

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Opportunity To Apply for Membership on the U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration (ITA) of the Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of membership opportunity.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Government is seeking letters of interest for private sector membership on the U.S. side of the U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission ("Commission"). President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi launched the Commission in June 2001 as part of the U.S.-Japan Economic Partnership for Growth ("Partnership"). The Commission is made up of U.S. and Japanese government and private sector representatives. It aims to integrate the U.S. and Japanese private sectors more fully into the economic work of the two Governments. The Commission will enable U.S. and Japanese private sector representatives to present input—including expertise, observations, and recommendations—on agenda topics agreed to in advance by the two Governments.

DATES: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received no later than December 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send requests for consideration on company letterhead by fax or letter to Chiling Tong, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Asia and the Pacific, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2036, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230, fax (202) 482-4760. Requests sent by email will not be considered. Candidates chosen for membership will be notified in writing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harrison Cook or Ian Clements, Office of Japan, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2320, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230, fax (202) 482-0469; or Amy Jackson, Office of Japan, U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20508, fax (202) 395-3597.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Introduction**

The U.S. Government seeks letters of interest for private sector membership on the U.S. side of the Commission. President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi launched the

Commission in June 2001 as part of the Partnership. The Commission is made up of U.S. and Japanese government and private sector representatives. It aims to integrate the U.S. and Japanese private sectors more fully into the economic work of the two Governments. The Commission will enable U.S. and Japanese private sector representatives to present input—including expertise, observations, and recommendations—on agenda topics agreed to in advance by the two Governments. For a description of the goals and structure of the Commission and the Partnership, see the "Annex to the Joint Statement," at the Commerce Department website: <http://www.mac.doc.gov/japan/source/menu/partnership/partnership2.html>.

Topics

The topics in 2002 will be "creating an environment for sustainable growth: raising productivity and corporate revitalization," with a special focus on corporate restructuring. In examining this topic, Commission members will likely wish to focus on the implications for efficient resource allocation of factors such as: corporate governance, efficiently functioning factor and product markets, the environment for entrepreneurship, and the legal and regulatory system. The Commission topic(s) will change annually.

Duties and Responsibilities of Private Sector Members

Private sector members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce. Private sector individuals chosen for the Commission will be expected to be fully involved in all necessary preparatory meetings and attend the Commission's single 2002 meeting, which, as currently envisioned, will be held in the first quarter of the year in conjunction with the Subcabinet meeting. The Subcabinet is composed of government officials at the Deputy/Vice-Ministerial level from key economic agencies and ministries and other agencies and ministries appropriate to the Commission's topic(s). The number of private sector Commission members will be limited and will be determined in coordination with the Government of Japan. Members of the private sector delegation will serve for one term. Members who wish to serve additional terms must apply under the same rules as other future prospective members.

Private sector members are fully responsible for travel, lodging and personal expenses associated with their participation in the Commission. They will receive no compensation. The private sector members will serve in a

representative capacity, presenting the views and interests of the particular business sector in which they operate; private sector members are not special government employees. Candidates will be vetted for pending business before the Commerce Department and United States Trade Representative. Members from the private sector will be chosen based on criteria set forth in this Notice.

No later than two months after completion of the first annual meeting, the two Governments will conduct a review of the Commission to assess the structure and effectiveness of the forum and, as appropriate, implement improvements.

Candidate Eligibility and Selection Procedures

The process for recruiting and selecting Commission members from the U.S. private sector is based on objective, written criteria developed in accordance with the Annex to the Joint Statement. The Annex can be found at the Commerce Department website: <http://www.mac.doc.gov/japan/source/menu/partnership/partnership2.html>. A candidate's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are not relevant to and will not be considered part of the selection process.

To be eligible for consideration, all candidates must be a U.S. citizen and not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (FARA).

All requests for consideration will be reviewed by a General Secretariat, which is composed of officials from the Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative. Members of the General Secretariat will evaluate each submission based on the evaluation criteria and provide a ranking of Excellent, Good, or Poor. Each ranked request for consideration will be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance, Department of Commerce, and the Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) for Japan (the "Selecting Officials") for final selection. The Selecting Officials will review the rankings and comments of the review team and will determine the candidates who will be selected for the commission.

Evaluation Criteria

In reviewing prospective members, a Government Secretariat, composed of officials from the Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, will consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Experience in executive level positions, such as CEO of U.S. companies;¹
- Experience doing business with or in Japan;
- Expertise in the topic to be considered by the Commission. In 2002, the topic will be "creating an environment for sustainable growth: Raising productivity and corporate revitalization;"
- Commitment to undertake any necessary preparatory work and to participate in any preparatory meetings and the Commission meeting itself;
- Commitment to assume the costs of travel, lodging and other personal expenses related to Commission participation;
- Contributions to membership diversity based on company size, type, and location; and
- Other considerations relevant to the Commission as described in the Annex to the U.S.-Japan Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi on June 30, 2001.

Submission Procedures and Requirements

To be considered for membership, please provide a personal resume and materials that would identify the following: (1) Name and title of the individual requesting consideration; (2) name and address of the company where the candidate is employed; (3) company's product or service line; (4) company size (market capitalization, annual revenues, number of employees); (5) company's experience in Japan (exports, sales, employees, years in Japan); (6) why candidate wishes to be considered for the Commission; and (7) the particular sector of the business community the candidate would represent.

Third parties, such as trade associations and government officials, may nominate or endorse potential candidates, but candidates must submit their own letters to be considered for Commission membership. Referrals from political organizations and any references to political contributions or other partisan political activities will

not be considered in the selection process.

Please send requests for consideration on company letterhead by fax or letter. See **ADDRESSES**. Requests sent by email will not be considered. Candidates chosen for membership will be notified in writing.

Dated: November 13, 2001.

Chiling Tong,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111401A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Data Collection for the Trap Fishery in the U.S. Caribbean

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Proposed information 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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Jim Waters, Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516-9722, (252-728-8710).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to conduct a survey to collect socio-economic data from the Caribbean (Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands) trap fishery. The survey intends to collect revenue, cost

and other auxiliary economic information, e.g., vessel characteristics and capital investment, as well as socio-demographic information. The information collected is necessary to evaluate the economic impacts of potential gear regulations that are likely to be considered by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. In addition, the information will be used to strengthen and improve fishery management decision-making, satisfy legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et. seq.*), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and quantify achievement of performance measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans.

II. Method of Collection

The socio-economic information will be collected via personal interview with a stratified random sample of commercial trap fishermen, with strata defined as three distinct fishing areas within the U.S. Caribbean: Puerto Rico; St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI); and St. Thomas/St. John, USVI. One hundred interviews will be completed in total: sixty (60) interviews in Puerto Rico; twenty (20) interviews in St. Croix; and twenty (20) interviews in St. Thomas/St. John.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 200.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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

¹ A U.S. company is defined in the Procedures and Rules for Industry Sector Advisory Committees as a firm incorporated in the United States (or an unincorporated U.S. firm with its principal places of business in the United States) that is controlled by U.S. citizens or by another U.S. entity. An entity is not a U.S. company if 50 percent plus one share of its stock (if a corporation, or a similar ownership interest of an unincorporated entity) is controlled, directly or indirectly, by non-U.S. citizens or non-U.S. entities. If the member is to represent an entity or corporation with 10 percent or greater non-U.S. ownership, the nominee must demonstrate at the time of nomination that this ownership interest does not constitute control and will not adversely affect his or her ability to serve on the Commission.