

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

[I.D. 010698C]

**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:** January 23, 1998, 2:00 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional information and tentative dates of additional interagency meetings in 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The January 23, 1998 meeting will be held in Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC. Copies of nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the May IWC meetings should be sent to Catherine Corson, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 13th floor, SSMC3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The January 23, 1998 Interagency Committee meeting will review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC Intersessional Meeting and review recent events relating to the IWC. The IWC will hold an intersessional meeting of Commissioners from February 3-5, 1998 in Antigua to discuss the "Proposal to Manage Whaling for the Future" introduced before the 49th annual IWC meeting by the Irish Government.

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 tentative schedule of additional meetings and deadlines, including those of the IWC, during 1998 follows. Confirmation of Interagency Committee meeting times, dates and locations will be provided in future federal register notices.

March 1, 1998: Nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the May IWC meetings are due to the U.S. Commissioner, with a copy to Catherine Corson (SEE **ADDRESSES**). All persons wishing to be considered pursuant to the U.S. Commissioner's recommendation to the Department of State concerning the composition of the delegation should ensure that nominations are received by this date. Prospective Congressional advisors to the Delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

March 6, 1998: 2:00 p.m., Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC: Tentative Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC annual meeting.

April 23, 1998: 2:00 p.m., Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC: Tentative Interagency

Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1998 IWC annual meeting.

April 27 to May 9, 1998 (Oman): IWC Scientific Committee Meeting.

May 11 to 20, 1998 (Oman): IWC 50th 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 Joanna Davis at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

**Patricia Montanio,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-943 Filed 1-9-98; 1:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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

[I.D. 010798A]

**Magnuson Act Provisions; Effects of Fishing on Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will hold public meetings to brief the Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and interested parties on the results of a synthesis of available scientific information on fishing gear impacts on habitat entitled: The Indirect Effects of Fishing by Peter J. Auster and Richard W. Langton. Following a presentation there will be an opportunity for questions and comments. NMFS requests that comments be limited to those concerning the adequacy of the synthesis, i.e., what scientific studies are missing, and any disagreements with the scientific conclusions.

**DATES:** The meetings are scheduled to be held from January 20 to February 5, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, locations, and times.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to Office of Habitat Conservation, Attention: Gear Impacts, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; telephone: 301/713-2325.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Thomas, NMFS, 301/713-2325.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Background**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires that the Councils minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects of fishing on habitat. The Magnuson-Stevens Act further stipulates that fishers and other interested parties be involved in this process. The purpose of these meetings is to inform the Councils and to involve interested parties early in the process of addressing the effects of fishing on habitat. The process begins with a synthesis that surveys and assesses all available information through the scientific literature concerning adverse effects of fishing. The draft synthesis is being presented and discussed at these public meetings. The final synthesis document will be available to Councils and other interested parties for use in addressing adverse impacts from fishing gear within fishery management plans.

**Public Meetings**

1. Tuesday, January 20, 1998, in conjunction with New England Fishery Management Council Habitat Committee meeting, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST at Peabody Marriott, 8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA; telephone 978/977-9700.
2. Tuesday, January 20, 1998, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. CST at Marriott Grand Hotel, Azalea Ballroom, 1 Grand Boulevard, Point Clear, AL, 36564; telephone 813/228-2815.
3. Tuesday, January 27, 1998, in conjunction with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Habitat Committee meeting, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST at the Sheraton Atlantic City West, 6821 Blackhorse Pike, Atlantic City West, NJ; telephone 609/272-0200.
4. Thursday, February 5, 1998, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST at the NMFS Pacific Environmental Laboratory, Conference Room, 1352 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; telephone 408/646-3311.
5. Wednesday, February 4, 1998, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. AST at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, Room to be announced, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501; telephone 907/271-2809.

**Special Accommodations**

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jim Thomas (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 8, 1998.

**James P. Burgess,**

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-803 Filed 1-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)****Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters; Notice of Open Meeting; Change of Location**

**DATE:** January 14, 1998.

**ACTION:** Notice is hereby given of a change in location of the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters on January 16, 1998. This notice also contains an updated agenda for the meeting.

**REFERENCE:** This notice amends the original notice of open meeting published in the **Federal Register** on December 31, 1997. Citation: 62 FR 68260.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, 1998 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** The meeting will be held in the Mt. Vernon Salon of the Madison Hotel, 15th and M Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Edwards, Designated Federal Officer and Telecommunications Policy Specialist, at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4716; 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.; Washington, DC 20230. Telephone: 202-482-8056; Fax: 202-482-8058; E-mail: piac@ntia.doc.gov.

**Media Inquiries**

Please contact Paige Darden at the Office of Public Affairs, at 202-482-7002.

**Agenda**

Friday, January 16

Opening remarks

Briefings on the technology of digital broadcasting and the implications for new programming services

Briefings on closed captioning and video description services

Briefing on natural disaster information systems

Briefings on educational programming in the digital era

Public comment

Committee business  
Closing remarks

This agenda is subject to change. For an updated, more detailed agenda, please check the Advisory Committee homepage at [www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm).

**Larry Irving,**

*Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.*

[FR Doc. 98-977 Filed 1-13-98; 3:28 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-60-P

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0126]

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled "Electric Service Territory Compliance Representation"**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0126).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Electric Service Territory Compliance Representation. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1998.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted on or before March 16, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Linfield, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1757.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat, 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4037, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0126, Electric Service Territory Compliance Representation, in all correspondence.