

competition; (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if the proposal is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; and the Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intention to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission, it has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁰ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.¹¹

The PCX has requested the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission has decided to waive the 30 day operative delay. The Commission believes such waiver is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Commission notes that PCX's proposal is substantially similar to ISE's rules.¹² For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing of Amendment No. 1 with the Commission.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the amended proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2003-42. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hard copy or by e-

mail, but not by both methods. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the PCX. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2003-42 and should be submitted by January 7, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-31072 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3560]

State of Texas

Harris County and the contiguous counties of Brazoria, Chamber, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller in the State of Texas constitute a disaster area due to excessive rain, flooding and tornadoes that occurred November 17 through November 18, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on February 9, 2004, and for economic injury until the close of business on September 8, 2004, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 3 Office, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155-2243.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

- Homeowners with credit available elsewhere: 6.250%;
- Homeowners without credit available elsewhere: 3.125%;
- Businesses with credit available elsewhere: 6.123%;
- Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere: 3.061%;
- Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available

elsewhere: 4.875%.

For Economic Injury:

- Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere: 3.061%.

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 356006 and for economic injury the number is 9Y3900.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 8, 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-31080 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3561]

Commonwealth of Virginia

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on December 9, 2003, I find that the Independent City of Galax, and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth, and Tazewell in the Commonwealth of Virginia constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and flooding occurring on November 18, 2003 and continuing through November 19, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on February 9, 2004 and for economic injury until the close of business on September 9, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South 3rd Fl., Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1192.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Washington, and Wythe Counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia; McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, and Summers Counties in the State of West Virginia; and Pike County in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

- Homeowners with credit available elsewhere: 6.250%;
- Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere: 3.125%;
- Businesses with credit available elsewhere: 6.123%;
- Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere: 3.061%;
- Others (Including non-

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹¹ For purposes of calculating the 60-day abrogation period, the Commission considers the period to have commenced on November 14, 2003, the date the PCX filed Amendment No. 1.

¹² For purposes of accelerating the operative date of the proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(3)(f).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere: 4.875%.

For Economic Injury:

Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere: 3.061%.

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 356111. For economic injury the number is 9Y4000 for Virginia; 9Y4100 for West Virginia; and 9Y4200 for Kentucky.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-31079 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3558]

State of West Virginia (Amendment #4)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective December 9, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to include Braxton, Lewis, Logan, and Taylor Counties as disaster areas due to damages caused by severe storms, flooding and landslides occurring on November 11, 2003, and continuing through November 30, 2003.

All other counties contiguous to the above named primary counties have been previously declared. All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is January 20, 2004, and for economic injury the deadline is August 23, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-31078 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 4527]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Request for Nominations for the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee of the General Advisory Committee to the United States Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking applications and nominations for the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee of the General Advisory Committee to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The purpose of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee is to provide public input and advice to the United States Section to the IATTC in the formulation of U.S. policy and positions at meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies. The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall also function as the National Scientific Advisory Committee (NATSAC) provided for in the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). The United States Section to the IATTC is composed of the U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC, appointed by the President, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries or his or her designated representative. Authority to establish the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee is provided by the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950, as amended by the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act (IDCPA) of 1997.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted to David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Room 7831, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; or by fax to 202-736-7350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hogan, Office of Marine Conservation, Department of State: 202-647-2335.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scientific Advisory Subcommittee

The Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. 953, Section 4) provides that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC, shall appoint a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the General Advisory Committee. The Subcommittee is composed of not fewer than 5 and not more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced representation

from the public and private sectors, including non-governmental conservation organizations. The Subcommittee advises the Committee and the U.S. Section on matters including: the conservation of ecosystems; the sustainable uses of living marine resources related to the tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean; and the long-term conservation and management of stocks of living marine resources in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

In addition, at the request of the Committee, the U.S. Commissioners, or the Secretary of State, the Subcommittee performs such functions and provides such assistance as may be required by formal agreements entered into by the United States for the eastern Pacific tuna fishery, including the AIDCP. The functions may include: the review of data from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP), including data received from the IATTC staff; recommendations on research needs and the coordination and facilitation of such research; recommendations on scientific reviews and assessments required under the IDCP; recommendations with respect to measures to assure the regular and timely full exchange of data among the Parties to the AIDCP and each nation's NATSAC (or its equivalent); and consulting with other experts as needed. The Subcommittee is invited to have representatives attend all non-executive meetings of the U.S. Section and the General Advisory Committee and is given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of scientific investigation, scientific reports, and scientific recommendations of the Commission. Representatives of the Subcommittee may attend meetings of the IATTC and the AIDCP as members of the U.S. delegation or otherwise in accordance with the rules of those bodies governing such participation. Participation as a member of the U.S. delegation is subject to such limits as may be placed on the size of the delegation.

National Scientific Advisory Committee

The Subcommittee also functions as the NATSAC established pursuant to Article XI of the AIDCP. In this regard, the Subcommittee performs the functions of the NATSAC as specified in Annex VI of the AIDCP including, but not limited to: receiving and reviewing relevant data, including data provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by the IATTC Staff; advising and recommending to the U.S. Government measures and actions that should be undertaken to conserve and