

specifically identified in the agendas listed as available by this notice.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by April 19, 1999.

Dated: April 7, 1999.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-9056 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. 990405086-9086-01]

RIN 0660-ZA08

#### Market for Satellite Communications and the Role of Intergovernmental Satellite Organizations

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce requests comments regarding the advantages accorded signatories of intergovernmental satellite organizations (ISOs), in terms of immunities, market access, or otherwise, in the countries or regions served by the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) and the International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), the reason for such advantages, and an assessment of progress toward fulfilling a pro-competitive privatization of those organizations. The International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998 implements the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (the OECD Convention). In that legislation, the U.S. Congress imposed certain reporting requirements for the Department of Commerce that are due on July 1, 1999 and each of the next five years. The House report on the legislation expresses an expectation for extensive fact-findings on the nature of the market for satellite communications and, in particular, the role of the ISOs, INTELSAT and Inmarsat. The Department notes that Inmarsat is

scheduled for privatization on April 15, 1999. The reporting requirements monitor the implementation and enforcement of other nations' commitments under the OECD Convention and promote the reduction of privileges and immunities for the ISOs. This Request for Comments (RFC) will assist the Secretary of Commerce in responding to those reporting requirements regarding the ISOs' privileges and immunities.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The Department invites the public to submit written comments in paper or electronic form. Comments may be mailed to Milton Brown, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Room 4713, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230. Paper submissions should include a version on diskette in ASCII, Word Perfect (please specify version), or Microsoft Word (please specify version) format.

Comments submitted in electronic form may be sent to [isocomments@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:isocomments@ntia.doc.gov). Electronic comments should be submitted in the formats specified above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Milton Brown, NTIA/OCC, (202) 482-1816.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

INTELSAT is a treaty-based global communications satellite cooperative with 143 member countries. INTELSAT was created to enhance global communications and to spread the risks of creating a global satellite system across telephone operating companies from many countries.<sup>1</sup> Inmarsat was created to improve the global maritime communications satellite system that would provide distress, safety, and communications services to seafaring nations in a cooperative, cost-sharing entity. Inmarsat is scheduled for privatization on April 15, 1999.

As intergovernmental satellite organizations, both INTELSAT and Inmarsat are governed by "Parties" and managed by "signatories." The Parties are the national government members of the INTELSAT and Inmarsat agreements. Signatories are designated by each party to participate in the commercial operations of the organization. They hold ownership

<sup>1</sup> See Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

interests in varying degrees. They also assist with the operation and management of the systems and are distributors of ISO services in their own countries. Signatories may be government-owned or controlled telecommunications monopolies or other telecommunications service providers. The publically traded Comsat Corp. is the U.S. Signatory to INTELSAT. ISOs are subject to oversight by the Assembly of Parties, and signatories are subject to oversight by their respective governments.

To implement public service obligations effectively and as part of the ISOs' unique treaty status, the ISOs benefit from certain privileges and immunities. As such, these ISOs are generally immune from suit, including private or public prosecution on antitrust charges. Moreover, neither ISO pays taxes on revenues, and exemption extends to import duties and taxes, communications and property taxes. Signatories, however, are subject to national taxes, including for their share of the organizations' distributed returns.

The International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998 requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit a report to the House of Representatives and the Senate which contains information regarding the OECD Convention which includes the following: (1) A list of countries that have ratified the Convention; (2) a description of the domestic laws enacted by each party to the Convention that implements commitments under the Convention; and (3) an assessment of the measures taken by each party to the Convention during the previous year to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. See Pub. L. No 105-366, sec. 6(a). Accordingly, the Secretary of Commerce is required to report, inter alia, on the "terms of market access, government ownership, government contracts or connections, privileges and immunities, favorable treatment by national regulatory authorities or tax treatment . . . in the countries or regions served by the [ISOs], and the reasons for such advantages." H.R. REP. NO. 105-802, at 9 (1998). In preparation for this report, the Secretary of Commerce is required to seek and incorporate comments from the private sector, including competing satellite companies and satellite services users. Id.

We are now formally soliciting public comment on the advantages, in terms of immunities, market access, or otherwise, in the countries or regions served by INTELSAT and Inmarsat, the reasons for such advantages, and an assessment of progress toward fulfilling a pro-competitive privatization of those

organizations. "Pro-competitive privatization" is defined as "privatization that the President determines to be consistent with the United States policy of obtaining full and open competition to such organizations (or their successors), and nondiscriminatory market access, in the provision of satellite services." See Pub. L. No 105-366, sec. 5(a)(2). Respondents should find it useful to review the full text of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998.

**Kathy Smith,**

*Acting Chief Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 99-8952 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

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## COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

**TIME AND DATE:** 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 28, 1999.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Enforcement Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

**Jean A. Webb,**

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 99-9208 Filed 4-8-99; 3:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### National Senior Service Corps; Schedule of Income Eligibility Levels

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice revises the schedules of income eligibility levels for participation in the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation), published at 63 FR 19903 on April 22, 1998.

**DATES:** These guidelines go into effect on April 12, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Corporation for National and Community Service, National Senior Service Corps, Ruth Archie, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20525, or by telephone at (202) 606-5000, ext. 289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The revised schedules are based on changes in the Poverty Guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), published in 64 FR 13428, March 18, 1999. In accordance with program regulations, the income eligibility level for each State, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia is 125 percent of the DHHS Poverty Guidelines, except in those

areas determined by the Corporation to be of higher cost of living. In such instances, the guidelines shall be 135 percent of the DHHS Poverty levels. The level of eligibility is rounded to the next highest multiple of \$5.00.

In determining income eligibility, consideration should be given to the following, as set forth in 59 FR 15120, March 31, 1994:

*Allowable medical expenses* are annual out-of-pocket expenses for health insurance premiums, health care services, and medications provided to the applicant, enrollee, or spouse and were not and will not be paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurance, or by any other third party and, shall not exceed 15 percent of the applicable Corporation income guideline.

*Annual income* is counted for the past 12 months and includes: The applicant or enrollee's income and the applicant or enrollee's spouse's income, if the spouse lives in the same residence. Sponsors may count the value of shelter, food, and clothing, if provided at no cost by persons related to the applicant, enrollee or spouse.

Any person whose income is not more than 100 percent of the DHHS Poverty Guideline for her/his specific family unit shall be given special consideration for participation in the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs.

### 1999 FGP/SCP INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVELS [Based on 125 percent of DHHS poverty guidelines]

Family units of—				
States	One	Two	Three	Four
All, except High Cost Areas, Alaska and Hawaii. ....	\$10,300	\$13,825	\$17,350	\$20,875

For family units with more than four members, add \$3,525 for each additional member in all States except

designated High Cost Areas, Alaska and Hawaii.

### 1999 FGP/SCP INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVELS [Based on 135 Percent of DHHS Poverty Guidelines]

	Family Units of			
	One	Two	Three	Four
All, except Alaska & Hawaii .....	\$11,125	\$14,935	\$18,740	\$22,545
Alaska .....	13,935	18,685	23,440	28,190
Hawaii .....	12,815	17,190	21,560	25,935

(For family units with more than four members, add \$3,807 for all areas, \$4,755 for Alaska, and \$4,375 for Hawaii, for each additional member.)

The income eligibility levels specified above are based on 135 percent of the DHHS poverty guidelines and are applicable to the following high cost

metropolitan statistical areas and primary metropolitan statistical areas: