

Canadian Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final injury determination made by the Canadian International Trade Tribunal, in the material injury investigation respecting Concrete Panels, reinforced with fiberglass mesh, originating in or exported from the United States of America. This determination was published in the *Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 13, No. 28, page 1957-58* on July 12, 1997. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number CDA-97-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Holbein, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first request for panel review was filed with the Canadian Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on July 21, 1997, requesting panel review of the final material injury investigation described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first request for panel review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is August 20, 1997);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the

final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first request for panel review (the deadline for filing a notice of appearance is September 4, 1997); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: August 4, 1997.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(I.D. 072297C)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of process; developing U.S. positions on FAO fisheries issues.

SUMMARY: Important events occurred at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) meeting of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in March 1997. The United States highlighted several fisheries issues for FAO and member countries to take action on in the near future: Managing fishing capacity, seabird bycatch and mortality in longline fisheries, and shark conservation and management.

The United States is working with FAO on preparations designed to lead to an FAO Consultation, with all FAO member countries invited, to consider action plans for all three issues in late 1998. Preparations will include meetings of expert Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with the result that FAO will provide background information and draft plans of action well in advance of the FAO Consultation.

NMFS is involved directly in each of these initiatives and believes that keeping affected industries and interested groups informed is important. The public is invited to contact the individuals identified in supplementary

information to declare interest and receive further information, including the terms of reference for the TWGs when these become available. Public meetings that may be required in the planning for the FAO COFI Consultation will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Questions about this document may be directed to Dean Swanson, Chief, International Fisheries Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Swanson, 301-713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Management of Fishing Capacity

It is widely recognized that excess fishing effort exerted by unnecessarily large fishing fleets is often a contributing factor to the depletion of fish stocks. Excess fishing capacity can be a major impediment to effective management and a major source of economic waste. Although an international consensus appears to be emerging on the need for improved control of fishing capacity, its implementation at the national, regional, and global levels is proving to be difficult. In order to provide the type of information needed by fisheries managers, policymakers, the fishing sector, and other concerned parties, NMFS has agreed to sponsor or co-sponsor one or more international meetings, with the ultimate aim of producing (i) technical guidelines on how to define, measure and control fishing capacity, and on the causes, consequences, and cures for overcapacity, and (ii) a draft plan of action for consideration at the FAO Consultation. The exact objectives and terms of reference for the capacity TWG are still under discussion with FAO and Japan.

The United States is the principal sponsor of a proposed TWG on Fishing Capacity, with FAO and Japan also contributing some funds. The TWG is tentatively scheduled to be held in La Jolla, CA, in early 1998. Followup meetings leading to a plan of action are likely to be co-sponsored by the United States and Japan.

NMFS Contact: *regarding the TWG*, Pamela Mace

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National Marine Fisheries Service
166 Water Street
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regarding the FAO Consultation,
Matteo Milazzo
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Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

Tens of thousands of seabirds are being killed incidental to various commercial longline fisheries in the world. Some of the seabirds are species of management concern and populations of several other seabird species may be declining because of longline bycatches. Seabird bycatch also has an adverse impact on catch rates and profitability of fishing operations. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial fishery associations are petitioning for regulatory measures to reduce the mortality of seabirds in the world's longline fisheries.

The goal for the Seabird TWG and the subsequent FAO Consultation is to produce an action plan to implement FAO guidelines on mitigating measures to reduce incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries. Japan and the U.S. will co-host the session, and the U.S. co-lead agencies are NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

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P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802
907-586-7228
FWS Contact: Kent Wohl
Migratory Bird Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor
Anchorage, AK 99503
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Shark Conservation and Management

Global landings of sharks and related species have dramatically increased in recent years. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation due to life history characteristics, particularly relatively low rates of reproduction. In addition, fishing mortality due to bycatch exceeds that due to directed fisheries. The expanding international market for shark fins, cartilage, meat, and skins is an important factor motivating recent increased mortality.

An international consensus is emerging on the need for improved control of fishing effort on sharks and related species by both directed and bycatch fleets. The goal for the upcoming Shark TWG and subsequent FAO Consultation is to develop a global strategy (action plan) and guidelines for sustainable international and regional management of elasmobranch species by national, regional, and highly migratory management groups.

The intent of the strategy is to provide an effective web of management regimes sufficient to arrest the declines of sharks, skates, and rays where they have occurred and to put the harvest of these species on a sustainable basis.

NMFS Contact: Dean Swanson
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1315 East-West Highway
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Dated: August 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072897E]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSPP) public scoping meeting and a public scoping meeting on dolphin fish management. **DATES:** The meetings will be held from August 18-20, 1997, in conjunction with the Council meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (803) 571-1000 or (800) 334-6660.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; E-mail address: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACCSP public scoping meeting will be held August 18, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on ways to improve commercial and recreational fisheries data collection.

The public scoping meeting on dolphin management will be held August 20, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. until all business is complete. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to express their views on the need for and the type of management the Council should consider for the dolphin fish resource.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 11, 1997.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Intelligence Agency, Science and Technology Advisory Board; Closed Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (d) of Section 10 of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Section 5 of Public Law 94-409, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the DIA Science and Technology Advisory board has been scheduled as follows:

DATES: 21 August 1997 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

ADDRESSES: The Defense Intelligence Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20340-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj. Michael W. Lamb, USAF, Executive Secretary, DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board, Washington, DC 20340-1328 (202) 231-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The entire meeting is devoted to the discussion of classified information as defined in Section 552b(c)(1), Title 5 of the U.S. Code and therefore will be closed to the public. The Board will receive briefings on and discuss several current critical intelligence issues and advise the Director, DIA, on related scientific and technical matters.