

No employee of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Judges Panel.

2. The Judges Panel will be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and will serve at the discretion of the Secretary. The term of office of each Panel member shall be three years. All terms will commence on March 1 and end on February 28 of the appropriate year.

Miscellaneous

1. Members of the Judges Panel shall serve without compensation, but may, upon request, be reimbursed travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 *et seq.*

2. The Judges Panel will meet four times per year. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the NIST Director or by the Chairperson. Meetings are one to four days in duration. In addition, each Judge must attend an annual three-day Examiner training course.

3. Committee meetings are closed to the public pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, and in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of title 5, United States Code. Since the members of the Judges Panel examine records and discuss Award applicant data, the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person may be privileged or confidential.

II. Nomination Information

1. Nominations are sought from all U.S. service and manufacturing industries, education, and health care as described above.

2. Nominees should have established records of distinguished service and shall be familiar with the quality improvement operations of manufacturing companies, service companies, small businesses, education and health care organizations. The category (field of eminence) for which the candidate is qualified should be specified in the nomination letter. Nominations for a particular category should come from organizations or individuals within that category. A summary of the candidate's qualifications should be included with the nomination, including (where applicable) current or former service on federal advisory boards and federal employment. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledge the responsibilities of serving on the Judges Panel, and will

actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the Judges Panel. Besides participation at meetings, it is desired that members be able to devote the equivalent of seventeen days between meetings to either developing or researching topics of potential interest, reading Baldrige applications, and so forth, in furtherance of their Committee duties.

3. The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks a broad-based and diverse Judges Panel membership.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 04-17101 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB)

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for nominations of members to serve on the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: NIST invites and requests nomination of individuals for appointment to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board. NIST will consider nominations received in response to this notice for appointment to the Board, in addition to nominations already received.

DATES: Please submit nominations on or before August 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Ms. Carrie Hines, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800. Nominations may also be submitted via fax to (301) 963-6556.

Additional information regarding the Board, including its charter and current membership list may be found on its electronic home page at: <http://www.mep.nist.gov/index-nist.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carrie Hines, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800; telephone (301) 975-3360, fax (301) 963-6556; or via e-mail at carrie.hines@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board will advise the Director of the National

Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on MEP programs, plans, and policies.

The Board will consist of nine individuals appointed by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the advisement of the Director of MEP. Membership on the Board shall be balanced to represent the views and needs of customers, providers, and others involved in industrial extension throughout the United States.

The Board will function solely as an advisory body, in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act: 5 U.S.C. App. 2 and General Services Administration Rule: 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Action Director.

[FR Doc. 04-17099 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program Workshop for Laboratories Interested in the Help America Vote Act

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Workshop notice.

SUMMARY: The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) will hold a public workshop on August 17, 2004, at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD. The purpose of the workshop is the exchange of information among NVLAP, laboratories interested in seeking accreditation for the testing of voting systems under the Help America Vote Act, and other interested parties. The results of the workshop discussions will be used in the development of the NVLAP Voting Systems Laboratory Accreditation Program (Voting LAP).

There is no charge for the workshop but pre-registration is required. A registration form can be found at <http://vote.nist.gov>.

ADDRESSES: National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Horlick, Program Manager, NVLAP, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140,

Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140, phone: (301) 975-4016 or e-mail nvlap.voting@nist.gov. Information regarding NVLAP and the accreditation process can also be viewed at <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-252) was signed into law by President Bush on October 29, 2002. Section 231 of the HAVA requires the Director of NIST to provide for the accreditation of laboratories that conduct testing on the hardware and software of voting systems. In response to the HAVA, the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) is establishing a program for laboratories that test voting systems.

NVLAP accreditation criteria is established in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR, Title 15, Part 285), NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements. Laboratories conducting this testing will be required to meet ISO/IEC International Standard 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, the 2002 Voting System Standards, and any other criteria deemed necessary by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). For each new laboratory accreditation program (LAP), NVLAP works with the affected testing community to develop program-specific technical requirements. These requirements tailor the general accreditation criteria referenced in Sections 4 and 5 of NIST Handbook 150 to the tests and services in the new LAP. Program-specific requirements include the details of the Scope of Accreditation, test and measurement equipment, personnel requirements, validation of test methods, and reporting of test results.

PRA Clearance

This action contains a collection of information requirements subject to review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995. Collection activities for the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program are currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0693-0003. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Executive Order 12866

This action has been determined to be not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Dated: July 22, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04-17103 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032404G]

Endangered Species; File No. 1444

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Fisheries Resource Office, 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (Michael Mangold, principal investigator) has been issued a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Jefferies or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 9, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 53140) that a request for a scientific research permit to take shortnose sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

USFWS will be authorized to sample and track shortnose sturgeon in the Potomac River. Annually, up to 50 fish

will be taken via gill nets, measured, weighed, PIT tagged, tissue sampled, and the fish subsequently released. A subset of 20 fish annually will also be T-bar and CART tagged and have a temperature/depth datalogger attached. Additionally, the researchers will use D-traps to collect up to 2500 shortnose sturgeon eggs annually. This permit will be authorized for five years.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 22, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04-17185 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Web site at <http://www.cbp.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being increased for the