

contemplates trading options on a product in which both the product and each of the underlying component securities exceed the minimum eligibility requirements for trading options on equities as set forth in CBOE Rule 5.3. Because both the securities underlying Biotech HOLDERS and Biotech HOLDERS themselves meet the eligibility requirements for trading options on equity securities, the Commission finds that accelerating the operative date of the rule change is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, and thus designates March 9, 2000 as the operative date of this filing.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CBOE-00-08 and should be submitted by April 6, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6518 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3256]

Determination Under Section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-113)

Pursuant to Section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (Pub. L. 106-113), and comparable provisions of law, and Section 1-201 of Executive Order 12163, as amended, I hereby determine that, subsequent to the military coup against the democratically elected Government of Niger on January 27, 1996, a new democratically elected government has assumed office, such that assistance for Niger is not prohibited by the aforementioned provision of law.

This Determination shall be reported to the Congress immediately and published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 23, 2000.

Madeleine K. Albright,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-6540 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-2000-6942]

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Listening Sessions

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will hold five more regional listening sessions to present, and receive feedback on, the Coast Guard's Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Action Plan (CFVSAP). The Coast Guard created the CFVSAP to help fishermen improve the level of safety in the fishing industry. The information gathered during these listening sessions will be presented to the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Advisory Committee and used to further refine the CFVSAP. The first two listening sessions took place in Rockport, ME, and Kodiak, AK. The remaining listening sessions are scheduled for Norfolk, VA; Charleston, SC; Galveston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; and Seattle, WA.

DATES: The listening session in Norfolk, VA, will be on April 5, 2000, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; the one in Charleston, SC, will be on April 13, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the one in Galveston,

TX, will be on May 5, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; the one in Los Angeles, CA, will be on May 20, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and the one in Seattle, WA, will be on June 13, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The comment period will close on July 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES:

Norfolk Airport Hilton, 1500 North Military Hwy, Norfolk, VA 23502, Tel. (757) 466-8000

Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside St., Charleston, SC 29401, P.O.C.: Victor Smith at Tel. (843) 853-3625, Fax (843) 577-6673

Texas Shrimpers' Association Convention, Moody Gardens Hotel, 7 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77551, Tel. (361) 758-5024—Texas Shrimpers' Assoc.; Tel. (409) 741-8484—Moody Gardens Hotel
Italian American Club, 1903 Cabrillo Avenue, San Pedro, CA 90831, Tel. (510) 437-2947

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Building 9 Auditorium, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115

To make sure your comments and related material do not enter the docket more than once, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, (USCG-2000-6942), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) In person to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. You may also electronically access the public docket for this notice on the internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the public docket, call Carol Kelly, Coast Guard Dockets Team Leader, or Paulette Twine, Chief, Documentary Services Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329; for

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).