

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[A-570-012]

Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod From the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination of Antidumping Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 17, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Smith (202) 482-1766 or Brandon Custard (202) 482-1823; AD/CVD Operations, Office 2, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Postponement of Preliminary Determination**

On February 20, 2014, the Department of Commerce (the Department) initiated an antidumping duty investigation of imports of carbon and certain alloy steel wire rod from the People's Republic of China. See *Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigation*, 79 FR 11077 (February 27, 2014) (*Initiation Notice*). Pursuant to section 733(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) and 19 CFR 351.205(b), the Department shall issue its preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of initiation.¹ Currently, the preliminary determination in this investigation is due on July 10, 2014.

On June 4, 2014, ArcelorMittal USA LLC, Charter Steel, Evraz Pueblo, Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc., Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc., and Nucor Corporation (hereafter, the petitioners) made timely requests, pursuant to section 733(c)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(e), for a 50-day postponement of the preliminary determination in the investigation.² The petitioners stated that a postponement of the preliminary determination is necessary to ensure adequate time to analyze and submit comments on (1) the respondent's questionnaire responses; (2) separate rate applications submitted by other companies; and (3) surrogate

values for consideration in the preliminary determination.

Under section 733(c)(1)(A) of the Act, if the petitioner makes a timely request for an extension of the period within which the preliminary determination must be made under subsection (b)(1), then the Department may postpone making the preliminary determination under subsection (b)(1) until not later than the 190th day after the date on which the Department initiated the investigation. Therefore, for the reasons stated above and because there are no compelling reasons to deny the petitioners' request pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(e), the Department is postponing the preliminary determination in this investigation until August 29, 2014, which is 190 days from the date on which the Department initiated this investigation.

The deadline for the final determination will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination, unless extended.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 733(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: June 11, 2014.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2014-14158 Filed 6-16-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Application(s) for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be postmarked on or before July 7, 2014. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Room 3720.

Docket Number: 14-009. Applicant: Ohio State University, E447 Scott Laboratory, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 201 West

19th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. Instrument: Diode pumped, solid state high speed Nd:YVO4 laser system. Manufacturer: Edgewave GmgH, Germany. Intended Use: The instrument will be used to conduct particle imaging velocimetry, and Rayleigh scattering and planar laser-induced fluorescence, to understand the fundamental roles of fluid turbulence on scalar mixing and reaction rates by studying fundamental fluid mechanics and chemical kinetics in turbulent flows with and without chemical reaction and combustion. The primary targets are non-reacting turbulent flows consisting of compressed air and combusting turbulent flows with fuels of methane and oxidizer of air. The products of combustion are water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen. The instrument is required to operate over a broad range of experiment conditions with specific targets of repetition rates ranging from 1 to 50 kHz. At these repetition rates, a minimum output power of 20 Watts is required at all operating conditions. A high-quality beam profile of $M^2 < 2$ is also needed. The pulse duration of the laser must also be less than 10 nanoseconds. Without these characteristics, accurate velocity and scalar fields, including species concentration, temperature, and density cannot be measured. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: There are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 3, 2014.

Dated: June 10, 2014.

Gregory W. Campbell,

Director of Subsidies Enforcement, Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2014-14156 Filed 6-16-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Healthcare Equipment, Services, and Technologies Trade Mission to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel**

May 16-21, 2015.

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

Mission Description

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is organizing an executive-led healthcare equipment,

¹ In the *Initiation Notice*, the Department incorrectly stated that it would issue its preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the publication date of the initiation.

² See the petitioners' letter to the Department dated June 4, 2014.

services, and technologies business development mission to Egypt, Jordan and Israel, with an optional stop in the West Bank, May 16–21, 2015. The purpose of the mission is to introduce representatives from U.S. firms and healthcare related trade associations to the region and to promote exports of U.S. healthcare products and services. Delegates will receive market briefings and participate in customized meetings with prospective partners. Companies may also participate in a stop in the West Bank city of Ramallah at an additional cost.

