

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration****District Heating Mission to Russia; Extension**

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce announces new, extended recruitment closing dates for the following overseas trade missions. For a more complete description of each trade mission, obtain a copy of the mission statement from the Project Officer indicated below. Recruitment and selection of private sector participants for these missions will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce Overseas Trade Missions dated March 3, 1997.

District Heating Mission to Russia, Moscow and St Petersburg, Russia, October 15–21, 2000, Recruitment closes on September 15, 2000.

For further information contact: Rachel Halpern, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 202–482–4423, Fax: 202–482–0170, E-Mail: Rachel\_Halpern@ita.doc.gov

Clean Energy Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman, October 24–November 1, 2000, Recruitment closes on September 22, 2000.

For further information contact: Joseph Ayoub, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 202–482–0313, Fax: 202–482–0170, E-Mail: Joseph\_Ayoub@ita.doc.gov

National Gas and Cogeneration Technologies Business Development Mission, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 5–9, 2000, Recruitment closes on October 5, 2000.

For further information contact: Sam Beatty, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 202–482–4179, Fax: 202–482–0170, E-mail: Samuel\_Beatty@ita.doc.gov

Power Plant Renovation & Modernization/Natural Gas Utilization/Renewable Energy, Trade Mission to South Africa, Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa, November 13–17, 2000, Recruitment closes on October 13, 2000.

For further information contact: John Rasmussen, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 482–1889, Fax: 202–82–0170, E-mail: John\_Rasmussen@ita.doc.gov

Clean Energy Trade Mission China, Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou,

China, December 4–8, 2000, Recruitment closes on November 3, 2000.

For further information contact Kathryn Hollander, U.S. Department of Commerce. 202–482–0385, Fax: 202–482–0170, E-mail: Kathryn\_Hollander@ita.doc.gov  
Clean Energy Trade Mission to India, New Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta and Mumbai, India, November 26–December 5, 2000, Recruitment closes on October 26, 2000.

For further information contact: Nazir Bhagat, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 202–482–3855, Fax: 202–482–5666, E-mail: Nazir\_Bhagat@ita.doc.gov

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Reginald Beckham, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tel: 202–482–5478, Fax: 202–482–1999.

Dated: August 8, 2000.

**Thomas H. Nisbet,**

*Director, Promotion Planning and Support Division, Office of Export Promotion Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 00–20787 Filed 8–15–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–DR–U**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology****Announcement of a Partially Closed Meeting of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of partially closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB) will meet to hold a meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2000. The MEPNAB is composed of eight members appointed by the Director of NIST who were selected for their expertise in the area of industrial extension and their work on behalf of smaller manufacturers. The Board was set up, under the direction of the Director of NIST, to fill a need for outside input on MEP. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The centers have been created by state, federal, and local partnerships. The Board works closely with MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies.

The purpose of this meeting is to delve into areas of operation determined by the Board. The agenda includes a look at the MEP program impact, the integration team pilot, and the operation of Center boards. The portion of the meeting, which involves personnel and proprietary budget information, will be closed to the general public. All other portions of the meeting will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on September 20, 2000, at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. and will be held at NIST, Gaithersburg, MD. The closed portion of the meeting is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration with the concurrence of the General Counsel formally determined on July 12, 2000, pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that these portions of the meeting may be properly closed because they are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 522(c)(4), (6) and (9)(b). A copy of the determination is available for public inspection in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6219, Main Commerce.

MEP's services to small manufacturers address the needs of the national market as well as the unique needs of each company. Since MEP is committed to providing this type of individualized service through its centers, the program requires the perspective of locally based experts to be incorporated into its national plans. The MEPNAB was established at the direction of the NIST Director to maintain MEP's focus on local and market-based needs. The MEPNAB was approved on October 16, 1998, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2., to provide advice on MEP programs, plans, and policies; to assess the soundness of MEP plans and strategies; to assess the current performance against MEP program plans, and to function in an advisory capacity. The Board will meet three times a year and reports to the Director of NIST. This will be the third meeting of the MEPNAB in 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Acierto, Senior Policy Advisor, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–4800, telephone number (301) 975–5033.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

**Karen H. Brown,**

*Deputy Director, NIST.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080900B]

#### **Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Notice of Court Order Requiring Actions to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles in the Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fishery**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Requirements of the Order of August 4, 2000, of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces the terms of the August 4, 2000, Order of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii. This Order amends the Court's earlier Orders Of Injunction. This Order will remain in effect until NMFS completes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the effect of fishing activities regulated under the Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP). The Order requires that NMFS complete the EIS by April 1, 2001. Under this Order, certain areas are closed year-round to fishing by vessels engaged in the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery and other areas are seasonally closed. In certain areas, limitations have been placed on fishing effort and 100 percent observer coverage is required. In the remaining area, fishing for swordfish is prohibited, observer coverage must be increased to 10 percent by September 21, 2000, and to 20 percent by November 2, 2000, and vessel operators are required to submit written reports to NMFS within 5 days of returning to port of any swordfish taken during that trip.

