

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****Announcing an Implementation Workshop on FIPS 201, Personal Identity Verification (PIV) of Federal Employees and Contractors**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will host a public workshop to provide additional guidance on Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 201 implementation. The workshop is designed to provide clarifications and respond to the questions raised by the industry and Federal agencies. NIST has received many questions as to industry's plans to deliver products that are PIV-II compliant (*i.e.*, meet the requirements of FIPS 201, PIV-II and NIST SP 800-73, end-point specifications). Commercial vendors have made significant progress in developing solutions to meet PIV-II requirements. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the industry to provide brief details to the participants, particularly agency officials, as to their product availability and planned timetables so that agencies can plan accordingly for PIV-II compliant implementations and procurement. NIST will discuss, in greater detail, the mandates and requirements of the FIPS 201 and related Special Publications through a series of educational presentations including the NIST reference implementation. The workshop agenda topics will be available at <http://csrc.nist.gov/piv-project> by May 31, 2005.

DATES: The FIPS 201 Implementation Workshop will be held on June 27 and 28, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The FIPS 201 Implementation Workshop will take place at a hotel facility in the Gaithersburg, Maryland area. Information about the meeting location and hotel accommodations will be available at <http://csrc.nist.gov/piv-project> by May 31, 2005.

Registration prior to 5 p.m. June 16, 2005, is *required*. All registration must be done online at <https://rproxy.nist.gov/CRS/>. Please go to this Conference Registration link and complete the registration form for FIPS 201 Implementation Workshop. The workshop address and registration information will be posted on the Personal Identity Verification program

Web site, <http://csrc.nist.gov/piv-project>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William (Curt) Barker, (301) 975-8443 or Ketan Mehta, (301) 975-8405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 27, 2004, President Bush signed the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) #12 (*see* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/08/20040827-8.html>) establishing a policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors. In accordance with this Directive, the Secretary of Commerce promulgated a Federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification of Federal Employees and Federal Contractor Employees on February 25, 2005. The standard details the requirements of government-wide identity credentials in two parts. Part 1, PIV-I, provides the control objectives and meets the security requirements of HSPD 12, while Part 2, PIV-II, provides the technical interoperability requirements of HSPD 12. PIV-II also specifies the implementation of identity credentials on integrated circuit cards for use in a Federal personal identity verification system. This standard defines the technical requirements for the identity credential that: (1) Is issued based on sound criteria for verifying an individual employee's identity; (2) is strongly resistant to identity fraud, tampering, counterfeiting, and terrorist exploitation; (3) can be rapidly authenticated electronically; (4) is issued only by providers whose reliability has been established by an official accreditation process. The standard also defines authentication mechanisms offering varying degrees of security. Federal departments and agencies will determine the level of security and authentication mechanisms appropriate for their applications. Implementation of PIV-I of the standard is to be accomplished by Federal agencies no later than October 27, 2005.

By bringing together the physical and logical security experts, this workshop will address issues and concerns in implementing FIPS 201. The sessions will include detailed discussion of FIPS 201 implementation issues. Issues associated with Special Publications 800-73, 800-78, and 800-79 (in development, Guidelines for PIV Accreditation of Card Issuing Organizations) will be addressed, as will the reference implementation of FIPS 201. The speakers will be able to answer vendor (including component developers and integrators) and Federal Government questions on implementing FIPS 201. It is anticipated that the

vendor community will provide insights into their capabilities to deliver FIPS 201 compliant products, particularly for the critical PIV-II (*i.e.*, FIPS 201, PIV-II and NIST SP 800-73, end-point specifications).

Dated: May 31, 2005.

Hratch G. Semerjian,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 05-11447 Filed 6-8-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-P

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

[I.D. 053105D]

Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice; affirmative finding.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) has issued an affirmative finding for the Government of Spain under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This affirmative finding will allow yellowfin tuna harvested in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) by Spanish-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Spanish jurisdiction to be imported into the United States. The affirmative finding was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Spain and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the U.S. Department of State.

DATES: Effective June 9, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone 562-980-4000; fax 562-980-4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, allows the entry into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP under certain conditions. If requested by the harvesting nation, the Assistant Administrator will determine whether to make an affirmative finding based upon documentary evidence provided by the government of the harvesting

nation, the IATTC, or the Department of State.

