

FR 23281 (May 1, 2003). On May 30, 2003, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports Executive Committee (the petitioner) requested a review of producers/exporters of certain softwood lumber products. Also, between May 7, and June 2, 2003, Canadian producers requested a review on their own behalf or had a review of their company requested by a U.S. importer.

On July 1, 2003, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published a notice of initiation of administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain softwood lumber products from Canada, covering the period May 22, 2002, through April 30, 2003. See *Notice of Initiation of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 68 FR 39059 (July 1, 2003). The preliminary results are currently due no later than February 2, 2004.

#### Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of Review

We determine that it is not practicable to complete the preliminary results of this review within the original time limit due to a number of complex issues which must be addressed prior to the issuance of those results. For example, the Department must analyze the complex corporate structures and affiliations of the eight respondents in this review, including affiliated mills and other entities both in Canada and the United States. In addition, the Department must evaluate and address a myriad of issues pertaining to the allocation of production costs and the calculation of adjustments for differences in merchandise. Further, the Department needs to evaluate and resolve the complicated issue involving treatment of random length tally sales, which are defined as sales which contain multiple lengths, for which a blended (*i.e.* average) price has been reported by the respondents. Finally, as is our practice, the Department intends to conduct verification of the eight respondents prior to the issuance of the preliminary results. We estimate that the sales and cost of production verifications will take approximately two months to complete.

Accordingly, the Department is extending the time limit for completion of the preliminary results of this administrative review until no later than June 1, 2004. We intend to issue the final results no later than 120 days after publication of the preliminary results notice.

Dated: January 8, 2004.

**Holly Kuga,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement II.*

[FR Doc. 04-831 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[C-580-835]

#### Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the Republic of Korea

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review.

**SUMMARY:** On September 9, 2003, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published in the **Federal Register** its preliminary results of administrative review of the countervailing duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from the Republic of Korea for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 (see *Notice of Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the Republic of Korea*, 68 FR 53116 (September 9, 2003) (*Preliminary Results*)). The Department has now completed this administrative review in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

Based on information received since the *Preliminary Results* and our analysis of the comments received, the Department has revised the net subsidy rate for INI Steel Company (INI)<sup>1</sup> and Sammi Steel Co., Ltd. (Sammi).<sup>2</sup> As discussed in the "Issues and Decision Memorandum from Holly A. Kuga, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement II to James J. Jochum, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration concerning the Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the Republic of Korea" (Decision Memorandum) dated January 7, 2004, we found INI and Sammi to be cross-owned and are therefore calculating a single rate for both companies. The final

<sup>1</sup> Formerly known as Incheon Iron and Steel Co. (Inchon). As of April 2001, Incheon changed its name to INI.

<sup>2</sup> As of April 2002, Sammi changed its name to BNG Steel Co., Ltd. (BNG).

net subsidy rate for the reviewed companies is listed below in the section entitled "Final Results of Review."

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 14, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Farley or Darla Brown, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement VI, Group II, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4012, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2786.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On September 9, 2003, the Department published in the **Federal Register** its *Preliminary Results*. We invited interested parties to comment on the results. Since the preliminary results, the following events have occurred.

On September 12, 2003, respondents requested an extension for submission of case and rebuttal briefs. On September 17, 2003, petitioners<sup>3</sup> also requested an extension of time for the submission of case and rebuttal briefs. On September 24, 2003, the Department revised the briefing schedule, granting petitioners and respondents until October 17 to file case briefs and October 24 to file rebuttal briefs. See September 24, 2003 Memorandum to the File, from the Team, re: Amended Briefing Schedule for the Countervailing Duty Administrative Review of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip from Korea. On October 17, 2003, we received case briefs from petitioners and respondents. On October 24, 2003, we received rebuttal briefs from petitioners and respondents.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(b), this review covers only those producers or exporters of the subject merchandise for which a review was specifically requested. Accordingly, this review covers INI and Sammi. This review covers the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, and twenty-three programs.