NMFS must make observer reports available to the Court by the first of each month, continue to require Hawaii longline vessels to carry and use NMFS-approved line clippers and dip nets, and continue its research into the effects of several different gear modifications to reduce or eliminate the incidental catch of sea turtles.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Alvin Katekaru, Fishery Management Specialist, PIAO, 808-973-2937.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background information on actions taken to implement an earlier Order of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii was published in the **Federal Register** on December 27, 1999 (64 FR 72290) and on June 19, 2000 (65 FR 37917) and is not repeated here. In the near future, NMFS anticipates publishing regulations implementing the requirements of the Court's Order of August 4, 2000. This document is published to provide the public with notification of the requirements of that Order.

On August 4, 2000, Judge David A. Ezra, U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, (Court) issued an Order Further Amending the Order Modifying Provisions of Order of Injunction (Order) in *CMC v. NMFS*. The Court ordered that:

1. All Hawaii-based longline fishing activities, authorized under the FMP, are prohibited in an area north of the Hawaiian Islands bounded by 28° N. lat. and 44° N. lat., and between 150° W. long. and 168° W. long. This area, designated as "Area A", is essentially the current longline closed area (see 64 FR 72290, December 27, 1999; 65 FR 37917, June 19, 2000).

2. Effective August 10, 2000, all Hawaii-based longline fishing activities authorized under the FMP are restricted in two geographically separate areas north of the Hawaiian Islands bounded by (a) 28° N. lat. and 44° N. lat., and between 137° W. long. and 150° W. long.; and (b) 28° N. lat. and 44° N. lat., and between 168° W. long. and 173° E. long. In both these areas, which are collectively designated as "Area B", Hawaii-based longline fishing vessels are limited to a fleet-wide maximum of 154 longline sets between August 10, 2000 and December 31, 2000, and a maximum of 77 longline sets between January 1, 2001 and March 14, 2001. All Hawaii-based longline fishing is prohibited in Area B from the time period between March 15, 2001, and May 31, 2001.

3. All Hawaii-based longline fishing vessels must have a NMFS-approved observer on board while longline fishing in Area B. If 100 percent observer coverage is not achieved, NMFS must immediately suspend all longline fishing activities in the area until full observer coverage is attained.

4. Effective August 10, 2000, all Hawaii-based longline fishing vessels are prohibited from using longline gear to target Pacific broadbill swordfish

(*Xiphias gladius*) (swordfish) in the area bounded by 28° N. lat. and 0° N. lat. (the equator), and between 137° W. long. and 173° E. long. In this area, designated as "Area C", longline fishing is restricted to tuna fishing only. In addition, longline fishing in Area C is prohibited from March 15 through May 31. Furthermore, the landing in any port within the territory of the United States, or sale by any longline permit-holder or its agents, of any swordfish caught by a Hawaii longline vessel in Area C is limited, whereby any "profits" from the landing and sale of swordfish landed in this area must be donated to charity.

5. All vessel operators must submit to NMFS, within 5 days from returning to port, a written report of any swordfish taken in Area C during that trip.

6. By September 21, 2000, NMFS is required to achieve a 10 percent level of observer coverage for the longline fishery in Area C. By November 5, 2000, NMFS must attain a minimum observer coverage level of 20 percent in the area. If at any time during these periods the observer coverage falls below the court-specified coverage levels, longline fishing must be suspended in Area C until the required coverage level is attained.

7. On the first day of each month, NMFS must provide the Court and attorneys for the U.S. Government, plaintiffs, and Defender-Intervener copies of all observer reports prepared by NMFS approved observers.

8. NMFS is directed to complete the EIS by April 1, 2001. NMFS may apply for a reasonable extension of the completion deadline upon a showing of good cause; however, if an extension is granted by the Court, all provisions of this Order will remain in effect until the EIS is completed.

9. NMFS will continue to require every vessel registered with a Hawaii longline limited entry permit to carry and use NMFS-approved line clippers and dip nets to disengage any hooked or entangled sea turtles (final rule: 65 FR 16346, March 28, 2000); and

10. NMFS will continue its research into the effects of several different gear modifications.

The Order states that it shall remain in effect until further order of the Court or until the completion of the EIS.

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

Dated: August 10, 2000.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries Service.*

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