



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 4, 2012

Larry Cotter, Chairman
Aggie Blandford, Executive Director
Western Alaska Community Development Association
425 G Street, Suite 720
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Cotter and Ms. Blandford:

Thank you for your letters of December 12, 2011, and April 24, 2012, regarding the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program's decennial review and adjustment of entity allocations under section 305(i)(1)(H) of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). As you noted, the MSA requires that during calendar year 2012 and every 10 years thereafter, the State of Alaska (State) shall evaluate the performance of each entity participating in the CDQ Program. Thank you also for informing us that all six CDQ groups support the State's proposed regulations for implementing its role in the decennial review process.

Under section 305(i)(1)(H), NMFS has no role in the evaluation and determination stages of the decennial review. NMFS would have a role in the allocation adjustment process if the State submitted to NMFS a recommendation for an allocation adjustment. Given this considerably limited role, we do not intend to publish proposed regulations setting forth the process we would follow if our participation is eventually triggered. We will continue to monitor the outcome of the 2012 decennial review. Should additional information indicate that federal regulations are necessary, NMFS may reconsider its decision to not implement federal regulations governing NMFS's role in the adjustment of entity allocations. We welcome comments or input from the Western Alaska Community Development Association on this decision.

Please contact Seanbob Kelly with the Sustainable Fisheries Division (seanbob.kelly@noaa.gov) or (907) 586-7228 if you have further questions about the decennial review process.

Sincerely,

for

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Commissioner Campbell, ADF&G
Commissioner Bell, ADCC&ED
Crystal Koeneman, ADCC&ED

