

**Permit Holders Vote to Approve Southeast Alaska Salmon
Purse Seine Fishing Capacity Reduction Program**

May 1, 2012

The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) is pleased to transmit the following information received from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). CFEC commends the persistent effort by the Southeast Revitalization Association (SRA) and NMFS to achieve a fleet reduction program for the Southeast salmon purse seine fishery.

NMFS conducted a referendum to determine the industry's willingness to repay a fishing capacity reduction loan to purchase the 64 permits identified in the reduction plan. NMFS mailed ballots to 379 permanent permit holders in the fishery designated as S01A by CFEC who were eligible to vote in the referendum. The voting period opened on March 30, 2012, and closed on April 30, 2012.

NMFS received 269 timely and valid votes. A majority of the 379 permit holders (190) was necessary to approve the referendum. 215 of the votes approved the proposed purchases and fees while 54 of the votes were against the fee system. Therefore, the referendum is successful and permit holders have approved the industry fee system. Accordingly, the relinquishment contracts are in full force and effect.

NMFS is now preparing to tender and disburse reduction payments to the selected bidders. NMFS will be publishing a notice in the Federal Register later this week listing the names of the permit holders and the permit numbers being relinquished. NMFS will then be mailing reduction payment tender instructions to each of the 64 permit holders along with a copy of the notice.

NMFS will begin disbursing payments to the selected bidders in June upon completion of the 30 day period for any parties with secured interests in the relinquished permits to take any necessary action. NMFS plans to begin fee collection on salmon landings immediately thereafter, likely around July 1, 2012. NMFS will provide additional fee collection guidance and instructions in the coming weeks.

Individuals with questions for NMFS may call Mike Sturtevant or Liz Ryan at (301) 427-8799.