

- A. Mau zone new entry criteria
- B. Coral Reef Plan permitting measures
  - (i) Non-managed species in Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) caught in bottomfish fishery
  - (ii) Non-managed species in main Hawaiian Islands caught in bottomfish fishery
- 2. Annual Report review and development of research plan for bottomfish fisheries
  - A. Review Status of 1998 Annual Report Recommendations
  - B. Identify problems and possible solutions for uncompleted recommendations
  - C. Review 1999 Annual Report modules and recommendations
    - (i) American Samoa
    - (ii) Guam
    - (iii) Hawaii
    - (iv) Northern Mariana Island
  - D. 1999 Annual Report region-wide recommendations
  - E. Research plan for Western Pacific Region bottomfish fisheries
    - (i) Review other bottomfish research needs (annual report recommendations, program planning, NMFS, etc.)
    - (ii) Consider new information needs and develop recommendations
    - (iii) Prioritize research needs and recommendations
- 3. Other business

#### CPT/AP

- 1. Stock Assessment and Fishery Economics Report
  - A. 1999 Annual Report
  - B. Strategy for future stock assessments
- 2. 2000 lobster harvest guideline
- 3. Research plans
  - A. Industry-NMFS cooperative research agreement
  - B. NMFS plan for lobster tagging
  - C. Other comprehensive research needed
- 4. Consideration of amendment to replace NWHI lobster assessment model
  - A. Review of Council action
  - B. Aspects for developing a fully integrated dynamic model
  - C. Proposed amendment options/schedule
  - D. Five-year review (due June 2001)
- 5. Possible additions to Crustaceans MUS (e.g., shrimp, red crab)
- 6. Revision to address SFA overfishing requirements
- 7. Other business
- 8. Summary of recommendations
 

*Wednesday, April 26, 2000, from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.—Joint advisory body meeting*

Location: Pagoda Hotel International Ballroom, 1525 Rycroft Street, Honolulu, Hawaii; (808) 941-6611.

- 1. Summary of Council's modified preferred alternative for draft Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP/preliminary draft environmental impact statement
  - A. Fishing permit and reporting requirements
  - B. Allowable fishing gear and methods
    - C. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
    - D. Framework actions
    - E. Formal process for PT coordination
- 2. Review of impacts or concerns regarding existing FMP fisheries and coral reefs (habitat, protected species, ecosystem, other)
  - A. Bottomfish
  - B. Crustaceans
  - C. Precious Corals
  - D. Indigenous rights
- 3. Review of previous advisory body recommendations on draft FMP
  - A. MPAs (location, size, restrictions)
  - B. Allowable gear/use
  - C. Permit and reporting requirements
  - D. Framework actions
  - E. MUS
  - F. SFA/Essential Fish Habitat(EFH)
  - G. Other
- 4. Discussion toward consensus on preferred measures
  - A. Permit & reporting/report form/MUS
  - B. Gear/methods
  - C. MPAs: location/boundaries/restrictions
  - D. Framework actions/additions
  - E. SFA/EFH/Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
  - F. Research plans
  - G. Process for PT coordination

*Thursday, April 27, 2000, from 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon—joint advisory body meeting*

Location: Pagoda Hotel East Ballroom, 1525 Rycroft Street, Honolulu, Hawaii; (808) 941-6611.

Continue discussion toward consensus on preferred measures

*Thursday, April 27, 2000, from 1:30–5:00 p.m.—Coral Reef Plan Team and Ecosystems & Habitat Advisory Panel, BPT and Advisory Panel, CPT/AP, Precious Corals Plan Team and Advisory Panel, and Native and Indigenous Rights Advisory Panel, meeting separately*

Location: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council office conference rooms, 1164 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813 (808) 522-0220.

Further discussion of issues from above

*Friday, April 28, 2000, from 8:30–5:00 p.m.—Separate meetings: each advisory body meets separately (or joint Plan Team and Advisory Panel)*

Location: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council office conference rooms, 1164 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813 (808) 522-0220.

