

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Fletcher Blanchard, 413-585-3909, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, May 12, 1997.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.
[FR Doc. 97-13112 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of first request for panel review.

SUMMARY: On May 12, 1997, Stelco, Inc. filed a first request for panel review with the U.S. Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty Administrative review made by the International Trade Administration in the administrative review respecting Certain Corrosion-Resistant Carbon Steel Flat Products from Canada. This determination was published in the **Federal Register** on April 15, 1997 (62 FR 18448). The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA-97-1940-03 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). The panel review in this matter will be conducted in accordance with these Rules.

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the U.S. Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on May 12, 1997, requesting panel review of the final antidumping duty administrative review 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 June 11, 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 June 26, 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: May 14, 1997.

James R. Holbein,

U.S. Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 97-13173 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Public Meeting to Announce an Opportunity to Join a Cooperative Research and Development Consortium for Zone Fire Modeling

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology invites interested parties to attend a meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 1997 to discuss setting up a cooperative research consortium. The goal of the consortium is to achieve a modeling protocol which will support commercial use of fire models. The working group will suggest direction and development options for future work. Parties participating in the consortium will have early access to the code and development process.

The program will be within the scope and confines of The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-502, 15 U.S.C. 3710a), which provides federal laboratories including NIST, with the authority to enter into cooperative research and development agreements with qualified parties. Under this law, NIST may contribute personnel, equipment and facilities—but no funds—to the cooperative program. Members will be expected to make a contribution to the consortium's effort in the form of personnel and/or funds. This is not a grant program.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 1997 from 8:30 am until 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Lecture Room B at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Walter W. Jones, 301 975-6887, facsimile 301 975-4052.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Over the past decade the Building and Fire Research has developed computer based models as a predictive tool for estimating the environment which results in a building when a fire is present. Development of the first of these models FAST, started about 1983. In 1985, development of the Consolidated Computer Fire Model was begun. It was originally envisioned to be a benchmark fire code, with all algorithms of fire phenomena available for experimentation. In 1989, a decision was made that development of many computer programs was not the best

possible course for BFRL. At the time, FAST included considerably more phenomena than any other model anywhere. In addition, it used significantly more sophisticated graphics output. For these reasons, among others, FAST was selected as the engine for further development. A priority project was undertaken in 1989 to incorporate the lessons learned in the development of the structure of CCFM. This code was named CFAST¹ for the Consolidated Fire Growth and Smoke Transport Model. This is the only explicit zone fire model supported by the Building and Fire Research Laboratory. FAST was the engine in HAZARD I, versions 1.0 and 1.1, which became available in June of 1989, and September of 1991, respectively. CFAST is the basis for Hazard 1.2, which became available in 1994. CFAST is intended to operate on many platforms, be as error free as possible, be simple to run for simple problems, yet allow complexity where needed. The code is extremely fast. It works on laptop personal computers, Unix workstations and supercomputers. It provides extensive graphics for analysis with pre- and post-processing modules. It is extremely fast on single compartment cases, and with the data editor, there is tremendous flexibility for parameter studies, such as "what if" testing. The model is particularly well suited for doing parameter studies of changes, both subtle and large, within a single compartment.

The development of the Hazard Methodology with the associated software has provided the underpinnings for a higher level of understanding of hazard prediction for buildings. The FASTLite tool, also based on the CFAST zone model and available since May, 1996, improved the usability of this type of modeling by providing a graphical user interface. The current list of users of the fire modeling software exceeds 2,500. The next version of CFAST, version 3, is expected this summer. There are many improvements that can be made beyond this, both in usability as well as functionality.

As a result of the multiple requests that NIST has received for enhancements to this software, NIST is proposing a consortium to maximize the benefits of further research. The purpose of the public meeting is to discuss formation of a consortium to support the continued development in a way that

addresses industry needs. The meeting will provide a forum to explain the rules which will apply to the consortium. The consortium will establish the direction for further research and development of the fire safety engineering tools. The program will be within the scope and confines of The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-502, 15 U.S.C. 3710a), which provides federal laboratories including NIST, with the authority to enter into cooperative research and development agreements with qualified parties. Under this law, NIST may contribute personnel, equipment and facilities—but no funds—to the cooperative program. Members will be expected to make a contribution to the consortium's efforts in the form of personnel and/or funds. This is not a grant program.

Interested parties should contact NIST to confirm their interest at the address, telephone number or facsimile number shown above.

Dated: May 13, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-13200 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021997G]

Atlantic Shark Fisheries

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) and request for written comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to prepare a SEIS to assess the potential impacts of adjustments to the Atlantic shark fishery in 1998 and beyond. NMFS is responsible for managing the Atlantic shark fishery.

NMFS will prepare an SEIS to assess the impact of shark harvests and proposed regulations on the natural and human environment. This notice of intent requests written comments on issues that NMFS should consider in preparing the SEIS and amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for sharks of the Atlantic Ocean (FMP). Scoping meetings for the SEIS will be scheduled at a later date.

The purpose of this notice is to: Inform the interested public of the

intent to prepare this SEIS; provide information on recent stock assessments for Atlantic sharks; announce that NMFS is considering measures for the 1998 Atlantic shark fishery; and request public comments.

DATES: Public comments must be received on or before July 21, 1997. Public meetings will be announced at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposal to prepare an SEIS must be sent to: Rebecca Lent, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Michael Bailey or Margo Schulze, 301-713-2347; fax 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The fishery for Atlantic sharks is managed under the fishery management plan (FMP) prepared by NMFS under authority of section 304(g) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended, and implemented on April 26, 1993, through regulations found at 50 CFR part 678. The FMP established three species management groups, commercial quotas and recreational bag limits, fishing seasons, mandatory vessel reporting, and required commercial vessel permits (with an earned income requirement).

In recent years, sharks have been heavily exploited as a result of increased demand for their meat, fins, and cartilage. In addition, mortality is reported to be high for sharks that are caught as bycatch in the swordfish, tuna, and shrimp trawl fisheries. The 1994 Shark Evaluation Workshop (SEW) determined that the large coastal species group is overfished and that the pelagic and small coastal species groups are fully fished. The SEW concluded that increases in the quota for large coastal sharks in 1995, as planned in the FMP, could jeopardize stock recovery. A final rule that capped quotas for large coastal and pelagic sharks at the 1994 levels was published on May 2, 1995.

The 1995 SEW report, released by NMFS on April 20, 1995, agreed with the previous findings of the 1994 SEW and reiterated that the projected 1995 quota increase should be delayed indefinitely. In June 1996, a new stock assessment was conducted to reevaluate the status of large coastal sharks. The most recent data indicate that the rapid rate of decline that characterized the stock in the mid 1980s has slowed

¹ Peacock, R.D., Jones, W.W., Forney, G.P., Reneke, P., Portier, R., CFAST, the Consolidated Model of Fire and Smoke Transport, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Technical Note 1299 (1992).