

field strength, electrical field polarity, and the chemical and physical nature of the porous media. These variables can be changed to give selective separations.

NIST Docket Number: 95-031.

Abstract: This acoustic microscope analyzes the properties of a solid using an ultrasonic transducer having a curved piezoelectric element, mounted in a curved insulating material, that generates and receives coherent, short-duration ultrasonic pulses through its coupling fluid. The received echo waveforms are recorded and compared with reference samples or known theory and computer simulations.

Dated: January 16, 1997.

Elaine Bunten-Mines,
Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-1812 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011597A]

Pacific Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and in the Columbia River Basin

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intention to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on ocean and in-river fisheries that may result in the incidental take of Pacific salmonids either currently listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

NMFS will also prepare four environmental assessments (EAs) for the 1997 salmon fisheries.

NMFS will hold scoping meetings to provide for public input into the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts that the EIS should consider. In addition to holding the scoping meetings, NMFS is accepting written comments on the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts it should be considering for this EIS and on the scope of the EAs.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through February 28, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting times and special accommodations.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to be included on a mailing list of persons interested in the EIS should be sent to Joseph R. Blum, Office of Protected Resources, Endangered

Species Division (PR3), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting locations and special accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph R. Blum (301) 713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since 1989 Sacramento River winter run chinook salmon; since 1991 Snake River sockeye salmon; since 1992 Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and Snake River fall chinook salmon; and since 1996 Umpqua River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) and central California coastal coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) have been listed as either threatened or endangered under the ESA. The several populations of chinook salmon are all distinct population segments of *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and the Snake River sockeye salmon is a distinct population segment of *Oncorhynchus nerka*. Annually the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council have recommended, and NMFS has approved, salmon fisheries for the West Coast and Alaska. As a part of that process, NMFS has prepared biological opinions and issued incidental take statements for these fisheries, in compliance with section 7 of the ESA.

NMFS is proposing to list 2 additional Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of West Coast coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), the central Oregon ESU and the Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU and 10 ESUs of West Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The salmon fisheries EIS will include discussions of impacts of each alternative for each of those ESUs.

The listed salmon and salmon proposed to be listed are born in the tributaries of the Sacramento and Snake Rivers as well as the coastal rivers of central and northern California and southern and central Oregon. They travel down river to the Pacific Ocean before returning 2 to 6 years later to their natal streams to spawn.

During their journey down and up these rivers and through the ocean they travel along thousands of miles of waterways, around or over numerous hydroelectric and agricultural diversion dams, past thousands of acres of private and public lands and across at least two international boundaries and up to five state boundaries and come under a vast array of agencies and legal regimes. The following is a partial list of agencies, bodies and governments that manage Pacific salmon: U.S. Department of Commerce; States of California, Oregon,

Washington, Idaho and Alaska; over thirty Native American tribal jurisdictions; Pacific Fisheries Management Council; North Pacific Fisheries Management Council; and the Pacific Salmon Commission.

In September of 1996 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Ramsey v. Kantor* that certain Federal actions in managing or ruling on some Columbia River and Alaskan salmon fisheries constitute major Federal action for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Court concluded that under NEPA, NMFS was required to prepare an EA and possibly an EIS.

As a result of this ruling, and because of the complex management regimes governing Pacific salmon fisheries, NMFS has determined that an EIS that covers all the salmon fisheries affecting both the listed and proposed salmonids is the most appropriate means to provide full analysis and consideration of the environmental effects of these fisheries. Since the EIS is not expected to be completed by the time the 1997 fisheries are conducted, NMFS will prepare EAs on the 1997 Columbia River and Alaska salmon fisheries. Because of the timing of the Columbia River fisheries and the urgency to prepare an EA, the Columbia River salmon fisheries will be treated in two EAs, based on season of fishing and listed species affected. The West Coast salmon fisheries are managed under a fishery management plan that was adopted in 1984, in consideration of an EIS. A West Coast salmon fisheries EA will be prepared in 1997 in the normal course of Pacific Fisheries Management Council management.

Given the complex but interwoven nature of West Coast, Alaskan and Columbia River salmon management, NMFS will develop an EIS with each major geographic fishery constituting a part of the EIS. There will be separate West Coast, Alaskan and Columbia River parts in which the full range of appropriate management alternatives will be discussed. In addition to the mandated No Action Alternative (no fishery authorized, no ESA consultation conducted, or no ESA incidental take permit issued) each part will include at least the following alternatives: Selective fisheries using contemporary methods, in which listed species will be avoided; selective fisheries using historic methods and means, such as fish traps or fish wheels; and current line and/or net fisheries. NMFS is seeking suggested additional alternatives from the public through the scoping process and written responses to this notice.

The scoping meetings for Portland, Boise, Seattle and Santa Rosa will be held at the following times and locations:

Portland, OR—February 3, 1997, 6–9 p.m., Federal Complex Auditorium, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR

Boise, ID—February 4, 1997, 6–9 p.m., Interagency Fire Center Auditorium, 3905 Vista Avenue, Boise, ID

Seattle, WA—February 5, 1997, 6–9 p.m., Building 9, A&B Seminar Rooms, NMFS, Northwest Regional Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA

Santa Rosa, CA—February 18, 1997, 7–10 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 3555 Round Barn Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed (for California) to Rod McInnis (310) 980-4040 or (for all other meetings) to Robert Bayley (503) 230-5432 at least 5 days before the meeting dates.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et. seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*

Dated: January 22, 1997.

George H. Darcy,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-1894 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Applications of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for Designation as a Contract Market in Futures and Options on South African Rand

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and options on South African Rand.

The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the CME South African Rand futures and option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please contact Stephen Sherrod of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202-418-5277. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: ssherrod@cftc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the terms and conditions will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the terms and conditions can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address or by phone at (202) 418-5100.

Other materials submitted by the CME in support of the applications for contract market designation may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145 (1987)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed terms and conditions, or with respect to other materials submitted by the CME, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 21, 1997.

Blake Imel,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 97-1896 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Group on Electron Devices.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a closed session meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held at 0900, Tuesday, 4 February 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Palisades Institute for Research Services, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Eliot Cohen, AGED Secretariat, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E), and through the DDR&E to the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Military Departments in planning and managing an effective and economical research and development program in the area of electron devices.

The AGED meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the Military Departments propose to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. The agenda for this meeting will include programs on Radiation Hardened Devices, Microwave Tubes, Displays and Lasers. The review will include details of classified defense programs throughout.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 10(d) (1994)), it has been determined that this Advisory Group meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) (1994), and that accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate, OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 97-1804 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Meeting of the DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Group on Electron Devices.