- 1. Final discussion and recommendations to Council on above issues

2. Other business

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 5, 2000.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-8941 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032800C]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces receipt of a joint application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Groundfish Forum Inc. and At-Sea Processors Association. If awarded, this permit would be used for limited testing of a device for the Pacific cod fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska that would lower halibut bycatch rates without significantly lowering catch rates of Pacific cod. It is intended to promote the objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish

Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs).

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP application are available by writing to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Salvesson, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FMPs and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR parts 679.6 and 600.745(b) authorize issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. Procedures for issuing EFPs are contained in the implementing regulations.

NMFS received a joint application for an EFP from Mr. John Gauvin, Groundfish Forum Inc. and Mr. Trevor McCabe, At-Sea Processors Association. The purpose of the EFP would be to conduct limited testing of a device for the Pacific cod fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska that would lower Pacific halibut bycatch rates without significantly lowering catch rates of cod. The project would be conducted in coordination with gear development scientists at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, who would help the applicants select the most promising Pacific halibut excluder design for testing using criteria set out in the EFP application. Results from the EFP could be used by the groundfish trawl industry, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and NMFS to develop fishing methods or effective regulatory measures to reduce halibut bycatch in the Pacific cod trawl fisheries.

In accordance with regulations, NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to the Council. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 12 - 17, 2000, meeting, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK. The applicants have been invited to appear in support of the application if the applicant desires.

A copy of the application is available for review from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

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

Dated: April 5, 2000.

**George H. Darcy,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8943 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Notice of Availability (NOA) of Record of Decision (ROD) on the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RTI) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

On March 24, 2000, the United States Air Force signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RTI training proposal, and has selected Alternative B (Lancer Military Operations Area (MOA) and Instrument Route 178) for implementation. RTI is designed to more effectively and efficiently train B-1 and B-52 aircrews assigned to Dyess and Barksdale Air Force Bases (AFBs). RTI proposes linking existing military training routes (with minor modifications) to the proposed Lancer MOA, and an electronic scoring site system. RTI will provide realistic combat training by providing sequenced training scenarios closely resembling combat situations that require every crewmember working together to successfully complete. Lastly, RTI will also make more efficient use of limited flight hours by reducing low-value transit time to current training ranges.

Based on the analysis presented in the FEIS released in February, agency input, and public comments, the Air Force has selected the alternative that will best achieve their goal of balancing readiness training with environmental and community concerns. Where feasible, the Air Force developed mitigation measures and/or management actions to minimize the environmental impact and address concerns and comments of agencies and the public. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was a cooperating agency in the preparation of the FEIS. The Air Force will continue to work with the FAA, other federal and state agencies, and local communities to solicit their inputs during and after the establishment of the RTI.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Dyess AFB Public Affairs Office, 466 5th Street, Dyess AFB, TX 79607 or call 915-696-2861.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8863 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive Patent Licenses

Pursuant to the provisions of Part 404 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs), which implements Public Law 96-517, the Department of the Air Force announces its intention to grant PDR, Inc., a company doing business in Foxboro, MA, exclusive licenses in any right, title and interest the Air Force has in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/299,928 and 09/300,053, respectively. The first listed invention is entitled "Method and Apparatus for Depositing Thin Films of Group III Nitrides and Other Films and Devices Made Therefrom" with the second invention entitled "Process for the Manufacture of Group III Nitride Targets for Use in Sputtering and Similar Equipment." Each invention is related to making GaN films and products and both applications were filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 27, 1999.

Each license described above will be granted unless an objection thereto, together with a request for an opportunity to be heard, if desired, is received in writing by the addressee set forth below within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Information concerning the application may be obtained, on request, from the same addressee.

All communications concerning this Notice should be sent to Mr. Randy Heald, Associate General Counsel (Acquisition), SAF/GCQ, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 304, Arlington, VA 22209-2310. Mr. Heald can be reached at 703-588-5091 or by fax at 703-588-8037.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8864 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation (DE-PS26-00BC15304) and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for