

Selection Criteria and Procedures

Section 402 of the NAFTA Implementation Act and the accompanying Statement of Administrative Action establish U.S. implementing procedures and requirements for the selection of U.S. members of the roster. Section 402 provides that U.S. roster members are to be selected in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out in Chapter 19 of the NAFTA and without regard to political affiliation. Individuals who would have a conflict of interest in the exercise of the duties of a panelist will not be selected as roster members.

Under section 402, an interagency group, chaired by the United States Trade Representative (the USTR) must prepare a list of candidates qualified to be chosen by the United States as roster members. After consulting with the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means in accordance with the requirements and schedule set out in section 402, the USTR will select the final list of U.S. candidates to serve on the roster.

Remuneration

Panelists will be remunerated at the rate of 400 Canadian dollars per day (approximately US\$300 at current exchange rates) for each day of actual service, if they are chosen to serve on a panel.

Procedures for Applications

Applications must be typewritten and submitted along with 12 copies by November 22, 1996 to: Section 402 Committee, Room 223, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. Applications should be headed "Application for Inclusion on NAFTA Chapter 19 Roster on Panelists" and must include the following information:

1. Name of the applicant.
2. Business address, telephone number and, if available, fax number.
3. Citizenship(s).
4. Current employment, including title, description of responsibility, and name and address of employer.
5. Relevant education and professional training.
6. Spanish language fluency, written and spoken.
7. Post-education employment history, including the dates and address of each prior position and a summary of responsibilities.
8. Relevant professional affiliations and certifications, including current bar admissions, if any.
9. A list and copies of publications, testimony and speeches, concerning

subsidies or antidumping or countervailing duty law. Judges or former judges should list relevant judicial decisions.

10. Summary of any current and past employment by, or consulting or other work for, the U.S., Canadian or Mexican Governments.

11. The names and nationalities of all foreign principals for whom the applicant is currently or has previously been registered pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. 611 et seq., and the dates of all registration periods.

12. List of proceedings brought under U.S., Canadian or Mexican antidumping or countervailing duty laws regarding imports of U.S., Canadian or Mexican products in which applicant advised or represented (for example, as consultant or attorney) any U.S., Canadian or Mexican party to such proceeding and, for each such proceeding listed, the name and country of incorporation of such party.

13. A short statement of qualifications and availability for service on Chapter 19 panels, including information relevant to the applicant's: (a) familiarity with international trade law; and (b) willingness and ability to make time commitments necessary for service or panels.

14. Names, addresses, telephone and, if available, fax number of three individuals willing to provide information to USTR concerning the applicant's qualifications for service, including the applicant's familiarity with international trade laws, character, reputation, reliability, and judgment.

Note: Information provided by applicants in response to the above questions will be used by the interagency group for the purpose of initial screening of candidates. Further information regarding financial interest and affiliations may be requested from prospective candidates at a later stage of the selection process for purposes of assessing conflicts of interest, and the appearance of such conflicts, in respect to service on panels. Individuals selected as roster members may be required to make additional, specific disclosures in regard to conflicts and appearance of conflicts in connection with their appointment to particular panels. Copies of publications and speeches submitted under item 8 above will be returned to the applicant upon request. Information submitted will be subject to public disclosure. Any information that should not be disclosed to the public should be clearly indicated as such on each page of the submission.

Current Members

Current members of the Chapter 19 roster who are interested in continuing to serve on Chapter 19 panels should provide any updated information in

response to this notice. Current members who are no longer interested in serving on panels should notify USTR so that they can be removed from the list. Individuals who have previously applied but have not been selected for a final candidate list may reapply.

False Statements

Pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act, false statements by an applicant to USTR regarding their personal or professional qualification, or financial or other relevant interest, which bear on the applicant's suitability for placement on rosters and appointment to panels are subject to criminal sanctions under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Dated: October 23, 1996.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 96-29316 Filed 11-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-M

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Public Meeting on a National Council for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA)

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to discuss a proposal to establish a National Council for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA). The ACIL (formerly American Council of Independent Laboratories), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) organized and have been co-sponsoring an informal Laboratory Accreditation Working Group (LAWG) with the aim of reducing inefficient duplication of accreditation requirements. The LAWG now seeks consensus to implement a unified and comprehensive U.S. infrastructure to meet national laboratory accreditation needs in both the public and private sectors. All interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and to participate in discussions of proposed implementation plans.