Targeted sectors include:

- Products and services for maternal and child health needs
- Medical equipment and supplies, including diagnostic, monitoring, and imaging equipment
- Hospital and outpatient clinic design
- Hospital management
- E-health: healthcare management systems/software/network design
- Laboratory and scientific equipment
- Products for specialty areas such as oncology, cardiology, wound care, and plastic surgery
- Products and services for implementing quality standards and accreditation
- Robotics
- Mobile clinics.

Commercial Setting

Governments across the Middle East and North Africa are increasingly aware that continual expansion and upgrading of healthcare systems are needed to meet the growing demand of the fast-growing population. The healthcare equipment, services, and technologies sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in Egypt and Jordan, where healthcare expenditure and demand are driven by demographic factors such as population growth and increased life expectancy, as well as higher literacy, an increasing prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases, increased aspirations for better quality healthcare services, greater availability of health insurance, and rising income levels. Israel offers a particularly technologically advanced setting for U.S. companies, with opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

The region's healthcare spending in 2013 was as follows: Egypt \$9.5 billion, Jordan \$1 billion and Israel \$20 billion. The current state of healthcare infrastructure in the region is not adequate to satisfy existing demand. The healthcare equipment, services, and technologies expansion in the region is expected to grow at an annual rate of 5–8% in 2014. The region's objectives to upgrade healthcare will require purchases of medical equipment/

services and renovation of existing hospitals/clinics. Over the next few years, the private sector will play a big role in further realizing the potential in healthcare projects throughout North Africa and the Levant. U.S. companies will benefit from exploring the market at early stages and introducing their advanced technologies.

Country Profiles

Egypt

With a population of over 85 million and a GDP of USD 219 billion, the Egyptian economy is one of the largest in the Arab World, and the second largest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Despite its low per capita spending on healthcare, Egypt is the second-largest healthcare market in the MENA region after Saudi Arabia. The United States is Egypt's largest bilateral trading partner, and Egypt is the fourth largest export market for U.S. products and services in the MENA region.

Healthcare Equipment, Services, and Technologies

The healthcare sector in Egypt offers significant opportunities for U.S. exporters of medical equipment and devices, as well as for U.S. service providers in the long term, cutting across the entire spectrum of medical-related activities and requirements. Sales in medical devices totaled USD 484.7 million in 2013, a five percent increase from the previous year. It is estimated that the market for medical devices will be USD 970 million by 2016, and this is almost wholly made up from imports, as Egypt produces very little medical equipment.

The Egyptian Government's Healthcare Reform Program and the country's burgeoning population are generating demand for high-tech medical equipment and healthcare items. The Ministry of Health operates 1,300 hospitals or 60 percent of hospital beds. Universities, the Army, and the private sector constitute the remaining 40 percent. The government is expanding preventive medicine efforts; and in 2014 is developing 26 new hospitals, requiring purchases of medical devices. In addition, in 2013 consumer healthcare grew by 12 percent to USD 24.2 billion.

In line with the reform efforts to upgrade the overall healthcare system, it is expected that there will be future opportunities for U.S. firms that can offer the following services:

- Construction, management, and rehabilitation of hospitals and rural healthcare facilities;

- Emergency care (ambulatory) services;
- Training programs for nurses and physicians;
- Establishment of quality control of biological and laboratory centers;
- Development of quality standards for hospitals, laboratories, and healthcare institutions;
- Providing plans for regulator and accreditation bodies; and
- Training programs to include FDA-drug classification for government officials.

