



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

Fishing Year 2013

Dear Registered Buyer:

Enclosed is your new Registered Buyer (RB) Permit. A legible copy of this permit must be present at the location of an IFQ halibut/sablefish landing or a CDQ halibut landing and must be made available by an individual representing the Registered Buyer for inspection on request of any authorized officer, on the vessel(s) or at the shore side location specified on your application. If you have a permit and change your operation type, you will need to update your permit at the time your operation changes.

❖ *Permits and online services:*

- Current active Registered Buyer Permits expire on February 28, 2014. Please note that RB permits are now annual and must be **renewed each year**. You will receive information on renewing your 2013 permit in early 2014.
- Access to all online services, including reporting systems and account and landings data, is available from the NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region main web address:  
<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>
- All Alaska Regional online services, including account balances, ledger reports and other sensitive business data are accessed with the permitholder's NMFS ID and password.

❖ *Registered Buyer recordkeeping and reporting obligations:*

- Buyers must report landings of IFQ fish or of CDQ halibut electronically. Use the Interagency Electronic Reporting System's "eLandings" web-based application (client software is available for catcher/processor vessels).
- As the holder of an RB Permit, starting on January 1, 2013, you will be required to collect and submit fees to support the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program (Observer Program). The Observer Program is changing in 2013 and NMFS will collect a fee of 1.25% of the ex-vessel value of groundfish and halibut landings by vessels in the "partial observer coverage category." Proceeds from the observer fee will be used to place observers on a portion of fishing vessels 40 feet and greater length overall, in some shoreside processing plants, and on some stationary floating processors. The eLandings system is being revised to show the estimated Observer Program fee liability for each landing. Processors and registered buyers will be billed by NMFS in January 2014 for fees associated with 2013 landings. Failure to submit fees to NMFS by the deadline of February 15, 2014, will result in non-renewal of your RB permit as well as assessments of penalties and interest. Additional information regarding your fee obligations under the Observer Program can be found on our website at:  
<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/>.

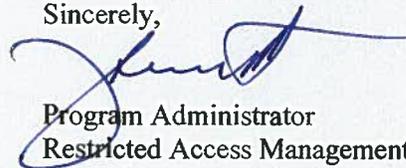
***NOTE: This is a NEW REQUIREMENT***



- If you are conducting activities as a shoreside processor, you will be sent an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) RB Ex-Vessel Volume and Value (VV) Report to complete for the period October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013. This report is needed for the IFQ fee (cost recovery) and observer fee programs. This report is required under record keeping and reporting regulations at 50 CFR § 679.5. For the first time in 2013, registered buyers will be required to include in their VV report information about purchased halibut Community Development Quota as well as all IFQ fish. **The report must be submitted annually and is due at RAM no later than 4:30 p.m., Alaska Time, October 15<sup>th</sup> each year.** You may submit your VV report by mail, fax, or via our Internet online reporting system.

For questions about your Registered Buyer permit contact RAM by telephone at (800) 304-4846 (opt 2) or (907) 586-7202 (opt 2), by fax at (907) 586-7354, or by email at [ram.alaska@noaa.gov](mailto:ram.alaska@noaa.gov). For assistance with landings, contact your local NMFS Enforcement Office. For assistance with the Observer Program, contact the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division by telephone at (800) 304-4846 (opt 3) or (907) 586-7228.

Sincerely,



Program Administrator  
Restricted Access Management