

Dated: February 5, 1997.
 Nancy Linn Patton,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific.
 [FR Doc. 97-4504 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Prospective Grant of Exclusive Patent License

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

SUMMARY: This is a notice in accordance with 35 USC 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i) that the National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST"), U.S. Department of Commerce, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive license in the United States to practice the invention embodied in U.S. Patent Application Number 08/487,557, titled, "Pre-Ceramic Polymers in Fabrication of Ceramic Composites," in the field of use of dental and cosmetic products, to Vident, having a place of business in Brea, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Mattson, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, NIST receives written evidence and argument which establish that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

U.S. Patent Application Number 08/487,557 provides composites in the form of a three-dimensional framework or skeleton of ceramic particles which are formed by a low cost, low temperature sintering process which decomposes a pre-ceramic inorganic or organic precursor.

NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement ("CRADA") with the licensee to perform further research on the invention for purposes of commercialization. NIST may grant the licensee an option to negotiate for exclusive licenses to any jointly owned inventions which arise from the CRADA as well as an option to negotiate for exclusive royalty-bearing licenses for NIST employee inventions which arise from the CRADA.

The availability of the invention for licensing was published in the Federal

Register, Vol. 61, No. 107 (June 2, 1996). A copy of the patent application may be obtained from NIST at the Foregoing Address.

Dated: February 6, 1997.
 Elaine Buntten-Mines,
Director, Program Office.
 [FR Doc. 97-4615 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021897A]

Mid-Atlantic Take Reduction Team

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

ACTION: Notice of establishment of team and public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Take Reduction Team to address bycatch of harbor porpoise in U.S. mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries is established February 25, 1997 and will hold its first meeting to develop a Take Reduction Plan as described in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) focusing on reducing bycatch in these fisheries.

DATES: The team is established as of February 25, 1997. The first meeting of the team will be held on March 4-5, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for April 23-24, 1997, and June 3-4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The first meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for Salisbury, MD, (April) and Washington, D.C. (June).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Cornish, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 30, 1994, the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA were signed into law. Section 117 of the MMPA requires that NMFS complete stock assessment reports for all marine mammal stocks within U.S. waters. Each stock assessment report is required to categorize the status of the stock as one that either has a level of human-caused mortality and serious injury that is not likely to cause the stock to be reduced below its optimum sustainable population; or is a strategic stock, with a description of the reasons therefore; and estimate the potential biological removal (PBR) level for the stock, describing the information used to calculate it, including the recovery factor. Stock Assessment Reports and the calculated PBR were published by NMFS in July 1995.

The MMPA defines a "strategic stock" as a marine mammal stock for which the level of direct human-caused mortality exceeds the PBR level; which, based on the best available scientific information, is declining and is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the foreseeable future; which is listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the ESA, or is designated as depleted under the MMPA. The MMPA further defines the term "potential biological removal," or PBR, as "the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population."

Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries interact with the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy stock of harbor porpoise (supporting documentation at 60 FR 67063, December 28, 1995). This stock is considered strategic under the MMPA because the level of human-caused mortality is greater than its PBR levels.

Section 118(f) of the MMPA requires NMFS to establish a Take Reduction Team to prepare a draft Take Reduction Plan designed to assist in the recovery or prevent the depletion of each strategic marine mammal stock that interacts with certain fisheries. Section 118(f)(6)(C) requires that members of Take Reduction Teams have expertise regarding the conservation or biology of the marine mammal species that the plan will address, or the fishing practices that result in the incidental mortality and serious injury of such species. The MMPA further specifies that members of the team shall include representatives of Federal agencies, each coastal state with fisheries that interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska Native organizations, or Indian tribal organizations, and others as deemed appropriate.

As a result of an extended interview process conducted by a NMFS-contracted facilitator, NMFS has asked the following individuals to be a member of the team, which will focus on reducing bycatch of harbor porpoise taken as bycatch in U.S. mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries: Erik Anderson, independent fisher, New Hampshire, and member of the New England Fishery Management Council; Herb Austin, fishery scientist, Virginia