

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and Commission Members

FROM: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC

DATE: October 7, 1999

SUBJECT: Fee Collection Program Under Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization

BACKGROUND

The Alaska Region, NMFS, recently submitted documents for publication of a proposed rule to establish the Individual Fishing Quota Cost Recovery Plan (Plan). The proposed rule will be published soon and provide for a public comment period. The Plan responds to Section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act which requires NMFS “. . .to collect fees to recover the actual costs directly related to the management and enforcement of any [IFQ] program,” and further limits the fees to no more than 3% of the ex-vessel value of fish harvested under the IFQ program.

The Plan would provide for the collection of fees and submission of forms from IFQ permit holders. Documentation for determining standard prices would be required from IFQ registered buyers that operate as shoreside processors and purchase IFQ landings. For the start of each IFQ fishing season, the fee percentage would be established at 3% of the ex-vessel value of the IFQ landings made by permit holders. Later in the same calendar year, the fee percentage could be decreased by the Regional Administrator based on the recovery of only the direct IFQ program costs incurred in the most recently completed fiscal year.