

instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. **Reasons:** The foreign instrument provides heating, precise control of relative humidity, dehumidification, vacuum, circulation and a transparent dome for "clean room" conditions for preservation and restoration of paintings and fabrics. The Smithsonian Institution advised on September 19, 2000 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Gerald A. Zerdy,
Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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memorandum of August 10, 2000 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Gerald A. Zerdy,
Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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DATES: The meeting will convene October 17, 2000, at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on October 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Employees Lounge, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Janet R. Russell, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1004, telephone number (301) 975-2107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on March 30, 2000, that portions of the meeting of the Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee which involve discussion of proposed funding of the Advanced Technology Program may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because those portions of the meetings will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of meetings which involve discussion of staffing of positions in ATP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in those portions of the meetings is likely to reveal information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: September 26, 2000.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 00-25259 Filed 9-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

University of Washington; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made 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). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 00-024. **Applicant:** University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-6100. **Instrument:** Laser Microdissection System. **Manufacturer:** P.A.L.M. Mikrolaser Technologie, Germany. **Intended Use:** See notice at 65 FR 51797, August 25, 2000.

Comments: None received. **Decision:** Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) Dissection and catapulting of live cells directly into microcentrifuge tubes for analysis without contamination, (2) high quality microscope optics, (3) selective destruction of unwanted cellular material and (4) microdissection of any shape cell or tissue area. The National Institutes of Health advises in its

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards, and Technology

Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, October 17, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Advanced Technology Program Advisory Committee is composed of eight members appointed by the Director of NIST, who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, education, and management consulting. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an Update on ATP, Discussion of the Streamlined/Revamped Proposal Process; ATP 2000 Awardee Demographics; Economic Assessment Office Update; Discussion of Outreach Efforts; Leveraging States and Future ATP Strategic Initiatives; and an open discussion. Discussions scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and to end at 9:30 a.m. and to begin at 3:00 p.m. and to end at 4:30 p.m. on October 17, 2000, on the ATP budget issues and staffing of positions will be closed.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092500B]

Coral, Golden Crab, Shrimp, Spiny Lobster, Red Drum, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Snapper-Grouper Fisheries of the South Atlantic

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; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Mr. Chris Ivers, Project Manager, on behalf of the

North Carolina Aquariums (applicant), Raleigh, North Carolina. If granted, the EFP would authorize the applicant, with certain conditions, to collect up to 60 red porgy and up to 500 lb (227 kg) of coral/live rock each year for 2 years in Federal waters off North Carolina for public display. The three North Carolina Aquariums are located at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Kure Beach, North Carolina.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern standard time, on November 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application must be mailed to Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments also may be sent via fax to 727-570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Eldridge, 727-570-5305; fax 727-570-5583; e-mail: peter.eldridge@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

According to the applicant, the North Carolina Aquariums (NCA), located at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Kure Beach, are public, non-profit, self-supporting institutions established to promote an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse natural and cultural resources associated with North Carolina's ocean, estuaries, rivers, streams and other aquatic environments. The aquariums are major educational and conservation institutions with free admission to school children in groups and extensive field study and outreach programs. The specimens will be maintained in the NCA for public display.

The applicant intends to collect for public display up to 60 red porgy during a 2-year period and up to 500 lb (227 kg) of coral/live rock annually during a 2-year period.

The proposed collection for public display involves activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats, and the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fisheries of the South Atlantic Region. The applicant requires authorization to harvest and possess

corals, live rock, and red porgy taken from Federal waters off North Carolina.

Based on a preliminary review, NMFS finds that this application warrants further consideration and intends to issue an EFP. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on a NMFS review of public comments received on the application, conclusions of environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and consultations with North Carolina, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The applicant requests a 24-month effective period for the EFP.

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

Dated: September 26, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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Billing Code: 3510-22-S

proposing to study alternative patent fee structures to determine how best to encourage maximum participation of the U.S. inventor community in the patent system. In examining the evolution of the current fee structure, the USPTO has identified several fee structure issues which it considers important. These issues in several cases involve fee structures unconstrained by current statutory requirements, in keeping with the perceived intent of the Act. The agency will prepare a report to Congress identifying critical fee structure issues and will continue to evaluate these alternatives to determine the effects of implementation. The USPTO asks for comments on the issues raised and questions posed in this document.

DATES: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before October 31, 2000. No public hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message via the Internet addressed to barry.riordan@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Office of Corporate Planning, Crystal Park One, Suite 807, Washington, D.C. 20231, or by facsimile to (703) 305-8138, marked to the attention of Barrett J. Riordan. If comments are submitted by mail, the Office would prefer that the comments be submitted on a DOS formatted 3½ inch disk accompanied by a paper copy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barrett J. Riordan by telephone at (703) 305-8475, by e-mail at barry.riordan@uspto.gov, by facsimile at (703) 305-8138, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to Office of Corporate Planning, Crystal Park 1, Suite 807, Washington, D.C. 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999, Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501 (1999), Section 4204 (enacted November 29, 1999), instructs the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to "conduct a study of alternative fee structures that could be adopted * * * to encourage maximum participation by the inventor community in the United States." Such study is to be submitted to Congress no later than one year after enactment.

To assist in the preparation of this study, the USPTO requests comments on the range of topics which could potentially be considered therein. The USPTO is interested in comments that the public has regarding these and other related fee issues that the respondent believes to be appropriate. The USPTO encourages interested persons to

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Performance Review Board; Membership

The following individuals are eligible to serve on the Performance Review Board in accordance with the Senior Executive Service Performance Appraisal System of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Bernadette McGuire-Rivera
William Hatch
Neil Seitz
Frederick Wentland
Ronald Hack

Vicki G. Brooks,

Executive Secretary, Economic Development Administration, Performance Review Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 000718211-0211-01]

RIN 0651-AB24

Study of Alternative Fee Structures

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in response to certain provisions of the "American Inventors Protection Act of 1999," is