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation meet several conditions related to compliance with the IDCP. As a part of the affirmative finding process set forth in 50 CFR 216.24(f), the Assistant Administrator considered documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Spain or obtained from the IATTC and the Department of State and determined that Spain has met the MMPA's requirements to receive an affirmative finding.

After consultation with the Department of State, the Assistant Administrator issued the Government of Spain's affirmative finding allowing the importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP by Spanish-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Spanish jurisdiction. The affirmative finding will remain valid through March 31, 2010, provided that the NMFS's annual review of the finding determines that the harvesting nation is still in compliance with the required conditions for a finding. This annual review will occur for the years 2006 to 2009.

Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request an affirmative finding and submit the required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator. On an annual basis NMFS will review the affirmative finding and determine whether Spain continues to meet the requirements. A nation may provide information regarding its compliance with the IDCP directly to NMFS on an annual basis or may authorize the IATTC to release the information to NMFS in years when NMFS will review and consider whether to issue an affirmative finding determination without an application from the harvesting nation.

An affirmative finding will be terminated, in consultation with the Secretary of State, if the Assistant Administrator determines that the requirements of 50 CFR 216.24(f) are no longer being met or that a nation is consistently failing to take enforcement actions on violations, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the IDCP.

Dated: June 6, 2005.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-11463 Filed 6-8-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I: National Priorities Draft

AGENCY: Coral Reef Conservation Program, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) publishes this notice to announce the availability of the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I: National Priorities for public comment. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan is being developed by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program to set priorities and guide NOAA-supported coral ecosystem research for fiscal year 2005 to 2010, including research conducted through extramural partners, grants, and contracts. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan covers all coral reef ecosystems under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Pacific Freely Associated States; and is written for a broad audience, including resource managers, scientists, policy makers, and the public.

DATES: Comments on this draft document must be submitted by July 11, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I: National Priorities will be available at the following location http://www.nurp.noaa.gov/Docs/NOAA_CoralResearchPlanPartI_FRN.pdf.

The public is encouraged to submit comments on the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I: National Priorities electronically to coral.researchplan@noaa.gov. For commenters who do not have access to a computer, comments on the document may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Research, c/o Kimberly Puglise, NOAA's Undersea Research Program, 1315 East-West Highway R/NURP, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Puglise by mail at NOAA's Undersea Research Program, 1315 East-West Highway R/NURP, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 or phone (301) 713-2427 ext. 199 or e-mail at coral.researchplan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA is publishing this notice to announce the availability of the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I:

National Priorities for public comment. The draft plan will be posted for public comment on June 9, 2005. All interested parties are encouraged to provide comments. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part I: National Priorities is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in the final version.

The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan is being developed by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program to set priorities and guide NOAA-supported coral ecosystem research for fiscal years 2005 to 2010, including research conducted through extramural partners, grants, and contracts. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan covers all coral reef ecosystems under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Pacific Freely Associated States; and is written for a broad audience, including resource managers, scientists, policy makers, and the public.

The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan consists of two sections: (1) Part I: National Priorities; and (2) Part II: Regional Priorities. At this time, we are requesting your comments solely on the Part I: National Priorities Draft. The Part II: Regional Priorities Draft will be published in the **Federal Register** for comment at a later date.

Part I of the Plan is national in scope and identifies: the role of research in management, including a review of the major stressors and threats facing coral reef ecosystems and an overview of stressor-associated research priorities; the role of mapping and monitoring in management-driven research programs; a discussion of the tools and technologies necessary to conduct research and to manage ecosystems; a discussion of the importance of transferring science and technology into operations; and the importance of using strategic outreach and education to translate research results to improve management decisions.

Part II of the Plan is regional in scope and reviews the major stressors for coral ecosystems in each region under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Pacific Freely Associated States; identifies key management objectives specific to each region; and the research priorities for fiscal years 2005 years 2005 to 2010 to help address the stated management objectives in each region. Part II is divided into the following regions: Florida with subsections for the Florida Keys, Southeast Florida, and the West Florida Shelf (also known as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico); Flower Garden Banks; Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin