

News Release

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Alaska State FSA Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ERRONEOUS MAILER SENT TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IN ALASKA

PALMER, AK – Chad Padgett, the State Executive Director of the Alaska Farm Service Agency apologized today for a mailer that was sent to all Alaska commercial fishermen (permit holders) and crew members. The mailer was meant only for commercial fishermen that held salmon permits or crew licenses in 2003.

On October 15th, the USDA Farm Service Agency began taking applications for the Trade Adjustment Assistance program which allows for cash benefits to commercial salmon fishermen who held permits in 2003. The mailer was sent to over 26,000 permit holders and crew members on October 26th and just began hitting mailboxes around the State.

The mailer also contained erroneous eligibility and contact information. Most importantly, fishermen were directed by the mailer to provide FSA with income statements from 2002 and 2003 tax years. Fishermen need to know that they must provide income statements from 2001 and 2003. The mailer is confusing as to where fishermen must send their application and where to apply for benefits. Fishermen are encouraged to call the Farm Service Agency toll free at 1-866-872-3320 or visit us on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ak> for more information.

“Regretfully, there are many errors in the mailing that have created confusion amongst commercial fishermen. The Farm Service Agency apologizes for the mistake and encourages salmon fishermen to call us immediately to obtain benefits,” said Padgett. “We still face implementation issues with the program however our expert staff are available to assist fishermen and clarify any misunderstandings.”

In order for FSA to make payments in the program, fishermen are encouraged to apply as soon as possible and prior to the January 13th deadline.

USDA Farm Service Agency Service Center locations:

Palmer County Office
Wasilla FSA Service Center
1700 E. Bogard Rd. Suite 203
Wasilla, AK 99687
Phone: (907) 373-6385

Homer County Office
Homer FSA Service Center
4014 Lake Street, Suite 201A
Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907) 235-8176

Delta County Office
Delta Junction FSA Service Center
PO Box 582
Delta Junction, AK 99737
Phone: (907) 895-4242

Fairbanks County Office
Fairbanks FSA Service Center
590 University Avenue, Suite C
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 479-6767

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