

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology received letters dated May 10, 1994, and October 31, 1994, from the American National Standards Institute requesting to have the ANSI-RAB American National Accreditation Program for Registrars of Quality Systems recognized under NVCASE. The request seeks U.S. Government assurance of the competency of the ANSI-RAB program to accredit registrars so that they can in turn register organizations in satisfaction of foreign mandatory regulatory requirements.

The NVCASE procedures at 15 CFR Part 286 require NIST to seek public consultation when it receives requests for evaluation. The original request was published in the *Federal Register* at Vol. 60, No. 20/Tuesday, January 31, 1995, page 5901. A 30-day public comment period ended on March 2, 1995. The comments received are discussed below.

No action was taken on the request until now, pending conclusion of U.S.-EU MRA negotiations. The MRA was initiated on June 20, 1997. NIST is now proceeding with establishment of criteria and initiation of the application process.

NIST received responses from 15 different organizations during the public comment period on the original ANSI request and also considered an additional letter received after the official period closed.

Of the 16 letters considered, nine indicated general support, five opposed specific sectoral areas included in the request, one indicated general non-support and one provided only a general comment. The specific sectors to which the five commenters voiced opposition are not planned for inclusion under the proposed NVCASE program. The pressure vessel sector is not presently part of the U.S.-EU negotiations (three opponents), and the medical device sector is under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); NIST will not take action in that sector without full agreement from FDA (two opponents). Further, NIST will not accept any application for recognition in these two sectors without notifying the opposing entities and other members of the sectoral community.

Norwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

Elaine Bunten-Mines,
Director, Program Office.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080697D]

Request for Nominations of Individuals for the Federal Investment Task Force

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

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to establish a task force to study the role of the Federal Government in subsidizing fleet capacity and influencing capital investment in fisheries. NMFS requests nominations of qualified individuals to serve on the task force.

DATES: Nominations will be accepted through September 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1444 Eye Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. ATTN: Federal Investment Task Force. Nominations may be submitted by fax, (202) 289-6051.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Beal, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, (202) 289-6400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

In accordance with section 116(b) of the SFA (Public Law 104-297), the Secretary is establishing a task force of interested parties to study the role of the Federal Government in (1) subsidizing the expansion and contraction of fishing capacity in fishing fleets managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and (2) otherwise influencing the aggregate capital investment in fisheries. The task force will report the findings of the study to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has contracted with NMFS to establish the Federal Investment Task Force and complete the

tasks necessary to prepare and submit the report to Congress. ASMFC is in the position of being knowledgeable about the issues associated with the Federal Investment Study, while lacking a vested interest in the outcome of the task force's work.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. Procedures for Establishing the Task Force.

Individuals with definable interests in fisheries will be considered as members of the task force. Nominations may include, but are not limited to, individuals who are associated with commercial or recreational fishing, environmental organizations, academia, or quasi-governmental entities. Selection of task force members will not be limited to individuals who are nominated.

Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. The nomination should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and description of his/her interest in or association with the role of the Federal Government in subsidizing fleet capacity and influencing capital investment in fisheries.
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications.
3. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee will actively participate in good faith in the duties of the task force.

B. Participants.

The task force will consist of no more than 15 individuals who have a substantial interest in fisheries. Nominations will be accepted to represent commercial and recreational fishing interests, the conservation community, and the academic community. ASMFC and NMFS believe that all interests should be represented on the task force. The intent is to have a group that, as a whole, represents all interests fairly and supplies the necessary expertise to complete all assigned tasks. Current employees of NOAA will not be considered for the task force.

ASMFC will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the task force. ASMFC will also reimburse all travel expenses that are directly related to the activities of the task force. However, ASMFC will be unable to compensate participants with additional monetary support of any kind.

C. Tentative Schedule.

The task force is tentatively scheduled to meet five times between September 1997 and May 1998. These meetings will focus on programs that both