The proposed organization is intended to serve as an infrastructure with broad U.S. acceptance that provides uniform procedures for accreditation and recognition of laboratory competence in product testing or calibration. Meeting participants will have an opportunity to review and discuss documents and concepts developed as a basis for realizing and implementing a more

effective U.S. laboratory accreditation infrastructure. This infrastructure will foster national and international recognition and will effectively reduce the current duplication and unnecessary costs of laboratory accreditation.

DATES: The meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7, 1997, at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Green Auditorium at the national Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

To obtain a registration form to attend the meeting, or for further information, interested parties are requested to contact Mrs. Judith Baker at NIST, telephone (301) 975-4000, facsimile (301) 963-2871, e-mail baker@nist.gov. The registration fee is expected to be \$60.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical content contact Belinda Collins, Director, Office of Standard Services, telephone (301) 975-4000, facsimile (301) 963-2871, e-mail bcollins@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The LAWG, consisting of the three original sponsoring organizations joined by other representatives of government and private sector users of laboratory accreditation, accreditors and laboratories, undertook preliminary planning for NACLA based on inputs from a variety of sources concerned with laboratory accreditation. After evaluating problems, surveying needs, and identifying key issues, the LAWG drafted a "Proposed Structure for the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation" which contains a plan for establishing and implementing NACLA. It is anticipated that NACLA will be established and incorporated by representatives of the U.S. private sector, but that governmental agencies will subsequently participate actively to derive benefit for themselves and for the nation's economic well-being.

The "Proposed Structure for the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation," which will be published in a later Federal Register notice prior to the meeting, includes organizational and operational concepts to satisfy the needs identified by public and private sector organizations.

An earlier public forum was held in October 1995 and reported in NIST Special Publication 902, "Proceedings of the Open Forum on Laboratory Accreditation at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, October 13, 1995." At that meeting, representatives of accreditors, laboratories, and users of laboratory accreditation from industry

and government agreed that a unified national system is essential to satisfy domestic economic requirements and to facilitate trade. It was agreed that any infrastructure, to be successful, must be acceptable to all affected parties. It was also agreed that, for any given product, the goal is one test by a laboratory accredited by a competent authority, with the results accepted nationally, and even globally. The essential concept was put forth in the challenges raised by the National Research Council study of Standards, Conformity, Assessment and Trade, " * * * domestic policies and procedures for assessing conformity of products and processes to standards require urgent improvement." The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-113), charges NIST with coordinating Federal, state and local conformity assessment activities with those of the private sector to eliminate unnecessary duplication and complexity. The planned NACLA activities respond to this challenge.

ACIL, ANSI, and NIST are cosponsoring another Public Forum on January 7, 1997, on establishing the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation; to describe the initial plans; discuss issues for implementing efficient and appropriate accreditation procedures; and to provide for reciprocity in mutual recognition of laboratory competence. NACLA aims to address the widely recognized need to eliminate unnecessary burdens of laboratory accreditation by a streamlined system that eliminates current duplication in laboratory accreditation and to reduce costs. The LAWG seeks to achieve consensus on the planning documents so that an organization which reflects national priorities and needs can be established by the private sector parties at interest with broad governmental participation and support. All organizations and individuals concerned with laboratory accreditation are invited to attend and to express their views.

On January 7, 1997, participants are encouraged to join in an open exchange of ideas and to comment on the proposed establishment of NACLA. Specific topics include discussion of NACLA purposes and functions, operational procedures and processes, composition of a Board of Directors, Stakeholder(s) Committees and their scope, Secretariat, membership, and other issues leading to "one-stop-shopping" in testing and laboratory accreditation.

Dated: November 12, 1996.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110596A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 9, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on December 10, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-873-8675.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Reef Fish SSC will review Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, a stock assessment for greater amberjack, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for other amberjack species. The SSC will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The SSC may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's (FMP) framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational