

consisting of 600 small catcher vessel owners, 630 large catcher vessel owners, 206 primary processor owners, including factory trawlers, motherships and on-shore processing plants, 5 secondary processors and 130 charter boat operators.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 1 hour per small catcher vessel; 2 hours per large catcher vessel and charter boat; 5 hours per primary and secondary processor.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,675 hours (3-year average).

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0. Respondents will not be required to purchase equipment or materials to respond to this survey.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

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### COMMISSION ON STRUCTURAL ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FEDERAL COURTS OF APPEALS

#### Public Hearings Notice

**AGENCY:** Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals has scheduled six public hearings to allow interested persons to comment on the Commission's work. The hearings will

be in the following cities. The precise times and locations will be announced later.

Atlanta, March 23

Dallas, March 25

Chicago, April 3

New York, April 24

Seattle, May 27

San Francisco, May 29

Congress created the Commission late last year under Public Law 105-119, section 305 (28 U.S.C. 41 note) and charged it with studying the structure and alignment of the federal appellate system, with particular reference to the Ninth Circuit. In December 1998 the Commission is to report to the President and Congress any recommendations for changes in circuit boundaries or structure, consistent with fairness and due process. To assist its work, the Commission is interested in obtaining views on whether each federal appellate court renders decisions that are reasonably timely, are consistent among the litigants appearing before it, are nationally uniform in their interpretations of federal law, and are reached through processes that afford appeals adequate, deliberative attention of judges.

At the public hearings, the Commission specifically requests that witnesses address the following:

1. What problems or difficulties do you perceive in the federal appellate system's structure, organization, alignment, processes, and personnel that may interfere with its ability to render decisions that meet the above objectives? What criteria or standards can be used to answer this question?

2. What measures should be adopted by Congress or the courts to ameliorate or overcome perceived problems in the federal appellate system or any of its circuits? What are the advantages or disadvantages of any proposed measures?

3. What is working well in the federal appellate courts?

Persons may request to testify at any single hearing by mailing or faxing a one-page letter to the Commission stating their interest in the question identified above, the hearing at which they desire to appear, and if applicable, the name of the organization on whose behalf they will be appearing. The letter must be received by the Commission at least 21 days before the hearing date. Persons who are invited by the Commission to testify will be expected to submit a written statement of not more than 2,500 words at least five days before the hearing.

In lieu of testifying at a hearing, interested persons may submit a

statement in writing to the Commission anytime prior to June 1, 1998.

Statements should be submitted in hard copy, typed, double-spaced, and also on a computer diskette in a format readable by a standard word processing program.

Letters and statements should be sent to: Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals, Washington, DC 20544, Fax: 202-208-5102.

Dated: March 3, 1998.

**Daniel J. Meador,**

*Executive Director, Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[OMB Control Number 0704-0359]

#### Information Collection Requirements; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Part 232, Contract Financing

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This information collection requirement is currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use through September 30, 1998, under OMB Control Number 0704-0359. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through September 30, 2001.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to: