

14. Allow disaster recovery work in floodplain areas away from streams and in upland areas; and

15. Purchase easements on non-agricultural lands.

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 9, 1999.

**Pearlie S. Reed,**

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-32526 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 99-028. Applicant: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, Division of Intramural Research Programs, Laboratory on Genetics, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 36, Room 3D06, Bethesda, MD 20892-4094. Instrument: Robot and Microplate Filler with accessories, Models Q-BOT and Q-Fill. Manufacturer: GENETIX, United Kingdom. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used for studies of cDNAs, genes, and mRNAs in support of research on the genomics of the nervous system with initial efforts focusing on the discovery of new genes and the study of gene expression patterns in mouse and human brains. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: December 2, 1999.

Docket Number: 99-029. Applicant: University of Florida, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 337 Larsen Hall, PO Box 116200, Building 722, Gainesville, FL 32611-6200. Instrument: Fiber Raman Laser, Model FRL-1480-600. Manufacturer: IP

Fibre Devices Ltd., United Kingdom. Intended Use: The instrument will be used as a pump source to pump Er-doped waveguide lasers in lithium niobate that are being developed. The laser will also be used as a demonstration of the principle of optical pumping for the courses of the Photonics sequence (EEL 5441, EEL 6443) in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: November 30, 1999.

**Frank W. Creel,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

[FR Doc. 99-32672 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### University of Vermont, et al.; Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

This is a decision consolidated pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

*Comments:* None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instruments described below, for such purposes as each is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Docket Number: 99-023. Applicant: University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. Instrument: Microforge, Model MF-830. Manufacturer: Narishige Scientific Instrument Lab., Japan. Intended Use: See notice at 64 FR 57865, October 27, 1999. Reasons: The foreign instrument provides ultra-fine finishing of microelectrode tips for patch clamp studies using advanced fine polishing technology to eliminate imperfections on the tip surface that could damage delicate cell membranes. Advice received from: National Institutes of Health, October 21, 1999.

Docket Number: 99-024. Applicant: University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. Instrument: Glass Microelectrode Puller, Model PP-830. Manufacturer: Narishige Scientific Instrument Lab., Japan. Intended Use: See notice at 64 FR 57865, October 27, 1999. Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) A built-in power source to avoid voltage

fluctuations, (2) ultra-precise tuning of heater settings and (3) a digital display for monitoring settings while fabricating microelectrodes for patch clamp studies. Advice received from: National Institutes of Health, October 21, 1999.

The National Institutes of Health advised in its memoranda that (1) the capabilities of each of the foreign instruments described above are pertinent to each applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value for the intended use of each instrument.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus being manufactured in the United States which is of equivalent scientific value to either of the foreign instruments.

**Frank W. Creel,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

[FR Doc. 99-32671 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120999C]

#### Northwest Region Federal Fisheries Permits; Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 14, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to William L. Robinson, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle WA 98112, 206-526-6140.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

Three data collections dealing with Federal fishery permits affect participants in the groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California (WOC). The three data collections involve: (1) exempted fishing permits (previously called experimental fishing permits); (2) limited entry permits for commercial fishermen; and (3) Federal permits for groundfish processing vessels over 125 ft (38 m) in length.

Exempted (experimental) fishing permits are issued to applicants for fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited. The information provided by applications allows NMFS to evaluate the consequences of the exempted fishing activity and weigh the benefits and costs. Permittees are required to file reports on the results of the experiments and in some cases individual vessels are required to provide minimal data reports. This information allows NMFS to evaluate techniques used and decide if management regulations should be changed.

A Federal permit is required to commercially catch groundfish, and permits are endorsed for one or more of three gear types (trawl, longline, and fish pot). Participation in the fishery and access to permits have been limited as a way of controlling the overall fleet harvest capacity. Limited entry permits must be renewed annually and are transferable.

NOAA is also considering the implementation of a requirement that fish processing vessels over 125 ft (38 m) in length obtain a Federal fisheries permit to process groundfish in the WOC fishing area. Such a requirement may be needed to obtain adequate information on which to base both in-season and between-season management decisions affecting the Pacific groundfish resource, to know the number of vessels operating for the purpose of deployment of observers, and for enforcement monitoring.

**II. Method of Collection**

Permit applications are made on NMFS forms. The exempted fishing data reports from individual vessels which may be a verbal data collection submitted in person, faxed, or submitted by telephone by the vessel owner or operator to NMFS or the states of Washington, Oregon, or California.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0203

*Form Number:* None

*Type of Review:* Regular submission

*Affected public:* Business or other for-profit (owners and operators of vessels that fish for or process groundfish in ocean waters 0-200 nautical miles off of Washington, Oregon, or California.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 796

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 20 minutes for a limited entry or at-sea processor permit application; 60 minutes of an exempted fishing application; 60 minutes for a summary report of actions under an exempted fishing permit, and 10 minutes for data reports on exempted fishing permit activities

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 598

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$26,214

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and /or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 7, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-32544 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

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

[I.D. 120999E]

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

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

**Title:** Application Form for Membership on a National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

**Agency Form Number(s):** None.

**OMB Approval Number:** None.

**Type of Request:** In use without OMB approval.

**Burden Hours:** 75 hours.

**Number of Respondents:** 75.

**Average Hours Per Response:** 1 hour.

**Needs and Uses:** Section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act allows the Secretary of Commerce to establish one or more advisory councils to provide advice regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. The Councils also provide a variety of different perspectives and interests and help link the sanctuary to the community. Councils are individually chartered for each sanctuary to meet the needs of that sanctuary. Once a council has been chartered, the Sanctuary Manager begins a process to recruit members for that council by providing notice to the public and asking interested parties to apply for the available seats. An application and guidelines for a narrative submission must be submitted to the Sanctuary Manager. The application is used to choose the best applicants to serve as members on the Council.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit organizations, or not-for-profit institutions.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**OMB Desk Officer:** David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 724 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 6, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-32545 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**