

Technology, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801. Instrument: Electron Microprobe, Model SX 100. Manufacturer: Cameca, France. Intended Use: The article is intended to be used for measuring the x-ray intensity, backscattered and secondary electrons emitted by samples (minerals, rocks, glasses, metals, synthetic mineral phases and ceramics) when bombarded by a focussed electron beam. The data will be used for a number of types of geological, hydrological and metallurgical studies. In addition, the instrument will be used for educational purposes in the courses Geochemistry 589, Theory and Practice of Electron Microprobe Analysis and Geochemistry 489, Experimental Mineralogy. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: March 12, 1997.

Docket Number: 97-028. Applicant: Rutgers University, PO Box 6999, Piscataway, NJ 08855-6999. Instrument: ICP Mass Spectrometer, Model Element. Manufacturer: Finnigan MAT, Germany. Intended Use: The instrument will be used in tandem with novel automated sampling technologies to determine spatial and temporal patterns of trace metals in sea water and suspended solids in the coastal zone and the dependence of these patterns on biological and physical processes. In addition, the instrument will be used to teach a hands-on instrumentation course for oceanographic and environmental work. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: March 12, 1997.

Frank W. Creel,
Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.
[FR Doc. 97-8394 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]
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Geological Survey; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made 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.

Docket Number: 96-147. Applicant: U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO 80225. Instrument: Mass Spectrometer, Model Optima. Manufacturer: Micromass, United Kingdom. Intended Use: See notice at 62 FR 6216, February 11, 1997.

Comments: None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent

scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. Reasons: The foreign instrument provides a magnetic sector analyzer with a three Faraday cup multicollector and with an internal precision of 0.01 per mil for 20 µl samples of CO₂. This capability is pertinent to the applicant's intended purposes and we know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Frank W. Creel,
Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.
[FR Doc. 97-8393 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]
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Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made 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 5:00 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 96-144. Applicant: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139. Instrument: Dual Mixing Stopped-Flow System, Model SF-61. Manufacturer: Hi-Tech Scientific, United Kingdom. Intended Use: See notice at 62 FR 6215, February 11, 1997.

Comments: None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. Reasons: This is a compatible accessory for an existing instrument purchased for the use of the applicant.

The National Institutes of Health advises in its memorandum dated February 4, 1997, that the accessory is pertinent to the intended uses and that it knows of no comparable domestic accessory.

We know of no domestic accessory which can be readily adapted to the existing instrument.

Frank W. Creel
Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.
[FR Doc. 97-8392 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]
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International Trade Administration; Notice

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Trade Development will lead a mission to India to explore opportunities for the renovation and modernization of existing power plants. The mission, which will occur April 28-May 2 in India, will be supported by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the U.S. Embassy.

DATES: Interested U.S. firms should apply to participate in the mission as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Request for further information should be made to Helen Burroughs (202) 482-4931 or David Knuti (202) 482-4179 at the Commerce Department's Energy Division.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The criteria for selection of mission participants are:

- Relevance of a company's business line to mission goals.
- Timeliness of completed application (including participation Fee).
- Potential for business in India for company.

Any partisan political activities (including political contributions) of an applicant are entirely irrelevant to the selection process.

With many power plants operating at 50-60 percent of rated capacity, Indian power officials are turning to renovation and modernization as a method to attack their country's power shortages. The mission will enable participants to become familiar with conditions in Indian electric power plants slated for renovation. They will become personally acquainted with many Indian officials and have the opportunity for one on one sessions.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

John Rasmussen,
Energy Division.
[FR Doc. 97-8345 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]
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Meeting of the President's Export Council

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting.

SUMMARY: The President's Export Council (PEC) will hold a full Council meeting to discuss topics related to export expansion. The meeting will include briefings on trade priorities and issues, Information Technology Agreement, economic sanctions, and Virtual Trade Mission activities. The PEC was established on December 20, 1973, and reconstituted May 4, 1979, to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. trade. It was most recently renewed by Executive Order 12991.

DATES: April 24, 1997.

TIME: 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

ADDRESS: The Washington Court Hotel, Atrium Ballroom, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC., 20001-1527. This program is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be submitted by April 16, 1997, to Lori Way, President's Export Council, Room 2015B, Washington, DC, 20230. (Phone: 202-482-1124) Seating is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sylvia Lino Prosak or Lori Way, President's Export Council, Room 2015B, Washington, DC, 20230 (Phone: 202-482-1124).

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Sylvia Lino Prosak,

*Staff Director and Executive Secretary,
President's Export Council.*

[FR Doc. 97-8289 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022497A]

Fisheries Bycatch Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft NMFS bycatch plan, *Managing the Nation's Bycatch: Priorities, Programs and Actions for the National Marine Fisheries Service*. The NMFS bycatch plan will guide the agency's bycatch-related research and management for the next decade. Any written comments received will be considered by NMFS in the adoption and implementation of the final bycatch plan.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before May 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the NMFS bycatch plan should be directed to the NMFS Office of Science and Technology, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD. 20910. PHONE:(301)713-2363. FAX: (301)713-1875. The NMFS bycatch plan is also available in its entirety on the Internet at <http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Witzig, 508-495-2305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Interest in bycatch in the Nation's fisheries has received increased attention in the last decade. During this time, NMFS and its constituents have come to agree that fisheries bycatch is an issue of great concern to those interested in sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems. Congress has emphasized NMFS' responsibility to address bycatch in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Following a series of public symposia and workshops with industry, the conservation community, scientists, Native Alaskan groups, and others, NMFS undertook development of a national bycatch plan. The NMFS bycatch plan will be used as a blueprint for the agency's bycatch-related research and management for the next decade.

In the development of the plan, NMFS conducted a survey of available information on bycatch in the Nation's fisheries and efforts to understand and manage the issue. The survey, which is included in the bycatch plan, is intended to update information previously compiled elsewhere, and to serve as a benchmark from which to judge future efforts in data collection and management efforts to mitigate negative effects of bycatches.

Issues in each of NMFS' administrative regions and on the national level are addressed in detail in the NMFS bycatch plan. This discussion forms the basis for a set of research and management recommendations that will help guide the agency's bycatch-related activities. Broadly, recommendations in the plan address the acquisition of bycatch data, gear technology and selectivity research, the effects of bycatch, research on individual incentive programs to manage bycatch, development and implementation of conservation and management measures to address bycatch, and information exchange and cooperative management.

Request for Comments

NMFS intends that the final version of the bycatch plan will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person concerned with this draft NMFS Bycatch Plan.

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Rolland A. Schmitten,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-8364 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Petition of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. for Exemptive Relief To Permit United States Customers To Establish or Offset Positions in Certain Foreign Currency Options on the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd. Through Registered Broker-Dealers

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final order.

SUMMARY: In response to a petition by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX"), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission" or "CFTC") has issued an Order (the "Order") exempting from regulation under the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act" or "CEA")¹ transactions in which United States ("U.S.") customers establish or offset positions in Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX") foreign currency options on the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd. ("HKFE") through registered broker-dealers pursuant to regulation by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under the federal securities laws and subject to specified conditions as set forth herein. The Order grants the requested relief pursuant to section 4c(b) of the Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan C. Ervin, Deputy Director/Chief Counsel or Christopher W. Cummings, Attorney/Advisor, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20581. Telephone number: (202) 418-5450. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5536. Electronic mail: tm@cftc.gov.

¹ 7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.