

DATES: Written suggestions and comments (letter, fax, or e-mail) received by January 25, 1995 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Mr. W. Douglas Walton, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Polymers Building, Room A345, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. In addition, the fax number may be used (301-869-3531) or e-mail (dwalton@enh.nist.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anyone requesting information should contact Mr. W. Douglas Walton, telephone: 301-975-6872; fax: 301-869-3531; e-mail: dwalton@enh.nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Building and Fire Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, is developing recommendations to address the reduction of life and property loss resulting from post-earthquake fires. The recommendations will focus on concepts that would lead to the prevention of fires following an earthquake and the means to reduce the spread of fires that do occur. The recommendations will emphasize technologies with the potential for direct and near term impact on reducing the loss from fire in future earthquakes. The recommendations will include the role of water, gas, liquid fuel, electrical power, communications, and transportation lifeline systems in the ignition of fires and in the mitigation of fire spread.

The Laboratory is seeking public input in the form of concepts for technology development and research needs which will be used in developing a research plan. Technology development and research needs may include concepts related to pre-earthquake preparations, post-earthquake operations, new and retrofit construction techniques, and the rapid restoration of fire protection and lifeline systems following an earthquake.

This request is only for the purpose of identifying technology development and research needs. This request is not directed at the implementation of specific measures for reducing the loss from post-earthquake fires.

Dated: December 29, 1994.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

[FR Doc. 95-265 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122094B]

Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS); request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the intention of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare an SEIS for proposed Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Council and approved and implemented by NMFS under provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act). The purpose of Amendment 9 is to manage shrimp trawling in the Gulf of Mexico to reduce the bycatch mortality of fish, particularly juvenile snappers.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the SEIS must be submitted by February 6, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments and requests for additional information should be sent to Terrance Leary, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609-2486.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terrance R. Leary, 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FMP was approved by NMFS and implemented in 1981; it documented a significant problem in the Gulf Mexico shrimp fishery involving adverse effects on other fisheries such as the groundfish and reef fish fisheries resulting from the bycatch of fish in shrimp trawling operations.

In the process of trawling for shrimp, various species of fish are inadvertently caught. Many of these fish, often at juvenile stages, die before being discarded. Some overfished species, such as Gulf red snapper, are significantly and adversely affected because of the bycatch mortality which is hampering stock recovery. Annual stock assessments for red snapper for the period 1990-94 have indicated that the red snapper resource cannot recover from its overfished status, even with a total closure of the directed fishery, without a 50 percent reduction in red snapper mortality resulting from shrimp trawl bycatch.

The Council developed a draft Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish in 1981 that proposed shrimp trawl-gear requirements contingent on development of bycatch excluder devices in shrimp trawls that would reduce bycatch by 50 percent, with no more than a 3-percent loss of shrimp. In 1990, the Council, with pledges of assistance from the shrimp industry, announced its intent to reduce bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper in the shrimp fishery by 50 percent by 1993. The 3-year delay was provided to develop the methodology in cooperative studies with the industry. The Council's goal for bycatch reduction was affected by the 1990 amendments to the Magnuson Act that mandated a 3-year research program to assess the impacts of shrimp trawl bycatch on fishery resources under the management of the Council. The results of this research program will be considered as an important basis for any specific management actions.

Recent advances in gear development through government and shrimp industry efforts have produced Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) that successfully exclude juvenile fish from shrimp trawls with a minimal loss of shrimp. In September 1994, the Council began development of Amendment 9 to the FMP to address bycatch reduction. The Council is considering the following management alternatives for this amendment:

1. No management action;
2. Require the use of NMFS-approved BRDs in shrimp trawls in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) within the 110-fathom (201.17 m) contour;
3. Require the use of NMFS-approved BRDs in shrimp trawls in specified areas of the Gulf of Mexico EEZ;
4. Criteria for NMFS approval of BRDs, including specifications for exclusion of bycatch and retention of shrimp; and
5. Seasonal and area restrictions to reduce bycatch.

The FMP was prepared by the Council in 1980 and approved and implemented in 1981. A draft and final environmental impact statement was prepared for the FMP which evaluated the environmental effects of the FMP and the shrimp fishery. The SEIS to be prepared for Amendment 9 will examine the environmental impacts of the major alternative management measures considered by the Council as well as assessing, based on currently available information, the impacts of the Gulf shrimp trawl fisheries on the human environment, the shrimp resources, protected species

(endangered or threatened), and marine mammals within the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council will begin developing Amendment 9 and the draft SEIS in early 1995, after consulting with its Shrimp Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee. Public hearings on the amendment documents and draft SEIS, as well as the formal filing of the draft SEIS with the Environmental Protection Agency for a 45-day public comment period, are expected to occur in the summer of 1995.

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

Dated: December 28, 1994.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-180 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 121594A]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of modification to permit No. 916 (P552).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on December 29, 1994, permit No. 916, issued to Michael T. Williams, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Biology & Wildlife, Fairbanks, AK 99775, was modified to extend the expiration date until December 31, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The modification and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (907/586-7131).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of §§ 216.33(d) and (e) of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*), and the fur seal regulations (50 CFR part 215).

Dated: December 29, 1994.

Steven L. Swartz,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-208 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Meeting of the DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Group on Electron Devices.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a closed session meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held at 0900, Tuesday, 10 January 1995.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Palisades Institute for Research Services, Inc. 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Becky Terry, AGED Secretariat, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E), and through the DDR&E to the Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Military Departments in planning and managing an effective and economical research and development program in the area of electron devices.

The AGED meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the Military Departments propose to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. The agenda for this meeting will include programs on Radiation Hardened Devices, Microwave Tubes, Displays and Lasers. The review will include details of classified defense programs throughout.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended, (5 U.S.C. App. II § 10(d) (1988)), it has been determined that this Advisory Group meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(1) (1988), and that accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: December 30, 1994.

L. M. Bynum,

Alternate, OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 95-219 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Meeting of the DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Group on Electron Devices.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Working Group A (Microwave Devices) of the DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a closed session meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held at 0900, Wednesday, 11 January 1995.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Palisades Institute for Research Services, Inc., 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Walter Gelnovatch, AGED Secretariat, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E), and through the DDR&E to the Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) and the Military Departments in planning and managing an effective and economical research and development program in the area of electron devices.

The Working Group A meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the Military Departments propose to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. This microwave device area includes programs on developments and research related to microwave tubes, solid state microwave devices, electronic warfare devices, electronic warfare devices, millimeter wave devices, and passive devices. The review will include details of classified defense programs throughout.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended, (5 U.S.C. App. II § 10(d) (1988)), it has been determined that this Advisory Group meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(1) (1988), and that accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.