

SUMMARY: The draft Recovery Plan for the North Pacific and North Atlantic blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is available for review and comment by interested parties prior to preparing the final plan for approval and adoption by NMFS. The Plan was developed by a team of scientists from NMFS' Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC).

DATES: DATES: Comments on the draft Plan must be received on or before September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR), 1315 East-West

Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the Draft Blue Whale Recovery Plan are available upon request from F/PR, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Silber, NMFS/FPR, 301/713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that NMFS develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under its jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans will not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, NMFS appointed a group of scientists at SWFSC to take part in the development of the Draft Recovery Plan for the North Pacific and North Atlantic Blue Whale. The Draft Recovery Plan discusses the natural history, current status of the species, and the known and potential human impacts on the species. Actions that would promote the recovery of the blue whale are identified and discussed in the draft plan. The Recovery Plan will be used to direct U.S. activities, as well as encourage international cooperation,

to promote the recovery of this endangered species.

Dated: July 29, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072597D]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Vessel Bycatch Accountability Committee will meet August 21-22, 1997, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 21.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Nordby Conference Center, Fishermen's Terminal, Suite A, 1711 West Nickerson, Seattle, WA 98119.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell; telephone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee has been tasked with identifying alternatives to be addressed in an analysis for a program to implement individual vessel bycatch accounting measures.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 97-20221 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 97-25]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Assistance Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Pub. L. 104-164 dated July 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSAA/COMPT/CPD, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 97-25, with attached transmittal and policy justification.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M



DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2800

21 JUL 1997

In reply refer to:
I-50409/97

Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 97-25, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.075 billion. This notice increases by \$385 million the program value of the 90mm turret weapon system originally notified under transmittal no. 95-18 for \$690 million (this initial LOA expired without acceptance). The program increase is due to increased cost of the weapon system, integration, chassis modifications, logistics support, testing, and ammunition costs not included in the original estimate. Soon after this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to notify the news media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Dana McKalip".

H. Dana McKalip
Acting Director

Same ltr to: House Committee on International Relations
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
House Committee on National Security
Senate Committee on Armed Services
House Committee on Appropriations

Attachments

Transmittal No. 97-25

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer
Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1)
of the Arms Export Control Act

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Saudi Arabia
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Major Defense Equipment* | \$.003 billion |
| Other | <u>\$1.072 billion</u> |
| TOTAL | \$1.075 billion |
- (iii) Description of Articles or Services Offered:
Continuation of the U.S.-supported effort to modernize the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) to include 130 90mm Turret Weapon Systems for integration into Light Armored Vehicles. Also included for the turret systems are modification/upgrade of the chassis, 130 M240 machine guns, 130 M2 .50 caliber machine guns, testing, spare parts, 169,490 rounds of 90mm ammunition, associated equipment, design and construction of range and maintenance facilities, U.S. Government and contractor management, training and technical services, and full logistical and training support.
- (iv) Military Department: Army (ZAC, amendment 27)
- (v) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None
- (vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold:
None
- (vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: 21 JUL 1997

* as defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATIONSaudi Arabia - Continued Modernization of the Saudi Arabian National Guard

The Government of Saudi Arabia has requested the continuation of the U.S.-supported effort to modernize the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) to include 130 90mm Turret Weapon Systems for integration into Light Armored Vehicles. Also included for the turret systems are modification/upgrade of the chassis, 130 M240 machine guns, 130 M2 .50 caliber machine guns, testing, spare parts, 169,490 rounds of 90mm ammunition, associated equipment, design and construction of range and maintenance facilities, U.S. Government and contractor management, training and technical services, and full logistical and training support. The estimated cost is \$1.075 billion.

This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

In a continuing effort to assist in the SANG modernization program, U.S. Government and contractor personnel will continue providing services in the areas of management, training and logistics. These services will continue to remain the cornerstone of an effort to upgrade and enhance the infrastructure of the SANG organization. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing this system.

The sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be General Motors of Canada (Diesel Division), London, Ontario, Canada and the sub-contractor will be Cockerill Mechanical Industries, located in Seraing, Belgium. There are no offset agreements proposed to be entered into in connection with this potential sale.

The implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government personnel to Saudi Arabia. Requirements for the assignment of contractor representatives to support this sale will be determined following consultations with representatives of the Saudi Arabian National Guard. Additional personnel in this aspect of the program is not anticipated.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this sale.