

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of first request for panel review.

SUMMARY: On February 20, 1998, Cerestar, USA, Inc., filed a First Request for Panel Review with the Mexican Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Several other Requests for Panel Review were also filed in this matter. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty determination made by the Secretaria de Comercio y Fomento Industrial with respect to Imports of High Fructose Corn Syrup originating in the United States of America. This determination was published in the *Diario Oficial* on January 23, 1998. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number MEX-98-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Holbein, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230 (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the Mexican Section of the

NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on February 20, 1998, requesting panel review of the final antidumping determination described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is March 23, 1998);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is April 6, 1998); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: March 10, 1998.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.
[FR Doc. 98-6862 Filed 3-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[Docket No. 971021249-8006-02]

RIN 0625-AA50

Allocation of Duty-Exemptions for Calendar Year 1998 Among Watch Producers Located in the Virgin Islands

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action allocates 1998 duty-exemptions for watch producers located in the Virgin Islands pursuant to Public Law 97-446, as amended by Public Law 103-465 ("the Act").

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Faye Robinson, (202) 482-3526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Act the Departments of the Interior and Commerce (the Departments) share responsibility for the allocation of duty exemptions among watch assembly firms in the United States insular possessions and the Northern Mariana Islands. In accordance with Section 303.3(a) of the regulations (15 CFR Part 303), this action establishes the total quantity of duty-free insular watches and watch movements for 1998 at 4,140,000 units and divides this amount among the three insular possessions of the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. If this amount, 2,640,000 units may be allocated to Virgin Islands producers, 500,000 to Guam producers, 500,000 to American Samoa producers and 500,000 to Northern Mariana Islands producers (63 FR 5887).

The criteria for the calculation of the 1998 duty-exemption allocations among insular producers are set forth in Section 303.14 of the regulations.

The Departments have verified the data submitted on application form ITA-334P by Virgin Islands producers and inspected their current operations in accordance with Section 303.5 of the regulations.

In calendar year 1997 the Virgin Islands watch assembly firms shipped 922,229 watches and watch movements into the customs territory of the United States under the Act. The dollar amount of creditable corporate income taxes paid by Virgin Islands producers during calendar year 1997 plus the creditable wages paid by the industry during calendar year 1997 to residents of the territory was \$3,458,360.

There are no producers in Guam, American Samoa or the Northern Mariana Islands.

The calendar year 1998 Virginia Islands annual allocations set forth below are based on the data verified by the Departments in the Virgin Islands. The allocations reflect adjustments made in data supplied on the producers' annual application forms (ITA-334P) as a result of the Departments' verification.

The duty-exemption allocations for calendar year 1998 in the Virgin Islands are as follows:

Name of firm	Annual allocation
Belair Quartz, Inc.	500,000
Hampden Watch Co., Inc.	200,000
Progress Watch Co., Inc.	350,000
Unitime Industries, Inc.	500,000
Tropex, Inc. Inc.	300,000

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration, Department of Commerce.

Allen Stayman

Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department
of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 98-6893 Filed 3-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D. 031098E]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
Council; Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council's (Council) Spiny
Dogfish Technical Committee will hold
a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on
Thursday, April 2, 1998, from 10:00
a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at
the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia
Airport, 500 Stevens Drive,
Philadelphia, PA; telephone: 610-521-
8954.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council, 300 S. New
Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone:
302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
David R. Keifer, Executive Director,
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
Council; telephone: 302-674-2331

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
purpose of this meeting is to discuss
revised estimates of current fishing
mortality, review results of surplus
production modeling and biomass
estimation, review projection model
results, and develop definition of
overfishing.

Although other issues not contained
in this agenda may come before this
Committee for discussion, in accordance
with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act,
those issues may not be the subject of
formal action during this meeting.
Action will be restricted to those issues
specifically identified in the agenda
listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible
to people with disabilities. Requests for
sign language interpretation or other
auxiliary aids should be directed to

Joanna Davis at the Council (see
ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the
meeting date.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-6855 Filed 3-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D. 031098F]

**New England Fishery Management
Council; Public Meetings**

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery
Management Council (Council) is
scheduling a number of public meetings
of its oversight committees and advisory
panels in March and April 1998 to
consider actions affecting New England
fisheries in the exclusive economic zone
(EEZ). Recommendations from these
groups will be brought to the full
Council for formal consideration and
action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held
between March 31, 1998, and April 27,
1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**
for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held
in Peabody and East Boston, MA;
Warwick, RI; and New London, CT. See
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific
locations.

Council address: New England
Fishery Management Council, 5
Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036;
telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul
J. Howard, Executive Director, New
England Fishery Management Council;
telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates and Agendas**

*Tuesday, March 31, 1998, 10 a.m. and
Wednesday, April 1, 1998, 9:00 a.m.—*
Joint Council Herring Committee and
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission Herring Section Meeting
Location: Sheraton Inn, Providence
Airport, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, RI
02886; telephone: (401) 738-4000.

Selection of Atlantic Herring Fishery
Management Plan (FMP) measures,
including the identification of a

preferred alternative, for public hearing
purposes.

Thursday, April 2, 1998, 9:30 a.m.—
Joint Habitat Committee and Advisory
Panel Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury
Street (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960;
telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Review of the progress and status of
essential fish habitat (EFH)
identification and description, and
discussion of alternatives for EFH
designation.

Friday, April 3, 1998, 9:30 a.m.—
Groundfish Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury
Street, (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960;
telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Final selection of measures to be
recommended to the Council for public
hearings on Amendment 9 to the
Northeast Multispecies FMP and
development of a recommendation to
the Council on Framework Adjustment
26 to the FMP, an action that would
implement alternative cod conservation
measures.

*Tuesday, April 7, 10 a.m.—*Whiting
Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury
Street (Route 1) Peabody, MA 01960;
telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Development of final
recommendations to the Council on a
management alternative for
consideration at public hearings.

*Wednesday, April 14, 1998, 9:30
a.m.—*Joint Monkfish Committee and
Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: Airport Holiday Inn, 225
McClellan Highway, East Boston, MA
02128; telephone: (617) 569-5250.

Approval of final management
measures to be included in the
Monkfish FMP, for New England and
Mid-Atlantic Council consideration.
This agenda will include time for public
comments on the proposed final
management measures.

*Monday, April 27, 10 a.m.—*Whiting
Committee Meeting

Location: Radisson Hotel, 35
Governor Winthrop Boulevard, New
London, CT 06320; telephone: (860)
443-7000.

Review of the draft Whiting
Amendment, draft Environmental
Impact Statement and a public hearing
schedule.

Although other issues not contained
in this agenda may come before these
groups for discussion, in accordance
with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act,
those issues may not be the subject of
formal action during this meeting.
Action will be restricted to those issues
specifically listed in this notice.