

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration****Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

*Docket Number: 98-052. Applicant:* University of Maryland, Baltimore, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, 685 W. Baltimore Street, Room 222, Baltimore, MD 21201.

*Instrument:* Patch Clamp System. *Manufacturer:* Luigs and Neumann, Germany. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to provide visual stimulation during experiments on the processing of visual information in ferrets. In addition, the instrument will be used in rotation courses for graduate students preparing for thesis work. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 20, 1998.

*Docket Number: 98-053. Applicant:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Department of Ceramics and Material Engineering, 56 Bevier Road, Piscataway, NJ 08855. *Instrument:* Superfine Mill and Crushing Ring, Model MIC-2. *Manufacturer:* NARA Machinery Co. Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to make hydroxyapatite biomaterials as well as lead magnesium niobate electronic materials using novel mechanochemical phenomena. The experiments will consist of blending different types of particulate raw materials that will be subjected to mechanochemical stresses under a variety of operating conditions of the instrument. In addition, the instrument will be used by graduate students in a graduate program of ceramic science and engineering. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 22, 1998.

*Docket Number: 98-054. Applicant:* University of Illinois at Chicago,

Purchasing Division, 845 W. Taylor Street (M/C 273), Chicago, IL 60607-7059. *Instrument:* Two-Zone Mercury Overpressure Annealing System. *Manufacturer:* Cifer SRL, Italy. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used for studies of mercury cadmium telluride grown by molecular beam epitaxy with the objective of obtaining multi-layer mercury cadmium telluride structures with p on n junctions to fabricate infrared detector arrays. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 23, 1998.

*Docket Number: 98-055. Applicant:* Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave L. Levy Place, New York, NY 10029. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope and Accessories, Model H-7500. *Manufacturer:* Hitachi Scientific Instruments, Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used to examine nervous system tissue in order to achieve the aims of the following research projects: (1) Morphologic Basis for Central Vestibular Inhibition, (2) Morphologic Basis for Central Vestibular Adaptation, (3) Nitric Oxide Signaling in Hypergravity-Induced Neuronal Plasticity and (4) Ultrastructural Anatomy of the Toadfish Crista. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 23, 1998.

*Docket Number: 98-056. Applicant:* University of Wisconsin—Madison, Biotechnology Center, 750 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706. *Instrument:* Piezo Manipulator, Model PPM-150FU. *Manufacturer:* Prime Tech Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to reduce the trauma to oocytes during experiments involving the cloning of rodents (mice and rats) from cultured cells. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 27, 1998.

**Frank W. Creel,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

[FR Doc. 98-30282 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

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

[I.D. 110598C]

**International Whaling Commission; Meetings**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA makes use of a public Interagency Committee to assist in

preparing for meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This notice sets forth guidelines for participating on the Committee and a tentative schedule of meetings and other important dates.

**DATES:** December 4, 1998, 2:00 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional information and tentative dates of additional interagency meetings in 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The December 4, 1998, meeting will be held in Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Catherine Corson, (301) 713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The December 4, 1998, Interagency Committee meeting will review recent events relating to the IWC and issues that will arise at the 1999 IWC annual meeting.

The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. This authority has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who is also the U.S. Commissioner to the IWC. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other interested agencies.

Each year, NOAA conducts meetings and other activities to prepare for the annual meeting of the IWC. The major purpose of the preparatory meetings is to provide input in the development of policy by individuals and non-governmental organizations interested in whale conservation. NOAA believes that this participation is important for the effective development and implementation of U.S. policy concerning whaling. Any person with an identifiable interest in United States whale conservation policy may participate in the meetings, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interest of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Foreign nationals and persons who represent foreign governments may not attend. These

stringent measures are necessary to promote the candid exchange of information and to establish the necessary basis for the relatively open process of preparing for IWC meetings that characterizes current practices.

#### Tentative Meeting Schedule

The schedule of additional meetings and deadlines, including those of the IWC, during 1999 follows. Specific locations and times will be published in the **Federal Register**.

*February 19, 1999:* Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC annual meeting.

*April 9, 1999:* Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC annual meeting.

*April 30 to May 3, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Scientific Committee Working Groups.

*May 3 to 15, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Scientific Committee.

*May 17 to 19, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Whale Killing Methods Workshop.

*May 19 to 21, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Commission Committee, Sub-committees and Working Groups.

*May 24 to 28, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.

#### Special Accommodations

Department of Commerce meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Catherine Corson at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 5, 1998.

#### Patricia Montanio,

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-30264 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110398A]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Whiting Oversight Committee on

Monday, November 30, 1998 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on November 30, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the specific time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Portsmouth, NH. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the specific location.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, Massachusetts 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Meeting Date and Agenda

*Monday, November 30, 1998, 10:00 a.m.*—Whiting Oversight Committee Meeting.

Location: Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-6774; fax: (603) 431-5553.

Review rationale for final management measures for Amendment 12 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (to manage silver hake, offshore hake, and red hake); review text of draft regulations for Amendment 12; discuss and resolve outstanding issues identified by NMFS relevant to achieving the objectives of the management plan and fulfilling the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

#### Bruce C. Morehead,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-30263 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110498D]

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a plan team meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Plan Team for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island King and Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan will meet in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on November 30–December 1, 1998, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 30.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Room 229, Old Federal Building, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Witherell, telephone: 907-271-2809.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The agenda for the meeting will include the following:

1. Review of comments received from the Scientific and Statistical Committee on the Crab Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report.
2. Review length-based analysis model for Bristol Bay red king crab.
3. Review progress on Bering Sea C. bairdi crab rebuilding plan.
4. Review opilio crab bycatch limits in the scallop fishery.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Team for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.