

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 98-052. Applicant: University of Maryland, Baltimore, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, 685 W. Baltimore Street, Room 222, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Instrument: Patch Clamp System. *Manufacturer:* Luigs and Neumann, Germany. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to provide visual stimulation during experiments on the processing of visual information in ferrets. In addition, the instrument will be used in rotation courses for graduate students preparing for thesis work. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 20, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-053. Applicant: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Department of Ceramics and Material Engineering, 56 Bevier Road, Piscataway, NJ 08855. *Instrument:* Superfine Mill and Crushing Ring, Model MIC-2. *Manufacturer:* NARA Machinery Co. Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to make hydroxyapatite biomaterials as well as lead magnesium niobate electronic materials using novel mechanochemical phenomena. The experiments will consist of blending different types of particulate raw materials that will be subjected to mechanochemical stresses under a variety of operating conditions of the instrument. In addition, the instrument will be used by graduate students in a graduate program of ceramic science and engineering. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 22, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-054. Applicant: University of Illinois at Chicago,

Purchasing Division, 845 W. Taylor Street (M/C 273), Chicago, IL 60607-7059. *Instrument:* Two-Zone Mercury Overpressure Annealing System. *Manufacturer:* Cifer SRL, Italy. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used for studies of mercury cadmium telluride grown by molecular beam epitaxy with the objective of obtaining multi-layer mercury cadmium telluride structures with p on n junctions to fabricate infrared detector arrays. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 23, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-055. Applicant: Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave L. Levy Place, New York, NY 10029. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope and Accessories, Model H-7500. *Manufacturer:* Hitachi Scientific Instruments, Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used to examine nervous system tissue in order to achieve the aims of the following research projects: (1) Morphologic Basis for Central Vestibular Inhibition, (2) Morphologic Basis for Central Vestibular Adaptation, (3) Nitric Oxide Signaling in Hypergravity-Induced Neuronal Plasticity and (4) Ultrastructural Anatomy of the Toadfish Crista. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 23, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-056. Applicant: University of Wisconsin—Madison, Biotechnology Center, 750 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706. *Instrument:* Piezo Manipulator, Model PPM-150FU. *Manufacturer:* Prime Tech Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to reduce the trauma to oocytes during experiments involving the cloning of rodents (mice and rats) from cultured cells. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* October 27, 1998.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 98-30282 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 110598C]

International Whaling Commission; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: NOAA makes use of a public Interagency Committee to assist in

preparing for meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This notice sets forth guidelines for participating on the Committee and a tentative schedule of meetings and other important dates.

DATES: December 4, 1998, 2:00 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional information and tentative dates of additional interagency meetings in 1999.

ADDRESSES: The December 4, 1998, meeting will be held in Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Corson, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The December 4, 1998, Interagency Committee meeting will review recent events relating to the IWC and issues that will arise at the 1999 IWC annual meeting.

The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. This authority has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who is also the U.S. Commissioner to the IWC. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other interested agencies.

Each year, NOAA conducts meetings and other activities to prepare for the annual meeting of the IWC. The major purpose of the preparatory meetings is to provide input in the development of policy by individuals and non-governmental organizations interested in whale conservation. NOAA believes that this participation is important for the effective development and implementation of U.S. policy concerning whaling. Any person with an identifiable interest in United States whale conservation policy may participate in the meetings, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interest of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Foreign nationals and persons who represent foreign governments may not attend. These