

fishing vessels that participate in HMS fisheries. Surveys and workshops will be conducted by NMFS personnel and/or contractors with affected fishery participants, in order to provide information and identify options for the development of the management system. NMFS, in consultation with the AP, will develop a plan to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system.

Procedures and Guidelines

A. Procedures for Establishing the Advisory Panel.

Individuals representing definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, governmental and quasi-governmental entities will be considered as members of the AP. Selection of AP members will not be limited to those that are nominated.

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

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of their interest in or connection with HMS and the pelagic longline fishery in particular;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP.

B. Participants.

The AP shall consist of not less than seven (7) members who are knowledgeable about the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Nominations will be accepted to allow representation from recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community. NMFS does not believe that each potentially affected organization or individual must necessarily have its own representative, but each interest must be adequately represented. The intent is to have a group that as a whole reflects an appropriate balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of the AP. Criteria for membership include (one or more of the following): a) Experience in or knowledge of the commercial longline fishing industry involved in harvesting tunas, swordfish, or sharks; b) experience in or knowledge of the recreational fishing industry involved in harvesting HMS; c) experience in connected industries (marinas, bait and tackle shops, processors); d) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; e) former or current representative of private, regional, state, national, or

international organization representing marine fisheries interests dealing with HMS.

NMFS will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the AP. However, we will be unable to compensate participants with monetary support of any kind because no funds were appropriated to support this activity in fiscal year 1997. Members will be expected to pay for travel costs related to the AP.

C. Tentative Schedule.

Meetings of the AP will be held twice or thrice yearly. NMFS, in consultation with the AP, will develop by June 1997, a plan to conduct workshops/surveys and results of these workshops and surveys will be published by December 1997. A plan to conduct a feasibility study of the comprehensive management plan will be developed by July 1997 and the final study will be published and distributed by January 1998. NMFS has initially determined that the responsibilities of the AP members will be concluded by October 1998, as management advisory responsibilities will be carried out by other AP's for swordfish, sharks, billfish, and tunas. These AP's will consider any comprehensive management plan that is developed in consultation with this longline AP.

Dated: February 19, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Request for Nominations of Individuals for the Ecosystem Research Advisory Panel

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

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: Section 406 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires NMFS to establish an advisory panel to develop recommendations to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities. NMFS requests nominations of qualified individuals to serve on the advisory panel.

DATES: Nominations will be accepted through March 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ATTN: Fisheries Ecosystem Panel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ned Cyr, NMFS, (301) 713-2363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 406 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-297), requires NMFS to establish an advisory panel, not later than April 11, 1997, to develop recommendations to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities. The panel will consist of no more than 20 individuals with expertise in the structures, functions, and physical and biological characteristics of ecosystems. The panel will also consist of representatives from the Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, fishing industry, conservation organizations, or others with expertise in the management of marine resources. The panel will be required to submit a report to Congress by October 11, 1998, which includes: An analysis of the extent to which ecosystem principles are being applied in fishery conservation and management activities, including research activities; proposed actions by the Secretary of Commerce and by Congress that should be undertaken to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management; and such other information as may be appropriate.

NMFS is requesting nominations of qualified individuals to serve as advisory panel members. Please submit nominations of qualified individuals, along with supporting credentials, to NMFS (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: February 19, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures.

SUMMARY: The Secretary proposes selection criteria, procedures for