##### Scope of the Review

For purposes of this review, the products covered are certain stainless steel sheet and strip in coils. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product in coils that is greater than 9.5 mm in

<sup>3</sup> Allegheny Ludlum, AK Steel Corporation, J&L Speciality Steel, Inc., Butler-Armco Independent Union, Zanesville Armco Independent Union, and the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO/CLC (collectively, petitioners).

width and less than 4.75 mm in thickness, and that is annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject sheet and strip may also be further processed (e.g., cold-rolled, polished, aluminized, coated, etc.) provided that it maintains the specific dimensions of sheet and strip following such processing.

The merchandise subject to this review is classified in the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTSUS) at subheadings: 7219.13.00.31, 7219.13.00.51, 7219.13.00.71, 7219.13.00.81, 7219.14.00.30, 7219.14.00.65, 7219.14.00.90, 7219.32.00.05, 7219.32.00.20, 7219.32.00.25, 7219.32.00.35, 7219.32.00.36, 7219.32.00.38, 7219.32.00.42, 7219.32.00.44, 7219.33.00.05, 7219.33.00.20, 7219.33.00.25, 7219.33.00.35, 7219.33.00.36, 7219.33.00.38, 7219.33.00.42, 7219.33.00.44, 7219.34.00.05, 7219.34.00.20, 7219.34.00.25, 7219.34.00.30, 7219.34.00.35, 7219.35.00.05, 7219.35.00.15, 7219.35.00.30, 7219.35.00.35, 7219.90.00.10, 7219.90.00.20, 7219.90.00.25, 7219.90.00.60, 7219.90.00.80, 7220.12.10.00, 7220.12.50.00, 7220.20.10.10, 7220.20.10.15, 7220.20.10.60, 7220.20.10.80, 7220.20.60.05, 7220.20.60.10, 7220.20.60.15, 7220.20.60.60, 7220.20.60.80, 7220.20.70.05, 7220.20.70.10, 7220.20.70.15, 7220.20.70.60, 7220.20.70.80, 7220.20.80.00, 7220.20.90.30, 7220.20.90.60, 7220.90.00.10, 7220.90.00.15, 7220.90.00.60, and 7220.90.00.80. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise is dispositive.

Excluded from the scope of this order are the following: (1) sheet and strip that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled, (2) sheet and strip that is cut to length, (3) plate (*i.e.*, flat-rolled stainless steel products of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more), (4) flat wire (*i.e.*, cold-rolled sections, with a prepared edge, rectangular in shape, of a width of not more than 9.5 mm), and (5) razor blade steel. Razor blade steel is a flat rolled product of stainless steel, not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), in coils, of a width of not more than 23 mm and a thickness of 0.266 mm or less, containing, by weight, 12.5 to 14.5 percent chromium, and certified at the time of entry to be used in the manufacture of razor blades. See Chapter 72 of the HTSUS, "Additional U.S. Note" 1(d).

The Department has determined that certain specialty stainless steel products are also excluded from the scope of this order. These excluded products are described below:

Flapper valve steel is defined as stainless steel strip in coils containing, by weight, between 0.37 and 0.43 percent carbon, between 1.15 and 1.35 percent molybdenum, and between 0.20 and 0.80 percent manganese. This steel also contains, by weight, phosphorus of 0.025 percent or less, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of 0.020 percent or less. The product is manufactured by means of vacuum arc remelting, with inclusion controls for sulphide of no more than 0.04 percent and for oxide of no more than 0.05 percent. Flapper valve steel has a tensile strength of between 210 and 300 ksi, yield strength of between 170 and 270 ksi, plus or minus 8 ksi, and a hardness (Hv) of between 460 and 590. Flapper valve steel is most commonly used to produce specialty flapper valves in compressors.

