

ADDRESSES: Please send your requests for consideration to U.S.-China Residential Building Council, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4039, 14th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20230. You may fax your request to (202) 482-0382.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Reiley, Director, Office of Metals Materials, and Chemicals, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4039, 14th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-0575 telephone, (202) 482-0382 fax.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members will serve on the Council for a two-year term at the discretion of the Secretaries. Members are expected to participate fully in defining the agenda for the Initiative and in implementing its work programs. It is expected that individuals chosen for the Council will attend at least 75 percent of Council meetings which will be held in the United States and China.

Members are fully responsible for travel, accommodation, and personal expenses associated with their participation in the Residential Building Council. The members will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of the particular business or housing sector in which they operate.

The U.S.-China Residential Building Council encourages the development of a housing industry in China and increased bilateral trade and investment including, but not limited to, the following:

- Implementing trade/business development and promotion programs including trade missions, technical assistance, conferences, exhibits, seminars and other events; and
- Adopting sectoral or project oriented approaches to support China's residential housing reform efforts.
- Implementing housing finance, planning, design, and building technology seminars and technical exchange to support reform efforts.

Selection

There are twelve available positions on the U.S. side of the Residential Business Council. This notice is seeking individuals to fill all twelve positions. The number of Council positions may be expanded, should the need arise.

Eligibility requirements. Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen residing in the United States or a permanent United States resident;
- Be a CEO or other senior management employee of a U.S. company or association involved in the

residential housing construction, supply, finance, or community planning sectors;

- Not be a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

In reviewing eligible applicants, the Commerce Department, in consultation with HUD, will consider:

- The applicant's expertise in either construction building materials or housing policy and development;
- Readiness to initiate and be responsible for the activities the Council proposes to take on;
- An ability to contribute in light of overall Council composition;
- Diversity of company size, type, location, and demographics.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following: name and title of the individual requesting consideration; name and address of the company or association that the individual will represent; the specific product or service line; size of the company; and export expertise and major markets. Please also provide a brief statement on why each candidate should be considered for membership on the Council; the particular segment of the business community each candidate would represent; a personal resume; and a statement that the applicant is not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: February 23, 1999.

Robert Reiley,

Director, Office of Metals, Materials and Chemicals.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Insular Affairs

[Docket No. 980716178-8234-02]

RIN 0625-AA53

Allocation of Duty-Exemptions for Calendar Year 1999 Among Watch Producers Located in the Virgin Islands

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action allocates 1999 duty-exemptions for watch producers located in the Virgin Islands pursuant to Pub. L. 97-446, as amended by Pub. L. 103-465 ("the Act").

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Faye Robinson, (202) 482-3526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Act, the Departments of the Interior and Commerce (the Departments) share responsibility for the allocation of duty exemptions among watch assembly firms in the United States insular possessions and the Northern Mariana Islands. In accordance with Section 303.3(a) of the regulations (15 CFR Part 303), this action establishes the total quantity of duty-free insular watches and watch movements for 1999 at 3,740,000 units and divides this amount among the three insular possessions of the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. Of this amount, 2,240,000 units may be allocated to Virgin Islands producers, 500,000 to Guam producers, 500,000 to American Samoa producers and 500,000 to Northern Mariana Islands producers (63 FR 49666).

The criteria for the calculation of the 1999 duty-exemption allocations among insular producers are set forth in Section 303.14 of the regulations.

The Departments have verified and adjusted the data submitted on application form ITA-334P by Virgin Islands producers and inspected their current operations in accordance with Section 303.5 of the regulations.

In calendar year 1998 the Virgin Islands watch assembly firms shipped 805,890 watches and watch movements into the customs territory of the United States under the Act. The dollar amount of creditable corporate income taxes paid by Virgin Islands producers during calendar year 1998 plus the creditable wages paid by the industry during calendar year 1998 to residents of the territory was \$3,310,945.

There are no producers in Guam, American Samoa or the Northern Mariana Islands.