Best sales prospects medical devices and supplies include the following categories:

- Diagnostic imaging equipment;
- Oncology and radiology;
- Disposables;
- Surgical and medical equipment;
- ICU monitoring equipment;
- Laboratory and scientific equipment;
- and
- Mobile clinics

Jordan

Jordan is strategically positioned at the crossroads of the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, centrally located between Europe, Asia, and Africa. The U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which came into force in 2001, continues to create advantages for U.S. exporters, who are able to sell high-quality products at more attractive prices, as tariff barriers on the majority of goods traded between the United States and Jordan have been eliminated. Due to this FTA, bilateral trade has surged ten-fold over the past 13 years. Jordan remains a haven of stability for business interests and serves as a business hub in the region, including business investment to neighboring countries including Iraq.

Healthcare Equipment, Services, and Technologies

Jordan's healthcare system is regarded as one of the best in the area, boasting the latest technologies and highly educated, well trained doctors. Many Jordanian physicians have received some form of medical training in the United States, giving U.S. products good exposure. Jordan has become a regional medical tourism destination by offering relatively high-quality care at comparatively inexpensive rates. Through 104 hospitals, Jordan's healthcare sector serves its population and 250,000 patients from neighboring countries annually. Moreover, the World Bank ranked Jordan fifth in the world as a medical tourism hub. The medical tourism sector generates over \$1 billion in revenues annually, which

is expect to increase to USD 1.5 billion by 2015.

The healthcare sector accounts for 10% of Jordan's GDP. It is growing at an annual expenditure rate of about 7%, the 3rd highest in the region. Imports of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals exceeded \$450 million in the year 2013 and are expected to grow to \$615 million by the end of 2016.

As part of the Government initiative to reform the healthcare sector, reforms underway include:

- Renovating and adding medical diagnostic devices and therapeutic equipment;
- Improving the quality of health care and hospital services;
- Establishing a number of new hospitals;
- Expanding and upgrading hospital infrastructure including the extension and modernization of pediatric facilities;
- Developing and implementing health information systems and medical research;
- Supporting the government hospitals' accreditation projects; and
- Improving emergency services.

The E-health care initiative is another key government program aiming to ensure the accountability of the health care system. The e-health system will operate the storage, retrieval and updating of the electronic health records of patients cared for by all the participating healthcare facilities in Jordan. The government began a pilot project of the system in 2011 and will expand it to the entire health care system, starting with public hospitals.

With planned improvements in the healthcare system, the introduction of more modern treatment methods, and the construction and renovation of both government and privately owned hospitals, demand for medical equipment and services is expected to increase. Proposed projects expected to come online within the next five years in the private and public sector include: expanding the Laser Dermatology Fertility Clinic (IVF Treatment) at Specialty hospital, and establishment of the Jerash, Ajloun, and Mafrqa hospitals.

The best prospects in Jordan include: Consulting in hospital administration; Quality control and certification standards; Laboratory and hospital administration software; Diagnostic imaging equipment like C-T, MRI, and PET scanners; Laboratory reagents and diagnostics; Testing equipment; Cardiology and kidney dialysis equipment; and

Hospital furniture

Israel

Israel has a diversified, technologically advanced economy with a strong high-tech sector. The country's strong commitment to economic development and its talented work force have led to economic growth rates that have frequently exceeded 10% annually. Israel's GDP in 2013 was \$266 billion and its per capita GDP was \$36,200. The United States is Israel's largest single-trading partner. In 2013, bilateral trade totaled \$36 billion. Exports of U.S. goods to Israel totaled \$13.7 billion. With a favorable dollar exchange rate, U.S. equipment suppliers currently enjoy a price advantage over EU-based manufacturers.

Healthcare Equipment, Services, and Technologies

Israel is a lucrative market for advanced healthcare technologies. Despite its small size and population of only 8 million, Israel imports medical and pharmaceutical products in the amount of \$2 billion annually. The U.S. share is roughly 15% at \$300 million. Germany and other EU countries are the major competitors, but U.S. products outranked the EU competition in imaging equipment and diagnostics. Easy market-entry conditions and receptiveness to buy U.S. technologies and services make Israel an ideal destination for U.S. healthcare exports.