Also excluded is a product referred to as suspension foil, a specialty steel product used in the manufacture of suspension assemblies for computer disk drives. Suspension foil is described as 302/304 grade or 202 grade stainless steel of a thickness between 14 and 127 microns, with a thickness tolerance of plus-or-minus 2.01 microns, and surface glossiness of 200 to 700 percent Gs. Suspension foil must be supplied in coil widths of not more than 407 mm, and with a mass of 225 kg or less. Roll marks may only be visible on one side, with no scratches of measurable depth. The material must exhibit residual stresses of 2 mm maximum deflection, and flatness of 1.6 mm over 685 mm length.

Certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters is also excluded from the scope of this order. This stainless steel strip in coils is a specialty foil with a thickness of between 20 and 110 microns used to produce a metallic substrate with a honeycomb structure for use in automotive catalytic converters. The steel contains, by weight, carbon of no more than 0.030 percent, silicon of no more than 1.0 percent, manganese of no more than 1.0 percent, chromium of between 19 and 22 percent, aluminum of no less than 5.0 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.045 percent, sulfur of no more than 0.03 percent, lanthanum of between 0.002 and 0.05 percent, and total rare earth elements of more than 0.06 percent, with the balance iron.

Permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip is also excluded from the scope of this order. This ductile stainless steel strip

contains, by weight, 26 to 30 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent cobalt, with the remainder of iron, in widths 228.6 mm or less, and a thickness between 0.127 and 1.270 mm. It exhibits magnetic remanence between 9,000 and 12,000 gauss, and a coercivity of between 50 and 300 oersteds. This product is most commonly used in electronic sensors and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Arnokrome III."<sup>4</sup>

Certain electrical resistance alloy steel is also excluded from the scope of this order. This product is defined as a non-magnetic stainless steel manufactured to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) specification B344 and containing, by weight, 36 percent nickel, 18 percent chromium, and 46 percent iron, and is most notable for its resistance to high temperature corrosion. It has a melting point of 1390 degrees Celsius and displays a creep rupture limit of 4 kilograms per square millimeter at 1000 degrees Celsius. This steel is most commonly used in the production of heating ribbons for circuit breakers and industrial furnaces, and in rheostats for railway locomotives. The product is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Gilphy 36."<sup>5</sup>

Certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel is also excluded from the scope of this order. This high-strength, ductile stainless steel product is designated under the Unified Numbering System (UNS) as S45500-grade steel, and contains, by weight, 11 to 13 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent nickel. Carbon, manganese, silicon and molybdenum each comprise, by weight, 0.05 percent or less, with phosphorus and sulfur each comprising, by weight, 0.03 percent or less. This steel has copper, niobium, and titanium added to achieve aging, and will exhibit yield strengths as high as 1700 Mpa and ultimate tensile strengths as high as 1750 Mpa after aging, with elongation percentages of 3 percent or less in 50 mm. It is generally provided in thicknesses between 0.635 and 0.787 mm, and in widths of 25.4 mm. This product is most commonly used in the manufacture of television tubes and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Durphynox 17."<sup>6</sup>

Finally, three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and medical instruments are also excluded from the

<sup>4</sup> "Arnokrome III" is a trademark of the Arnold Engineering Company.

<sup>5</sup> "Gilphy 36" is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

<sup>6</sup> "Durphynox 17" is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

scope of this order. These include stainless steel strip in coils used in the production of textile cutting tools (e.g., carpet knives).<sup>7</sup> This steel is similar to ASTM grade 440F, but containing, by weight, 0.5 to 0.7 percent of molybdenum. The steel also contains, by weight, carbon of between 1.0 and 1.1 percent, sulfur of 0.020 percent or less, and includes between 0.20 and 0.30 percent copper and between 0.20 and 0.50 percent cobalt. This steel is sold under proprietary names such as "GIN4 HI-C." The second excluded stainless steel strip in coils is similar to AISI 420-J2 and contains, by weight, carbon of between 0.62 and 0.70 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, manganese of between 0.45 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This steel has a carbide density on average of 100 carbide particles per square micron. An example of this product is "GIN5" steel. The third specialty steel has a chemical composition similar to AISI 420 F, with carbon of between 0.37 and 0.43 percent, molybdenum of between 1.15 and 1.35 percent, but lower manganese of between 0.20 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This product is supplied with a hardness of more than Hv 500 guaranteed after customer processing, and is supplied as, for example, "GIN6."

#### Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by parties to this review are addressed in the Decision Memorandum, which is hereby adopted by this notice. A list of these issues contained in the Decision Memorandum is attached to this notice as Appendix I. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum, which is on file in room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building. In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the World Wide Web at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov>, under the heading "Federal Register Notices." The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

#### Final Results of Review

In accordance with section 705(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Act, we calculated an *ad valorem* subsidy rate for INI/

Sammi. For the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, we determine the net subsidy for INI/Sammi to be 0.55 percent *ad valorem*. This rate will also apply to shipments by Inchon entered or withdrawn from warehouse for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001.

We will instruct the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess countervailing duties as indicated above. The Department will instruct the CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties in the percentage detailed above of the f.o.b. invoice prices on all shipments of the subject merchandise from the producers/exporters under review, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative review.

Because the URAA replaced the general rule in favor of a country-wide rate with a general rule in favor of individual rates for investigated and reviewed companies, the procedures for establishing countervailing duty rates, including those for non-reviewed companies, are now essentially the same as those in antidumping cases, except as provided for in section 777A(e)(2) of the Act. The requested review will normally cover only those companies specifically named. See 19 CFR 351.213(b). Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.212(c), for all companies for which a review was not requested, duties must be assessed at the cash deposit rate, and cash deposits must continue to be collected, at the rate previously ordered. As such, the countervailing duty cash deposit rate applicable to a company can no longer change, except pursuant to a request for a review of that company. See *Federal Mogul Corporation and The Torrington Company v. United States*, 822 F. Supp. 782 (CIT 1993) and *Floral Trade Council v. United States*, 822 F. Supp. 766 (CIT 1993). Therefore, the cash deposit rates for all companies except those covered by this review will be unchanged by the results of this review.

We will instruct the CBP to continue to collect cash deposits for non-reviewed companies at the most recent company-specific or country-wide rate applicable to the company. As of April 1, 2002, Sammi changed its name to BNG. See the Comment 2 of the March 19, 2003, Issues and Decision Memorandum that accompanied the *Final Results and Partial Rescission of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip From the Republic of Korea*, 68 FR 13267 (March 19, 2003). Thus, for cash deposit purposes, we will instruct the CBP to assign the rate for INI/Sammi's

cash deposit rate to BNG. Accordingly, the cash deposit rates that will be applied to non-reviewed companies covered by this order will be the rate for that company established in the most recently completed administrative proceeding conducted under the URAA. If such a review has not been conducted, the rate established in the most recently completed administrative proceeding pursuant to the statutory provisions that were in effect prior to the URAA amendments is applicable. See *Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the Republic of Korea: Amended Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 67 FR 8229 (February 22, 2002). This rate shall apply to all non-reviewed companies until a review of a company assigned this rate is requested. In addition, for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, the assessment rates applicable to all non-reviewed companies covered by this order are the cash deposit rates in effect at the time of entry.

This notice also serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This administrative review and notice are issued and published in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

**James J. Jochum,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

#### Appendix I - Issues and Decision Memorandum

##### I. METHODOLOGY AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Same Person Test for Sammi
- B. Sammi and Cross-ownership with INI

##### II. SUBSIDIES VALUATION INFORMATION

- A. Allocation Period
- B. Benchmarks for Loans and Discount Rates

##### III. ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMS

- A. Programs Determined to Confer Subsidies
  1. The GOK's Direction of Credit
  2. Article 16 of the Tax Exemption and Reduction Control Act (TERCL): Reserve for Export Loss
  3. Article 17 of TERCL: Reserve for

<sup>7</sup> This list of uses is illustrative and provided for descriptive purposes only.

