

At the meeting, committee members will discuss specific trade and sales expansion programs related to automotive parts trade policy between the United States and Japan and other Asian markets.

The Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel formally determined on February 12, 2003, pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the March 13th meeting of the Committee and of any subcommittee thereof, dealing with privileged or confidential commercial information may be exempt from the provisions of the Act relating to open meeting and public participation therein because these items are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552b (c)(4) and (9)(B). A copy of the Notice of Determination is available for public inspection and copying Room 5317, Main Commerce.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Henry Misisco,

Director, Office of Automotive Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904; NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Completion of Panel Review of the final remand determination made by the U.S. International Trade Administration, in the matter of Pure and Alloy Magnesium from Canada, Secretariat File No. USA-CDA-2000-1904-07.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Order of the Binational Panel dated January 10, 2003, affirming the final remand determination described above was completed on January 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 10, 2003, the Binational Panel issued an order which affirmed the final remand determination of the United States International Trade Administration ("ITA") concerning Pure and Alloy Magnesium from Canada. The

Secretariat was instructed to issue a Notice of Completion of Panel Review on the 31st day following the issuance of the Notice of Final Panel Action, if no request for an Extraordinary Challenge was filed. No such request was filed. Therefore, on the basis of the Panel Order and Rule 80 of the *Article 1904 Panel Rules*, the Panel Review was completed and the panelists discharged from their duties effective February 21, 2003.

Dated: February 21, 2003.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 03-4606 Filed 2-26-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021203B]

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Scientific Research on Longline Fishing—National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an EIS; notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intention to prepare an EIS, pursuant to NOAA policy as described in NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, to identify and analyze a range of alternatives for fishing experiments to test methods of reducing the incidental take and mortality of threatened and endangered sea turtles by Pacific longline fisheries, as well as the issuance of any permits necessary for the conduct of this activity.

NMFS will hold scoping meetings to inform interested parties of the fishing experiments and solicit input from Federal, State and local agencies, other interested parties, and the general public on the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts that the EIS should consider, including a no-action alternative.

DATES: The meeting dates are:

1. March 27, 2003, 6 - 8 p.m., Hilo, HI.
2. April 3, 2003, 3 - 5 p.m., Silver Spring, MD.
3. April 9, 2003, 6 - 8 p.m., Honolulu, HI.
4. April 16, 2003, 3 - 5 p.m., Long Beach, CA.

Comments should be received by April 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meeting locations are:

1. Paki Hale, main floor, 3840 Paki Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815.
2. NOAA Silver Spring Metro Center Complex, NOAA Science Center, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
3. Naniloa Hotel, Kilohana Room, 93 Banyan Drive, Hilo, HI 96720.
4. Glenn M. Anderson Federal Building, Room 3470, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802.

Written comments and requests to be included on a mailing list of persons interested in the EIS should be sent to Dr. Christofer Boggs, NMFS Honolulu Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wende Goo, Management Analyst, Honolulu Laboratory, 808-983-5303

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Given that sea turtles are known to interact with the Pacific longline fishery, NMFS believes that research is needed to investigate ways to reduce these interactions. Consequently, NMFS proposes that the Honolulu Laboratory conduct experiments to test gear modifications designed to reduce sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries.

The objective of the proposed research is to develop gear and fishing methods that will reduce the number of endangered and threatened sea turtles incidentally caught in longline fisheries in the Pacific Ocean. Regulations closing large segments of the North Pacific fishing area to the Hawaii-based U.S. longline fleet have proven to be effective in reducing the incidental catch of sea turtles by that fleet. However, foreign fisheries in the Pacific are responsible for the vast majority of longline bycatch of sea turtles. Development and export of commercially viable gear modifications are viewed as the best means to reduce foreign bycatch of sea turtles.

The research effort is intended to meet the priority one recovery goal identified in the Final Recovery Plans for the U.S. Pacific Populations of the Loggerhead, Leatherback, Olive Ridley, and Green Turtles adopted by NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In these plans, NMFS and FWS identified monitoring and reduction of sea turtle mortality in commercial fisheries as a recovery action needed for all four species (green, leatherback, loggerhead, and olive ridley). The four species of sea turtles are listed as either endangered or threatened under the ESA, which requires that actions taken