Characterized by a technologically advanced market economy, Israel boasts a very high level of healthcare with an extensive infrastructure ranging from local community clinics to a world-renowned trauma centers. Israel spends 7.5% of its GDP on healthcare and has the largest per-capita healthcare market in the Middle East. Israel's public healthcare system ensures a universal healthcare coverage to its entire population via four health management organizations and a network of hospitals, community clinics and specialized doctors. Israeli healthcare facilities are modern and are open to adopt new, cost effective technologies and procedures. Many Israeli doctors receive training in the United States and maintain personal and professional relationships with U.S. colleagues at major medical centers.

Market access is fairly clear for U.S. FDA and CE Marked medical products. U.S. companies interested in exporting to Israel need to appoint a local distributor, agent or other legal representative to register their products with the Israel Ministry of Health (MOH). The device registration should be accompanied by a 510(k), Pre-Market

Approval (PMA) or an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE). Best sales prospects exist in the advanced medical technologies, instruments and disposables in the following categories: Advanced Diagnostic Procedures Image-Guided Technologies Smart Implants Preventive Medicine Point of care and wound management technologies

The West Bank (Optional Stop)

The West Bank has a land area of 5,640 square kilometers (including East Jerusalem). Along with Gaza, it is collectively referred to as the Palestinian Territories. The population in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza is four million. The population growth rate is 3.9% and around 50% of the population is 18 years or younger. In 2012, GDP in the West Bank & Gaza reached an estimated \$10.30 billion, with \$7.70 billion in the West Bank and \$2.60 billion in Gaza, and per capita GDP was \$2,239.

The West Bank experienced a limited revival of economic activity in the period 2009–2012. This revival was a result of inflows of donor assistance, the PA's implementation of economic reforms, improved security, and the relative easing of movement and access restrictions within the West Bank by the Israeli Government. The PA under President Mahmoud Abbas and previous Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has implemented a largely successful campaign of institutional reforms and economic development that has contributed to economic growth, and which has been supported by more than \$3 billion in direct foreign donor assistance to the PA's budget since 2007.

Many American companies have reoriented their marketing efforts to acknowledge the Palestinian market as culturally, economically, and commercially distinct from the Israeli market. To date, dozens of American firms have established a presence and Palestinian consumers have demonstrated a strong preference for a wide variety of U.S. goods and services.

Healthcare Equipment, Services, and Technologies

The medical equipment and supplies market in the West Bank and Gaza is estimated to be \$20 million annually. The market is made up of medical capital equipment, medical supplies, lab equipment and lab disposable supplies. There is no domestic production of medical equipment and supplies, so Palestinians depend 100% on imports. There are no import duties on U.S.-

made goods entering the West Bank. However, products are subject to both a purchase tax and a value added tax that is currently 14.5%.

The majority of the Palestinian population relies on medical services provided by public hospitals that are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health under a general health insurance program. The total number of public and private hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza is 72 and the total number of beds is 5,000.

The U.S. share of the market is roughly 15% of the total, but this is likely to change due to two factors. First is the falling value of the U.S. dollar vs. the Euro. Second is the continued support by USAID of healthcare projects

in the West Bank since USAID regulations stipulate that funds can be spent on American-made equipment only, and the Agency continues to be the main donor for this sector.

The best prospects include:
 Medical disposables;
 Surgical instruments;
 Ophthalmic testing and surgery equipment;
 Ultrasounds;
 MRI, CT, X-ray;
 Orthopedic implants; and
 Laboratory equipment and disposables.

Mission Goals

The goal of this trade mission is to facilitate greater access to the Egypt, Jordan, and Israel markets by providing

participants with first-hand market information, access to government decision makers, and one-on-one appointments with business contacts, including potential agents, distributors, and partners. For the medium and longer term, the goal is to educate participants on the healthcare-related environment in the region in order to arm them with the ability to sustain and expand their business in the region.

