

quality steel covered by this review, including: vacuum degassed fully stabilized; high strength low alloy; and the substrate for motor lamination steel may also enter under the following tariff numbers: 7225.11.00.00, 7225.19.00.00, 7225.30.30.50, 7225.30.70.00, 7225.40.70.00, 7225.99.00.90, 7226.11.10.00, 7226.11.90.30, 7226.11.90.60, 7226.19.10.00, 7226.19.90.00, 7226.91.50.00, 7226.91.70.00, 7226.91.80.00, and 7226.99.00.00. Subject merchandise may also enter under 7210.70.30.00, 7210.90.90.00, 7211.14.00.30, 7212.40.10.00, 7212.40.50.00, and 7212.50.00.00.

Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise subject to this proceeding is dispositive.

#### Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case briefs by parties to this administrative review are addressed in the "Issues and Decision Memorandum" (Decision Memorandum) dated concurrently with this notice which is hereby adopted by this notice. A list of issues which parties have raised, and to which we have responded, all of which are in the Decision Memorandum, is attached to this notice as Appendix I. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in the Central Records Unit in room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building. In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ita.doc.gov>, under the heading "Federal Register Notices." The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

#### Rescission of Review

Based on our analysis of comments received, the Department has not made any changes to the decision articulated in the *Notice of Intent to Rescind*, except for the scope description as noted in the *Scope of the Review* section above. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4), the Department has now rescinded the review of hot-rolled products from Argentina covering the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001.

We will instruct the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Borders Protection (BCBP) to assess countervailing duties at the cash deposit or bonding rate required at the time of entry. We will also instruct BCBP to continue to collect cash

deposits of estimated countervailing duties for the merchandise at the current rates.

This notice is in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4).

Dated: September 15, 2003.

**James J. Jochum,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

#### Appendix I - Issues Discussed in Decision Memorandum

##### Analysis of Comments

*Comment 1*—The Statute and Regulations Provide the Department with the Discretion to Conduct Countervailing Duty (CVD) Reviews in the Absence of Shipments  
*Comment 2*—Department Practice and the Unique Circumstances of This Case Warrant Conducting a Review and Adjusting the Deposit Rate

[FR Doc. 03-24128 Filed 9-18-03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 030910229-3229-01]

##### Minority Business Financing

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting comments on the direction of minority business financing. MBDA would like to ensure that it has obtained broad-based feedback on this issue. Once this information has been obtained and there has been a preliminary discussion of this issue at MBDA's 2003 MED Week conference, MBDA will finalize and print a report with any appropriate revisions, and will disseminate it widely to the policy-making and financial communities. In order to be considered, comments must be received by the deadline contained in the Dates section of this Notice.

**DATES:** All comments must be received or postmarked by October 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Completed comments may be mailed to the following address: Ms. Anita Cooke Wells, Chief, Office of Business Development, HCHB, Room 5063, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; or e-mailed to: [awells@mbda.gov](mailto:awells@mbda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact Ms. Anita Cooke Wells, Chief, Office of Business Development, at (202) 482-1940.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In May, 2002, MBDA began to examine the challenges facing minority firms in obtaining financing and develop proposals to improve financing options. MBDA sought input from persons having expertise in these issues, to assist it in information gathering and review of possible options. Some of the areas identified for discussion were the current disparities in financing minority businesses, the lack of available data, and the importance of management and technical assistance.

The Agency has developed preliminary proposals as a result of this process. These proposals address issues universal to all minority firms, as well as specifically focusing on issues relevant to high growth businesses, emerging companies and microenterprises. These proposals are designed to support the development of minority businesses and result in job creation and other economic outcomes. Much of the Agency's work focuses on suggestions that would affect existing businesses, whether middle-market or larger businesses and those firms with the largest potential for growth. These businesses are most likely to generate employment and revenues, yet often are overlooked by small business financing programs, venture capitalists, and institutional investors.