- Overseas Market Development
- 4. Technical Development Fund under Restriction of Special Taxation (RSTA) Article 9, formerly TERCL Article 8
- 5. Asset Revaluation TERCL Article 56(2)
- 6. Investment Tax Credits
- 7. Electricity Discounts under the Requested Loan Adjustment Program (RLA)
- 8. Purchase of Sammi Specialty Steel Division by POSCO

**B. Programs Determined to Be Not Used**

- 1. Investment Tax Credits under RSTA Articles 11, 30, and 94 and TERCL Articles 24, 27, 71
- 2. Loans from the National Agricultural Cooperation Federation
- 3. Tax Incentives for Highly-Advanced Technology Businesses under the Foreign Investment and Foreign Capital Inducement Act
- 4. Reserve for Investment under Article 43-5 of TERCL
- 5. Export Insurance Rates Provided by the Korean Export Insurance Corporation
- 6. Special Depreciation of Assets on Foreign Exchange Earnings
- 7. Excessive Duty Drawback
- 8. Short-Term Export Financing
- 9. Export Industry Facility Loans
- 10. Research and Development
- 11. Local Tax Exemption on Land Outside of Metropolitan Area

**C. Programs Determined To Be Not Countervailable**

- 1. POSCO's Provision of Steel Inputs for Less than Adequate Remuneration
- 2. Electricity Discounts under the Voluntary Electric Power Savings Adjustment Program
- 3. Kangwon's Debt-to-Equity Swap
- 4. Debt Forgiveness Provided to Sammi by KAMCO

**IV. TOTAL AD VALOREM RATE**

**V. ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS**

*Comment 1:* Benchmarks for INI's and Sammi's Long-term Loans

*Comment 2:* Sale of Sammi's Bar and Pipe Facility at Changwon

*Comment 3:* Kangwon's Debt-for-Equity Swap

*Comment 4:* Debt Forgiveness Provided to Sammi by KAMCO

*Comment 5:* POSCO's Provision of Steel Inputs for Less than Adequate Remuneration

[FR Doc. 04-832 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Institute of Standards and Technology**

**Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board**

**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 Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Thursday, January 29, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The MEPNAB is composed of nine members appointed by the Director of NIST who were selected for their expertise in the area of industrial extension and their work on behalf of smaller manufacturers. The Board was established to fill a need for outside input on MEP. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The centers have been created by state, federal, and local partnerships. The Board works closely with MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies. The purpose of this meeting is to update the board on the latest program developments at MEP including a MEP Update, a MEP Metrics Update and Other Agency Collaborations. Discussions scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. and to end at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 2004, on MEP budget issues will be closed. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must register 48 hours in advance in order to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Tuesday, January 27, 2004 and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Peter's e-mail address is [carolyn.peters@nist.gov](mailto:carolyn.peters@nist.gov) and her phone number is (301) 975-5607.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene January 29, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Employees' Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. Please note admittance instructions under SUMMARY paragraph.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carrie Hines, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-3360.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 18, 2003, that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of proposed funding of the MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because that portion will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of the staffing of positions in MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in that portion of the meeting is likely to reveal information of a personal nature, where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

**Arden L. Bement, Jr.,**  
*Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-720 Filed 1-13-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Availability of Seats for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSPP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Member (voting) seats: Research (2), Education (2), Conservation (2), Marine Transportation (1), Recreation (1), Whale Watching (1), Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing (1), Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing (1), Business/Industry (1), and At-Large (3); and the following Alternate (non-voting) seats: Research (2), Education (2), Conservation (2), Marine Transportation (1), Recreation (1), Whale Watching (1), Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing (1),