Mission Scenario

The trade mission will include the following stops: Cairo, Amman and Tel-Aviv (with an optional stop in Ramallah, West Bank). In each city, participants will meet with business and government contacts.

MISSION TIMETABLE

Egypt	
Saturday—May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in Cairo, Egypt. • Overnight stay. • Breakfast briefing by industry experts. • Industry Roundtable. • One-on-one business meetings. • Networking Dinner or optional excursion. • Overnight stay.
Sunday—May 17	
Egypt/Jordan	
Monday—May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one business meetings. • Networking lunch hosted by a Chamber. • Evening travel to Amman, Jordan. • Overnight stay.
Jordan	
Tuesday— May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast briefing by industry experts. • One-on-one business meetings. • Networking lunch with local industry representatives. • Early Evening Departure from Jordan to Tel Aviv. • (overnight stay in Tel Aviv).
Israel	
Wednesday—May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Roundtable. • One-on-one business meetings (AM). • Networking luncheon. • One-on-one business meetings (PM). • Wheels-up Cocktail. • Non-West Bank participants return to United States on own itinerary.

MISSION TIMETABLE—Continued

Israel/West Bank (Optional)

Thursday—May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Jerusalem. • Depart Jerusalem to Ramallah. • One-on-One Meetings in Ramallah. • Return to Jerusalem then TelAviv to travel to U.S. • Evening departure or Overnight stay on own itinerary.
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Participation Requirements

All parties interested in participating in the Trade Mission to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel must complete and submit an application package for consideration by the Department of Commerce. All applicants will be evaluated on their ability to meet certain conditions and best satisfy the selection criteria as outlined below. A minimum of 12 and maximum of 15 representatives will be selected to participate in the mission from the applicant pool. U.S. companies already doing business with Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank as well as U.S. companies seeking to enter these markets for the first time may apply.

Conditions for Participation

An applicant must submit a completed and signed mission application and supplemental application materials, including adequate information on the company's products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation. If the Department of Commerce receives an incomplete application, the Department may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of information into account when evaluating the applications.

Each applicant must also certify that the products and services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least 51 percent U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service. In the case of a trade association/organization, the applicant must certify that for each company to be represented by the association/organization, the products and services the represented company seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, are marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have a least 51 percent U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service.

Selection Criteria for Participation: Selection will be based on the following criteria with respect to the applicant's company, or in the case of a trade association/organization, the companies the association/organization intends to represent on the mission:

- Relevance of the company's business to the mission goals.
- Suitability of the company's products or services for the Egyptian, Jordanian, Israeli, and (as applicable) West Bank markets.
- Applicant's potential for business in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, (or the West Bank) including likelihood of exports resulting from the mission.
- Consistency of the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the mission.

Diversity of company size and location may also be considered during the review process.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

Fees and Expenses

After a firm or trade association/organization has been selected to participate in the mission, a payment to the Department of Commerce in the form of a participation fee is required. The participation fee for the business development mission will be \$3,325.00 for a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)¹ or trade association/organization with fewer than 500 employees; and \$4,625.00 for large firms. The fee for each additional trade

¹ An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see http://www.sba.gov/services/contracting_opportunities/sizestandardstoc/index.html). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008 (see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html> for additional information).

association/organization representative or firm representative (large firm or SME) is \$1,000. The cost for the West Bank optional meetings is in addition to the mission participation fee above, at \$750 per SME and \$2,300 per large firm. Ground group transportation costs in Egypt, Jordan, and Tel Aviv have been included in the cost. Except as otherwise noted, expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and incidentals will be the responsibility of each mission participant. If necessary, interpreter services have been included for government meetings.

The mission fee does not include personal travel expenses such as lodging, most meals, local ground transportation, except as stated in the proposed timetable, and air transportation from the U.S. to the mission sites and return to the United States. Business visas may be required. Government fees and processing expenses to obtain such visas are also not included in the mission costs. However, the U.S. Department of Commerce will provide instructions to each participant on the procedures required to obtain necessary business visas.