The lack of information on minority firms reiterates the need for the Federal Government to develop and provide this data to the private sector. In general, the issues focus on the following four categories:

#### 1. Development of Current and Extensive Governmental Data To Support Investment Decision-Making and To Identify Market Opportunities in the MBE Community

- Implement an Annual Survey of Minority Businesses to provide up-to-date and accurate information on the minority business community.
- Organize and fund a national minority financing network and data repository, which would compile information on the loan performance of this sector of the business community.
- Partner with the National Association of Investment Companies to collect data on portfolio performance of minority-focused venture funds and develop institutional investor strategies.

## 2. Improvement of Capital Availability and Accessibility Through Existing and New Programs

- Continue ongoing federal financing programs, such as the Small Business Administration 7(a), 504 and Community Express programs and the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund that have increased capital accessibility for minority businesses and other under-served communities.

- Implement a National Capital Access program, which allows banks and other financial institutions to make loans to higher-risk borrowers.

- Develop a national mezzanine-financing program.

## 3. Provision of Expanded Access to Management and Technical Assistance

- Tie existing and new financing vehicles to technical and management assistance appropriate for the type of firm receiving the financing.

- Focus provision of services to businesses with \$100,000 or more in annual revenues, as businesses of this size are responsible for approximately 95 percent of all employees retained by minority firms and nearly 92 percent of minority business revenues.

- Develop tiering mechanisms for provision of management and technical assistance services promoting increased efficiency and innovation within the minority business community.

- Create best practices and performance measurements for service providers.

## 4. Integration of the Investment Community, Minority Entrepreneurs, and the Federal Government

- Coordinate federal programs supporting minority business financing and increase minority business utilization of these programs.

- Support existing mechanisms for integrating entrepreneurs with financial institutions, especially with respect to venture capital.

- Promote increased collaborations between institutions with experience and expertise investing and lending to the minority business community and mainstream institutions.

For additional background on MBDA's proposals, please go to MBDA's Web site at <http://www.mbda.gov>. In particular, the Agency would like to receive any suggestions on additional approaches or options that may be included in a final report. If respondents believe that the identified issues are impractical or present serious difficulties in implementation, please note this in the comments.

The comments received will be reviewed for applicability to the issues addressed. MBDA will consider only those comments that address (1) existing successful models that could be enhanced and replicated, and (2) where there is sufficient interest within MBDA to adopt the comments, or there exists the likelihood of creating such interest. If any comments received meet the criteria, they will be included within the final report.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

**Ronald N. Langston,**

*National Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-21-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091603D]

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Joint Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council Spiny Dogfish Committee, Research Set-Aside Committee, Demersal Committee, Tilefish Committee, and Executive Committee will hold public meetings. **DATES:** The meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 7, through Thursday, October 9, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Outer Banks Resort & Conference Center/Ramada Inn, 1701 Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC; telephone: 252-441-1830.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Tuesday, October 7, the Joint (Mid-Atlantic Council-New England Council) Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee will meet

concurrently from noon until 3 p.m. Council will meet from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be a NMFS Public Hearing on annual landing limits for blue and white marlin from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, October 8, the Council will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Council will review and approve the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP); review and comment on the NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan; and, review and comment on the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Groundfish Amendment 13 proposals regarding Essential Fishery Habitat (EFH) closures and effort management measures. The Council, together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board, will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to determine and prioritize management actions for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. On Thursday, October 9, the Tilefish Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The Executive Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Council will meet from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Agenda items for the Council's committees and the Council itself are: The Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will review the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee's recommendations regarding 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05 fishing year. The RSA Committee will review, discuss and establish RSA priorities for 2005; review, discuss and establish project selection criteria for the 2005 RSA solicitation. The Council will convene its first meeting session with the swearing-in of new and re-appointed Council members, and by conducting an election of its officers. The Council will then review the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee's recommendations regarding the 2004/05 fishing year quota and associated management measures; develop and adopt recommended quota and management measures for 2004/05; review and approve the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) Public Hearing document for Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP; discuss and comment on NMFS' Northeast Regional Office's Draft Regional Bycatch Implementation Plan regarding how to address state waters fisheries, how to address recreational fisheries, and how to create incentives to encourage harvesters to