

Constitution Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

*Docket Number:* 96-122. *Applicant:* University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0304. *Instrument:* Diamond Anvil Cells, Model Diacell. *Manufacturer:* Diacell, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 62 FR 979, January 7, 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: (1) high pressure capability to 750 kbar, (2) metal membrane drive for precise control and (3) hemispherically movable diamond cups for superior alignment. A domestic manufacturer of similar equipment advised on February 3, 1997 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

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. 97-5637 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030397A]

### Advisory Panel on Atlantic Billfish Fisheries

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS solicits nominations for the Atlantic billfish advisory panel (AP). The purpose of the AP will be to assist NMFS in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the amendment of the billfish management plan. The AP will include representatives from all interests in Atlantic billfish fisheries.

**DATES:** Nominations must be submitted on or before April 7, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be submitted to Rebecca Lent, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 1315 East-West

Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Nominations may be submitted by fax; 301-713-1917.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Kelly, 301-713-2347.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Introduction

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104-297, an Advisory Panel (AP) will be established to consult with NMFS in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the amendment of the Atlantic billfish fishery management plan.

The purpose of the AP is to assist NMFS in the development of an amendment to the billfish management plan. The first action will be development of definitions (i.e., bycatch, overfishing) and other requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

##### Procedures and Guidelines

###### A. Procedures for Establishing the Advisory Panel.

Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, governmental and quasi-governmental entities will be considered as members of the AP. Selection of AP members will not be limited to those that are nominated.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. The nomination should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in or connection with highly migratory species (HMS) and billfish in particular;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP.

###### B. Participants.

The AP shall consist of not less than seven (7) members who are knowledgeable about the pelagic fisheries for Atlantic HMS, particularly billfish fisheries. Nominations will be accepted to allow representation from recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community. NMFS does not believe that each potentially affected organization or individual must necessarily have its own representative, but each interest must be adequately represented. The intent is to have a

group that, as a whole, reflects an appropriate balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of the AP. Criteria for membership include one or more of the following: a) Experience in the recreational fishing industry involved in catching billfish; b) experience in the commercial fishing industry involved in billfish bycatch; c) experience in connected industries (marinas, bait and tackle shops); d) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; e) former or current representative of a private, regional, state, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries interests dealing with billfish.

NMFS will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the AP. However, we will be unable to compensate participants with monetary support of any kind, because no funds were appropriated to support this activity in fiscal year 1997. Members will be expected to pay for travel costs related to the AP.

###### C. Tentative Schedule.

Meetings of the AP will be held twice or thrice yearly. The initial activities include consideration of definitions of overfishing, etc., to be developed for amendments to the Billfish Management Plan. Amendments and regulations will be submitted for Secretarial review by October 11, 1998.

Dated: March 3, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-5695 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 022897F]

### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for modification to research permit 900 (P770#66).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS in Seattle, WA (CZESD) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit authorizing takes of endangered and threatened species for scientific research purposes. **DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications must be received on or before April 7, 1997.