



JAN 17 2002

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Simeon Swetzof
Mayor of Saint Paul
Saint Paul Island, Alaska 99660

Dear Mayor Swetzof:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Evans regarding your May 2002 request for continuation of the previously determined commercial fishery failure for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery.

The National Marine Fisheries Service determined on November 13, 2002, that the situation that was the basis for commercial fishery failure determinations in May 2000 and November 2001 continued in 2002 to constitute a commercial fishery failure under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Although this action may clear the way for assistance, the actual award of assistance to address the continuing commercial fishery failure depends upon an appropriation from the Congress for this purpose. Furthermore, if Federal funds are provided, the Federal share of the cost of any activity cannot exceed 75 percent.

I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

