

service must be either produced in the U.S. or if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least 51% U.S. content of the finished product/service. New-to-market companies are encouraged to apply. Participant executives ideally will be at the level of CEO, president or senior vice president. Each firm participating in this mission will have been recruited by U.S. DOC in Washington and reviewed by our U.S. Embassies in London and Dublin and our U.S. Consulate in Belfast for:

(1) Consistency of the company's goals with the scope, nature and desired outcome of the mission (as described herein); (2) relevance of the company's line of business to the mission goals; (3) past, present, or prospective business activity in the U.K., Ireland, or Europe; (4) diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business. An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process.

#### Endorsements/Referrals

Third parties may nominate or endorse potential applicants, but companies that are nominated or endorsed must themselves submit an application in order to be eligible for consideration. Referrals from political organizations will not be considered.

#### Costs

The fee for the mission will be determined prior to the application deadline. The participation fee will not cover the participant's travel, lodging or other personal expenses.

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 1512.

#### Ellis R. Mottur,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Trade Development.*

[FR Doc. 98-7329 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030598B]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

**ACTION:** Applications for EFPs; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces a pilot program in which swordfish vessel

owners can apply for an EFP if they have a vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board. If granted, these EFPs would authorize delayed offloading of Atlantic swordfish after the closure of the directed North Atlantic swordfish fishery, expected mid-April 1998.

**DATES:** Written comments on this program must be received on or before April 3, 1998. Applications for EFPs must be received at least 7 days prior to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery closure date (to be announced in the **Federal Register**).

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Informational materials concerning this pilot program and copies of the regulations to which exempted fishing permits are subject may also be requested from this address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jill Stevenson, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These EFPs are authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 concerning scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is providing all Atlantic swordfish permit holders the option of participating in a pilot program that would allow offloading following closures of the directed fishery in the North Atlantic Ocean. A letter was sent on January 23, 1998, to all swordfish permit holders announcing this pilot program and inviting interested persons to contact NMFS for further information. Permit holders who wish to take part in this voluntary program must purchase, install, and properly operate a Standard-C VMS on the vessel for which the special permit is issued following conditions prescribed by NMFS.

Based on a very limited response to this program to date, NMFS expects that this program will minimally affect the North Atlantic swordfish stock. The extra days of fishing that will result from this program, which allows EFP holders to fish up until the time of the closure and then offload at any time after, will be considered in estimating the closure date.

A final decision on issuance of EFPs will depend on the submission of all required information and on NMFS' review of public comments received on this notice and of any consultations with any appropriate Regional Fishery

Management Councils, state, or Federal agencies.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 13, 1998.

#### Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7157 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Meeting of the Public Advisory Committee for Trademark Affairs

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office is announcing, in accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), an open meeting of the Public Advisory Committee for Trademark Affairs.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2121 Crystal Drive, Crystal Park 2, Room 912, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Marsh by mail marked to her attention and addressed to Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, Patent and Trademark Office, 2900 Crystal Drive, South Tower Building, Suite 10B10, Arlington, VA 22202-3513; by telephone at (703) 308-9100, ext. 45; by fax at (703) 308-9395; or by e-mail to sharon.marsh@uspto.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to public observation. Accordingly, seating will be available to members of the public on a first-come-first-served basis. Members of the public will be permitted to make oral comments of three (3) minutes each. Written comments and suggestions will be accepted before or after the meeting on any of the matters discussed. Copies of the minutes will be available upon request. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- (1) Current Trademark Office Performance
- (2) Policy Issues
- (3) TTAB Issues
- (4) Finance
- (5) Automation
- (6) Domestic Legislation
- (7) International Trademark Issues