

submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to July 26, 1999).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

Office of the Port Director, U.S.,  
Customs Service, 400 Mann St.,  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
Office of the Executive Secretary,  
Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room  
3716, U.S. Department of Commerce,  
14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.,  
Washington, DC 20230

Dated: May 3, 1999.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12014 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a closed meeting of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Tuesday, June 1, 1999. The Judges Panel is composed of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 1999 Baldrige Award cycle, final judging interaction, survey of applicants and judging process improvement discussions. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene June 1, 1999, at 11:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on June 1, 1999. The entire meeting will be closed.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on April 26, 1999, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: May 4, 1999.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-11893 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Wednesday, June 2, 1999. The Board of Overseers is composed of eleven members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the members of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The agenda will include reviewing roles and responsibilities of Judges and Overseers; information transfer through QE XI, regional conferences, state, local and international networks; discussion of proposed program changes including three award/category cap; health care and education efforts including first year progress, fund-raising, and 2000

criteria; and 1999 Award criteria changes and future criteria evolution.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene June 2, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on June 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

Dated: May 4, 1999.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-11894 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031899A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; IFQ Halibut Fisheries Off Alaska; Experimental Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of an experimental fishing permit.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the issuance of experimental fishing permit 99-01 (EFP) to the Washington Sea Grant Program (WSGP). The EFP authorizes the WSGP to conduct an experiment in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) that would test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures. NMFS could use results from the EFP to establish more effective regulatory measures to reduce incidental take of seabirds in these fisheries. This EFP is necessary to provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations. The intended effect of this action is to promote the purposes and policies of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP are available from Lori Gravel, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region,

NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim S. Rivera, 907-586-7424.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area authorize the issuance of EFPs for fishing for groundfish in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited under existing regulations. The procedures for issuing EFPs are set out at 50 CFR 679.6 and 600.745(b).

On March 29, 1999, NMFS announced in the **Federal Register** the receipt of an application for an EFP from the WSGP (64 FR 14885). The application requested authorization for WSGP to test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures in two fisheries, (1) the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish and Pacific halibut fisheries in the GOA and the BSAI and (2) the Pacific cod and Greenland turbot hook-and-line fisheries in the BSAI. WSGP will conduct the experiment as a part of its research project funded under the NMFS Saltonstall-Kennedy program (SK Project). WSGP will compare two seabird avoidance measures to a control (no measures) in each fishery. An EFP is necessary because the SK Project's experimental procedure calls for testing seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no seabird avoidance measure, and possibly, the testing of new seabird bycatch avoidance technologies that are not included in the current NMFS regulations. The purpose of this research is to assess the effectiveness of alternative seabird avoidance measures for hook-and-line fisheries off Alaska. The objectives of the SK Project are to: (1) Work cooperatively with the fishing industry, NMFS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to select and then test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures in hook-and-line fisheries off Alaska; (2) characterize the species-specific behavioral interactions of seabirds with hook-and-line gear on active fishing vessels, with and without seabird avoidance measures; (3) work cooperatively with the fishing industry, NMFS, and the USFWS to develop recommendations for revisions to existing seabird avoidance regulations and performance standards based on the results of this research; and (4) recommend future research, and research protocols. Issuance of this EFP will provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations.

WSGP designed and NMFS reviewed the experimental protocol for testing on smaller-sized vessels [less than 124 ft (37.8 meters) length overall (LOA)]. The protocol will require a minimum of 640,000 to 1 million deployed hooks and 150 observer days over 2 years to address adequately the efficacy of seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no measure. To achieve this sample size objective, three vessels per year in the IFQ and groundfish fisheries will be required, with seabird observer coverage for a total of 45 days per year (approximately three trips), assuming a total hook retrieval observation rate of 40 percent. WSGP has estimated that for testing on larger-sized vessels [longer than 124 ft LOA (37.8 meters)] in the BSAI, a minimum of 3 million deployed hooks and 150 observer days over 2 years will be needed to adequately address the efficacy of seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no measure. To achieve this sample size objective two vessels per year in the Pacific cod fishery will be required, with seabird observer coverage for a total of 40 days per year (approximately 2 trips), assuming a total hook retrieval observation rate of 40 percent. The experiment is scheduled to take place in the GOA and BSAI for approximately 45 to 60 days during May 1999 through July 1999, and for approximately 45 to 60 days during April 2000 through July 2000, and in the BSAI for approximately 40 to 50 days during July 1999 through October 1999, and for approximately 40 to 50 days during July 2000 through October 2000. The effective period for the EFP may be revised for other months in 1999 and 2000, pending agreement between the permit holder and the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator).

WSGP established an industry advisory committee in consultation with NMFS and the USFWS. This committee will select the participating vessels and the seabird avoidance measures to be tested. The EFP authorizes three vessels per year in the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries and/or the Pacific halibut fishery, and two vessels per year in the BSAI groundfish fishery. The performance of seabird avoidance gear will be tested against a standard control gear. The control gear will be identical hook and-line gear, although configured without the seabird avoidance gear. Fishing with experimental and control gear will be conducted with procedures and sites similar to those used during the commercial fishery for sablefish and halibut in the GOA and for groundfish (Pacific cod and Greenland turbot) in the BSAI.

The Regional Administrator approved the EFP application and has issued EFP 99-01 to the WSGP. The EFP authorizes WSGP to conduct experimental operations without the use of otherwise required seabird avoidance measures during the course of the experiment during designated periods of 1999 and 2000. No additional harvest amounts of target or incidental catch are authorized.

Failure of the permit holder to comply with the terms and conditions of the EFP may be grounds for revocation, suspension, or modification of the EFP under 15 CFR part 904 with respect to any or all persons and vessels conducting activities under the EFP. Failure to comply with applicable laws also may result in sanctions imposed under those laws.

### Classification

The Regional Administrator determined that fishing activities conducted under this action would not affect endangered and threatened species or critical habitat in any manner not considered in prior consultations on the groundfish or IFQ fisheries. The USFWS has issued a section 10 permit to WSGP under the Endangered Species Act. Such a permit authorizes the incidental take of a short-tailed albatross in the unlikely event that one were taken during the course of the experiment.

This notice is exempt from review under E.O. 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this notice. The analytical requirements of the RFA are inapplicable.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-12030 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

---

## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### Notice of Meeting

The Meeting of the Commission of the Fine Arts is scheduled for 20 May 1999 at 10:00 AM in the Commission's offices at the National Building Museum (Pension Building), Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001. Items of discussion will include designs for projects affecting the appearance of Washington, D.C., including buildings and parks.

Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral