

United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Financial Services Division, F/MB5 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910

March 13, 2019

Dear Referendum Voter:

The Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon second buyback referendum was successful and the industry fee system necessary to repay a \$10,127,988 second Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon reduction loan has been approved.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) mailed ballots to 315 permanent permit holders in the fishery designated as S01A by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) who were eligible to vote in the referendum. The voting period opened on February 4, 2019 and closed on March 6, 2019.

NMFS received 206 timely and valid votes. 180 of the votes approved the second buyback fee. This exceeded the majority of permit holders (158) required for industry fee approval. Thus, the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon second buyback referendum was successful and the eligible permit holders approved the second industry fee system. Accordingly, the second reduction contracts are in full force and effect.

We published a reduction payment tender and industry fee collection system effective date notice in today's <u>Federal Register</u>. A copy of the notice is enclosed and discloses the name of each of the thirty-six selected bidders and the permit number for each reduction permit.

On or about April 12, 2019, we intend to tender reduction payments to the selected bidders. The selected bidders must permanently stop all further fishing with each reduction permit the bidder has relinquished. The selected bidders, in accordance with section 5 of the relinquishment contract, must notify any parties with secured interests in the relinquished permits to take any necessary action.

Fee collection on the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon (S01A) second loan will commence on June 1, 2019. Post-reduction harvesters will begin paying second Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon loan buyback fees beginning July 15, 2019.

Please contact us if you need further information:

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Sincerely

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