

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments in six copies must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration no later than February 18, 2000, and rebuttal briefs no later than February 23, 2000. A list of authorities used and an executive summary of issues should accompany any briefs submitted to the Department. Such summary should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In accordance with section 774 of the Act, we will hold a public hearing, if requested, to afford interested parties an opportunity to comment on arguments raised in case or rebuttal briefs. Tentatively, the hearing will be held on February 25, 2000, at the Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Parties should confirm by telephone the time, date, and place of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled time.

Interested parties who wish to request a hearing, or to participate if one is requested, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1870, within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Requests should contain: (1) The party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. Oral presentations will be limited to issues raised in the briefs. If this investigation proceeds normally, we will make our final determination not later than 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination.

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(d) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: December 21, 1999.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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

[ID 112499A]

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 of important dates.

DATES: The January 14, 2000, Interagency Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for tentative 2000 meeting schedules.

ADDRESSES: The January 14, 2000, meeting will be held in Room 1W611 on the ground floor of Building 4 in the NOAA Silver Spring Metro Complex, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Campbell, (202) 482-2652.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The January 14, 2000, Interagency Committee meeting will review recent events relating to the IWC and issues that will arise at the 2000 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 stringent measures are necessary to promote the candid exchange of information and to establish the

necessary basis for the relatively open process of preparing for IWC meetings that characterizes current practices.

Tentative Meeting Schedule

The schedule of additional meetings and deadlines, including those of the IWC, during 2000 follows. Specific locations and times will be published in the **Federal Register**.

January 14, 2000 (NOAA, Silver Spring Metro Complex, Building 4, Room 1W611, Silver Spring, MD): Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 2000 IWC annual meeting.

June 12-13, 2000 (Australia): IWC Scientific Committee Working Groups and Sub-committees.

June 14-26, 2000 (Australia): IWC Scientific Committee.

June 28 - July 1, 2000 (Australia): IWC Commission Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups.

July 3-6, 2000 (Australia): IWC 52nd Annual Meeting.

Special Accommodations

Department of Commerce meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cathy Campbell (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Art Jeffers,

Deputy Director, Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Proposed Information Collection Available for Public Comment**

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed reinstatement 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 the agency, including whether the information shall have