VIII. Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner, including publication in the **Federal Register**, posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://export.gov/trademissions>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows.

Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than MARCH 13, 2015. The U.S. Department of Commerce will review applications and make selection decisions on a rolling basis. Applications received after MARCH 13,

2015, will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD322

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This EFP would allow two commercial fishing vessels to fish outside of the limited access scallop days-at-sea (DAS) program in support of scallop incidental mortality research conducted by the Coonamessett Farm Foundation. It would also allow the vessels to fish in the Eastern and Western Areas of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area. Additionally, the EFP would exempt participating vessels from the crew size restriction and reporting requirements, and would allow vessels to temporarily possess various species of fish for sampling purposes only.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 2, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-Mail:* *nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov*.

Include in the subject line “Comments on Coonamessett 2014 Incidental Mortality EFP.”

• *Mail:* John K. Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope “Comments on Coonamessett 2014 Incidental Mortality EFP.”

- *Fax:* (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Sullivan, Fisheries Management Specialist, 978-282-8493, *Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation has been awarded a grant through the Atlantic sea scallop research set-aside program to conduct a project titled: “Estimating Incidental Mortality in the Sea Scallop Fishery.”

The project investigators have proposed to use a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), dredge-mounted cameras, and a camera trolley to examine the dredge path of a 4.57-meter-wide Turtle Deflector Dredge to calculate incidental mortality of scallops. The researchers plan on conducting three trips, two in July and August 2014, and a third in July 2015, on two fishing vessels. Each trip will be five to six days-at-sea (DAS), with approximately 6 tows/day, for a total of approximately 30 tows per trip. The tows would be made on commercial scallop grounds in Southern New England, including the Eastern and Western portions of Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, where sector groundfish vessels have been given a FY2014 exemption to fish (see coordinates later in this preamble). This excludes the central portion, which is an Essential Fish Habitat closure area, 50 CFR 648.81(h)(vi). The paths would be made by a dredge equipped with forward facing cameras towed at commercial speed (4.5 knots) and would be 500 meters long, for a maximum duration of 30 minutes. Video data would be collected by the ROV in such a manner as to determine the quantity and condition of species left in the dredge path with the main focus being

on sea scallops. Dredge catches would be examined to evaluate dredge efficiency, discard mortality, and meat losses associated with scallop condition and processing. Researchers expect to conduct at most one trip within portions of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, in order to examine an area with low fishing pressure. No catch would be retained for sale. All scallops and fish would be returned to the sea after video monitoring of the tow path is completed.

The applicant anticipates catching the following amount of fish on each trip:

Species	Estimated lbs in 30 tows
Sea scallop	600
Yellowtail flounder	150
Winter flounder	150
Windowpane flounder	150
Summer flounder	150
Fourspot flounder	150
American plaice	75
Grey sole	75
Haddock	25
Atlantic cod	25
Monkfish	150
Spiny dogfish	50
Barndoor skates	100
Little skates	500
Winter skates	500

To conduct this study, Coonamessett Farm Foundation investigators submitted a complete EFP application on April 11, 2014, requesting an exemption allowing two commercial fishing vessels to fish outside of the limited access Atlantic sea scallop DAS regulations found at 50 CFR 648.53(b). In addition, the EFP would exempt participating vessels from the crew size regulations at 50 CFR 648.51(c); reporting requirements specified in 50 CFR 648.7(f); and regulations preventing fishing in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area specified in 50 CFR 648.81(c) and 50 CFR 648.59(d).

The waters in the Eastern Area of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area are defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated here:

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
A	40°50'	69°30'
B	40°50'	69°00'
C	40°20'	69°00'
D	40°20'	69°30'
A	40°50'	69°30'

The waters in the Western Area of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area are defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated here: