



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Office of the Commissioner

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
William Noll, Commissioner

November 23, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a notice which includes an informative summary of the proposed revised regulations for the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program.

The CDQ Program is a landmark success, creating good jobs and fostering social and economic development in the 65 participating communities. Recently, Governor Murkowski appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel to conduct the first review of the program since its inception in 1992. The report by the Blue Ribbon Panel underscored the value of the program, while at the same time making suggestions for its improvement. In October, the Governor accepted the report and asked that new CDQ regulations be prepared incorporating these suggestions.

The revision of the current regulations is an important step in ensuring the future success of the CDQ Program. The CDQ Team welcomes your comments on these suggested regulations.

Meanwhile, the current State of Alaska CDQ regulations will continue in place so that continuity in the program is maintained.

As a reminder, the 2003-2005 allocations have been rolled over into 2006, and the current Eastern Aleutian Islands (EAI) Brown crab allocations have been settled by mutual agreement among the six CDQ Groups.

As a further reminder, the Governor has directed that the 2007-2011 allocation recommendations be submitted to NMFS no later than May 15, 2006. This agency is now preparing the action plan to make those submissions. You will be informed of this plan in the very near future.

Sincerely,

William C. Noll
Commissioner