundfish buyback program remain in effect (Federal Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish).

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

Contact	Telephone	Email Address
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Sincerely,

Paul Marx, Chief  
Financial Services Division

Enclosure-Federal Register Notice, Vol.82, p.11559, February 24,  
2017.

