



December 2, 2013

Attn: Harvesters and Dealers/Processors of Washington Pink Shrimp

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 (buyback) program. The program was originally composed of seven sub-loans for pink shrimp, Dungeness crab, and groundfish species.

The Washington pink shrimp sub-loan in the amount of \$259,399.63 has been repaid in full. The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Capacity Reduction Program has received \$402,528.12 in Washington pink shrimp buyback fees to repay the principal and interest (6.97%) on this sub-loan since fee collection began September 8, 2005. Landings in the Washington pink shrimp fishery increased rapidly in the 2012 and 2013 seasons which resulted in this sub-loan being repaid in full on November 15, 2013. Therefore, buyback loan fees will no longer be collected in the Washington pink shrimp fishery. This is the third sub-loan to be repaid in full.

Based on recent fish ticket data from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, landings after October 6, 2013 will not be subject to the buyback fee. Buyback fees for landings on October 6, 2013 will be partially refunded. Any funds submitted to NMFS for landings after this date will be refunded on a pro-rata basis to the fish buyers/processors. The fish buyers/processors should then provide refunds to the harvesters for such funds and also refund any buyback fees which were collected but not yet remitted to NMFS.

Please note that all other buyback fees for the remaining four sub-loans in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Capacity Reduction Program remain in effect (IFQ Trawl Groundfish, Washington coastal Dungeness crab, Oregon coastal Dungeness crab, and California pink shrimp).

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

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Sincerely,

Paul Marx, Chief
Financial Services Division

Enclosure: Federal Register Notice dated November 22, 2013

