

Dated: February 5, 1997.
Nancy Linn Patton,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and the Pacific.

[FR Doc. 97-4504 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Notice of Prospective Grant of Exclusive Patent License

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

SUMMARY: This is a notice in accordance with 35 USC 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i) that the National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST"), U.S. Department of Commerce, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive license in the United States to practice the invention embodied in U.S. Patent Application Number 08/487,557, titled, "Pre-Ceramic Polymers in Fabrication of Ceramic Composites," in the field of use of dental and cosmetic products, to Vident, having a place of business in Brea, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Mattson, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, NIST receives written evidence and argument which establish that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

U.S. Patent Application Number 08/487,557 provides composites in the form of a three-dimensional framework or skeleton of ceramic particles which are formed by a low cost, low temperature sintering process which decomposes a pre-ceramic inorganic or organic precursor.

NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement ("CRADA") with the licensee to perform further research on the invention for purposes of commercialization. NIST may grant the licensee an option to negotiate for exclusive licenses to any jointly owned inventions which arise from the CRADA as well as an option to negotiate for exclusive royalty-bearing licenses for NIST employee inventions which arise from the CRADA.

The availability of the invention for licensing was published in the Federal

Register, Vol. 61, No. 107 (June 2, 1996). A copy of the patent application may be obtained from NIST at the Foregoing Address.

Dated: February 6, 1997.

Elaine Buntten-Mines,
Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-4615 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021897A]

Mid-Atlantic Take Reduction Team

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

ACTION: Notice of establishment of team and public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Take Reduction Team to address bycatch of harbor porpoise in U.S. mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries is established February 25, 1997 and will hold its first meeting to develop a Take Reduction Plan as described in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) focusing on reducing bycatch in these fisheries.

DATES: The team is established as of February 25, 1997. The first meeting of the team will be held on March 4-5, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for April 23-24, 1997, and June 3-4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The first meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for Salisbury, MD, (April) and Washington, D.C. (June).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Cornish, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 30, 1994, the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA were signed into law. Section 117 of the MMPA requires that NMFS complete stock assessment reports for all marine mammal stocks within U.S. waters. Each stock assessment report is required to categorize the status of the stock as one that either has a level of human-caused mortality and serious injury that is not likely to cause the stock to be reduced below its optimum sustainable population; or is a strategic stock, with a description of the reasons therefore; and estimate the potential biological removal (PBR) level for the stock, describing the information used to calculate it, including the recovery factor. Stock Assessment Reports and the calculated PBR were published by NMFS in July 1995.

The MMPA defines a "strategic stock" as a marine mammal stock for which the level of direct human-caused mortality exceeds the PBR level; which, based on the best available scientific information, is declining and is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the foreseeable future; which is listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the ESA, or is designated as depleted under the MMPA. The MMPA further defines the term "potential biological removal," or PBR, as "the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population."

Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries interact with the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy stock of harbor porpoise (supporting documentation at 60 FR 67063, December 28, 1995). This stock is considered strategic under the MMPA because the level of human-caused mortality is greater than its PBR levels.

Section 118(f) of the MMPA requires NMFS to establish a Take Reduction Team to prepare a draft Take Reduction Plan designed to assist in the recovery or prevent the depletion of each strategic marine mammal stock that interacts with certain fisheries. Section 118(f)(6)(C) requires that members of Take Reduction Teams have expertise regarding the conservation or biology of the marine mammal species that the plan will address, or the fishing practices that result in the incidental mortality and serious injury of such species. The MMPA further specifies that members of the team shall include representatives of Federal agencies, each coastal state with fisheries that interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska Native organizations, or Indian tribal organizations, and others as deemed appropriate.