The calendar year 1999 Virgin Islands annual allocations, based on the data verified by the Departments, are as follows:

Name of firm	Annual allocation
Belair Quartz, Inc.	500,000
Hampden Watch Co., Inc.	200,000
Progress Watch Co., Inc.	400,000
Unitime Industries, Inc.	500,000
Tropex, Inc.	300,000

Robert S. LaRussa,

*Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration, Department of Commerce.*

Allen Stayman,

*Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department
of the Interior.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990125028-9028-01]

RIN 0648-ZA54

Aquatic Nuisance Species Research and Outreach and Improved Methods for Ballast Water Treatment and Management: Request for Proposals for FY 1999

AGENCY: National Sea Grant College
Program, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration,
Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is entertaining preliminary proposals and subsequently full proposals for innovative research, outreach, and demonstration projects that address the problems of Aquatic Nuisance Species in U.S. coastal waters. In FY 1999 and 2000, Sea Grant expects to make available about \$2,300,000 per year to support projects to prevent and/or control nonindigenous species invasions in all U.S. marine waters, the Great Lakes, and Lake Champlain; matching funds equivalent to a minimum of 50% of the Federal request must be provided. In FY 1999 only, Sea Grant also expects to make available about \$1,000,000 to support demonstration projects to improve ballast water treatment and management in Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes, matching funds may also be included for these projects, but are not required. Successful projects will be selected through national competitions.

DATES: Preliminary proposals must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on April 5, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). After evaluation at the NSGO, some proposers will be encouraged to prepare full proposals, which must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on May 27, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or NSGO.

ADDRESSES: Investigators located in states with Sea Grant Programs must submit their preliminary proposals and full proposals through those programs. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found on Sea Grant's home page (<http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/index.html>) or may also be obtained by contacting the Program Manager at the National Sea Grant Office (see below). Investigators from non-Sea Grant states applying for the "Ballast Water Treatment and Management Program," only, may submit their preliminary proposals and proposals directly to the National Sea Grant Office at: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Aquatic Nuisance Species Competition, Room 11841, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leon M. Cammen, Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or Mary Robinson, Secretary, National Sea Grant Office, 301-713-2435; facsimile 301-713-0799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131.
Catalog of Federal Assistance Number:
11.417, Sea Grant Support.

II. Program Description

Background

Nonindigenous species introductions are increasing in frequency and causing substantial damage to the Nation's environment and economy. Although the most prominent of these has been the zebra mussel, many other nonindigenous species have been introduced and have truly become a nationwide problem that threatens many aquatic ecosystems. While some intentional introductions may have had beneficial effects, there are many other nonindigenous species already present in U.S. waters, or with the potential to invade, that may cause significant damage to coastal resources and the economies that depend upon them. In response, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.) established a framework for the Nation to address the problems of aquatic nuisance species invasions of coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Although problems such as the zebra mussel and the sea lamprey within the Great Lakes have received the most attention, invasions of nonindigenous species in coastal marine environments are an increasing and serious threat. The

National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4711-4714) recognized this by calling for Federal funding to support aquatic nuisance species prevention and control along the Nation's marine coast.

In addition, the Act recognized the serious threat posed by ballast water discharge in causing new invasions and called for ballast water management demonstration programs. A 1996 National Research Council study of the ballast water problem, "Stemming the Tide," concluded that with the growth of global shipping, and the changes in modern shipping practices, introductions of nonindigenous species through ballast water discharge were likely to remain a serious problem. The study called for the development of improved technology for the management of ballast water to eliminate this threat to the Nation's ecosystems. A demonstration project testing filtration of ballast water as a method of reducing introductions is currently underway in the Great Lakes, but it is acknowledged that there is unlikely to be a single solution that is acceptable for all modes of shipping operations and classes of vessels.

Funding Availability and Priorities

The National Sea Grant College Program encourages proposals that address one of the following two program areas:

(1) Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Aquatic Nuisance Species Invasions

An interagency Ad Hoc Committee on Exotic Species in the Great Lakes has prepared a report entitled, "Coordinated Program of Research for Exotic Species in the Great Lakes." Although targeted for the Great Lakes, the report provides a useful framework for research and outreach on any nonindigenous species problems and is therefore being used to structure this more general request for proposals covering U.S. marine waters, the Great Lakes, and Lake Champlain. Research and outreach proposals are requested that address one or more of the following program areas:

(a) Biology and Life History: Basic biological research into population dynamics, genetics, physiology, behavior, and parasites and diseases of nonindigenous species with the potential to lead to the development of ecologically safe, effective, and inexpensive control. Research on the ecological and environmental tolerances of nonindigenous species with the potential for prediction of eventual geographic and ecological impacts.

(b) Effects on Ecosystems: Research on the impacts of nonindigenous species at