May 11, 2011

Re: Maine Permit Bank Program ACE Distribution Auction

Dear Qualified Federal Permit Holder,

I am writing today to notify you that the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), through its Maine Permit Bank Program (MPBP), will auction allocations of its annual catch entitlement (ACE) for 14 fish stocks for the 2011 fishing year to qualified applicants who submit the highest bids through a live auction process. This ACE distribution mechanism is a pilot program that will be used to inform DMR in how best to distribute MPBP ACE in the future fishing year. As such, this process is applicable to allocations made for the 2011 fishing year only. DMR staff has determined that you meet all qualifying criteria and are therefore able to participate in this ACE distribution auction.

The ACE auction will take place at the Portland Fish Exchange (PFE) at 6 Portland Fish Pier, Portland, Maine, on May 19, 2011 at 2 pm. The auction will be performed and overseen by Bert Jongerden, General Manager of the Portland Fish Exchange. You must register in person and sign a contract before the commencement of the auction, so please arrive at least an hour in advance. If a bidder cannot be present at the time of the auction, a proxy may take their place so long as it is pre-approved with DMR staff at least 24 hours in advance of the auction.

It is DMR’s intent to ensure that the auction be fair, transparent and equitable to all qualifying federal permit holders. Therefore, DMR and PFE staff will conduct a pre-auction workshop at the PFE from 10-12 pm on May 19 before the auction to provide an overview and detailed instructions on how the auction will be conducted, how bidders can place bids on lots of fish, how the winning bidder will be announced, and the rationale for the reserve price per pound, lots sizes and the maximum amount limits for MPBP ACE. The pre-auction workshop will also provide the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the auction and the contract agreement as well as the opportunity to pre-register for the auction. An auction catalogue with details on each individual lot being auctioned will be provided at the pre-auction workshop in addition to regular auction registration.

Included in this packet are ACE auction details, including the terms and conditions that will be outlined in the contract that must be signed before the auction, as well as the Memorandum of Agreement between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the DMR.

Should you have any questions regarding the auction or the Maine Permit Bank Program, please do not hesitate to contact Trisha De Graaf at the number below.

Sincerely,

Trisha A. C. De Graaf
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