As a result of an extended interview process conducted by a NMFS-contracted facilitator, NMFS has asked the following individuals to be a member of the team, which will focus on reducing bycatch of harbor porpoise taken as bycatch in U.S. mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries: Erik Anderson, independent fisher, New Hampshire, and member of the New England Fishery Management Council; Herb Austin, fishery scientist, Virginia

Institute of Marine Science; Susan Barco, marine mammal scientist, Virginia Science Museum; Charles Bergman, independent fisher, New Jersey, and member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Ernie Bowden, independent fisher, Virginia, and member of the Eastern Shore Watermen's Association; David Bower, fishery manager, Virginia Marine Resources Commission; Kevin Chu, fishery biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service; Victoria Cornish, fishery biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service; Gordon Elliott, independent fisher, North Carolina; Bruce Halgren, fishery manager, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife; Thomas Hoff, fishery scientist, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; George LaPointe, fishery scientist, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Matt Linnell, independent fisher, Massachusetts; Richard Luedtke, independent fisher, New Jersey; Bridget Mansfield, fishery biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service; Rick Marks, fishery scientist, North Carolina Fisherman's Association; Dave Martin, independent fisher, Martin Fish Company; William McLellan, marine mammal scientist, University of North Carolina; Robert Munson, independent fisher, New Jersey; Jeff Oden, independent fisher, North Carolina; Bill Outten, fishery manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Andrew Read, marine mammal scientist, Duke University; Tom Smith, independent fisher, Maryland; Michael Street, fishery manager, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries; Leonard Voss, Jr., independent fisher, Delaware; Rob West, independent fisher, North Carolina; Nina Young, conservationist, Center for Marine Conservation; Sharon Young, conservationist, Humane Society of the United States. Other individuals from NMFS, state and Federal agencies may be present as observers or for their scientific expertise. The team will be facilitated by RESOLVE Center for Environmental Dispute Resolution, Washington, DC.

The team is officially established upon publication of the first meeting notice in the Federal Register. NMFS fully intends to convene the Take Reduction Team process in a way that provides for national consistency yet accommodates the unique regional needs and characteristics of the team. Take Reduction Teams are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.). Meetings are open to the public.

Dated: February 19, 1997.
Patricia A. Montanio
*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-4591 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]
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[I.D. 020697A]

Formation of Advisory Panels for National Academy of Sciences Study on Individual Fishing Quotas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS is accepting nominations for two advisory panels for an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) study to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC). This action is taken to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

DATES: Interested parties should submit a statement of interest by March 24, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific details about the statement.

ADDRESS: Send statements of interest to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Gautam, NMFS, Office of Science and Technology. Telephone: (301)713-2328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, mandates that "The Secretary of Commerce shall, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, the Councils, the fishing industry, affected States, conservation organizations and other interested persons, establish two individual fishing quota review groups to assist in the preparation of the report, which shall represent: (A) Alaska, Hawaii, and the other Pacific coastal States; and (B) Atlantic coastal States and the Gulf of Mexico coastal States. The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints among the individuals on each review group * * *". Therefore, NMFS is establishing two advisory panels, one serving the East coast and one serving the West coast.

The East and West coast panels will be comprised of no more than fifteen

members each. Members of the panels will serve as technical advisors to the NRC committee with respect to any issues relating to IFQ implementation. Members may give expert testimony at the public hearings on IFQs. Members may also be asked to assist in the facilitation of NOAA's public hearings in terms of developing questions to be asked at the hearings and in guiding the discussions. Members will be expected to attend one public hearing or one public NRC meeting on IFQs but will not be asked to attend NRC committee meetings. No other meetings are anticipated for the advisory panels. There is no compensation for membership on an advisory panel. NMFS will pay for the travel of each advisory panel member to one public hearing or one NRC public meeting on IFQs. Finally, the advisory panels will serve as an "information clearinghouse."

Interested parties should submit a statement of interest. The statement should include a description of the nominee's background and experience, particularly with respect to IFQs; current occupation and position; reasons for wishing to participate on an advisory panel; and a statement identifying why the nominee should be considered for membership on an advisory panel. Interested parties need not include additional letters of support or sponsorship other than their own self-nominating statements. NMFS will announce the selection of advisory panel members no later than April 14, 1997.

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

Dated: February 19, 1997.
Rolland A. Schmitten,
*Assistant Administrator, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-4592 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]
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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

TIME AND DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 410, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Closed to the Public.