

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2202]

United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC); Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces that a meeting of the United States International Telecommunications Advisory Committee (ITAC) will be held May 17, 1995, 1:30–4:00 p.m., in the East Auditorium of the Department of State, 2201 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Department regrets the short notice of this meeting, which has been caused by an unanticipated invitation to participate in an important international meeting and the need to obtain timely recommendations from ITAC.

The purpose of ITAC is to advise the Department on policy, technical and operational matters and to provide strategic planning recommendations, with respect to international telecommunications and information issues. The agenda of this meeting is to consider Resolution 15—Review of the Rights and Obligations of all Members of the Sectors of the Union—of the recent ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and any related matters. In particular the Department is seeking the recommendations of ITAC regarding U.S. participation in the first meeting of the Review Committee foreseen by Resolution 15, which will be held at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, May 29–31. The Committee will review the rights and obligations of ITU members (the "small-m" members, or non-governmental participants in ITU activities) with the aim of enhancing their rights, in recognition of their contribution to the work of the ITU and in such a way that their active and effective participation is promoted. Questions regarding the agenda or ITAC in general may be directed to Richard Shrum, Department of State (202–647–0050).

Members of the general public may attend the meetings and join in the discussions, subject to the instructions of the chair and seating availability. In this regard, entry to the building is controlled. All persons planning to attend should advise the Department by leaving a message on 202–647–0201, no later than two days before the meeting. Enter through the main lobby on C Street. A picture ID will be required for admittance.

Dated: May 3, 1995.

Richard E. Shrum,*ITAC Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 95–11468 Filed 5–9–95; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

[Public Notice 2199]

Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101–162

SUMMARY: On April 28, 1995, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101–162, that 9 countries with commercial shrimp trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and Western Atlantic Ocean (Belize, Brazil, Columbia, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela) have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in such fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The Department certified that the fishing environment in two other countries (Costa Rica and Guatemala) does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Public Law 101–162. The Department was unable to issue certifications on April 28 for Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and French Guiana and, as a result, shrimp imports from these countries were prohibited effective May 1, 1995 pursuant to Public Law 101–162.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 10, 1995.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520–7818; telephone: (202) 647–3940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101–162 prohibits imports of shrimp from certain nations unless the President certifies to the Congress by May 1 of each year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nations does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on February 18, 1993 (58 FR 9015).

The countries subject to the provisions of Public Law 101–162 include Belize, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, French Guiana (EC), Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. On April 28, 1995, the Department of State certified that 11 of the 14 affected countries have met, for the current year, the requirements of the law. The countries that did not receive a certification at that time were Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, and French Guiana. As a result, shrimp imports from Trinidad and Tobago were prohibited pursuant to Public Law 101–162 effective May 1, 1995. The ban on shrimp imports from Suriname (in effect since May 1, 1993) and French Guiana (in effect since May 1, 1992) remain in place.

The countries that received a certification on April 28, 1995, were Belize, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela; with Trinidad and Tobago certified on May 9, 1994. Of these, the Department certified that the fishing environment in Costa Rica and Guatemala does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected by Public Law 101–162. (In both these countries, the commercial shrimp trawl fleet operates exclusively in the Pacific Ocean with no activity on the Caribbean side.) The Department certified that the other ten countries have adopted a program to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in the commercial shrimp trawl fishery comparable to the U.S. program.

In reviewing information for the purpose of making the certifications, the Department looked at three principal elements of each country's program: The legal and/or regulatory framework establishing the TED requirement for all commercial shrimp trawl vessels, except those specifically exempt under the Department's guidelines; (2) the implementation of the requirement and the extent to which TEDs are in use on all such vessels; and (3) the efforts of each country to monitor and enforce the TED requirement to ensure compliance. Because each country that received a certification this year has established and is implementing the legal requirement to use TEDs, the Department will place particular emphasis in making future certifications on the third element, monitoring and enforcement of the TED requirement.

Dated: April 28, 1995.

R. Tucker Scully,*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans.*

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