

The U.S. Government agencies did not wait for the passage of the IPOA to begin the work of seabird protection and management. Many measures have already been taken to reduce the incidental catch of these seabird species under such statutes as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The U.S. NPOA is currently under development as a collaborative effort between NMFS and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), with a draft Seabirds NPOA tentatively due for **Federal Register** notice in November 1999 and full completion of the Plan by January 2000.

Written comments on the Seabirds NPOA are encouraged (See **ADDRESSES**).

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Date	Item
September 1999	Release approved schedule and outline to public via a FEDERAL REGISTER notice.
October 1999	Collect and incorporate review comments.
November 1999	Release Draft NPOA for public comment.
January 2000	Respond to public comments and release final version of Seabirds NPOA.

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Longline Fisheries of the United States: Descriptions, Regulations, and Current Mitigation Efforts, by Fishery Management Councils and/or International Agreements
a. Domestic Fisheries by Fishery Management Council:
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2. Mid-Atlantic FMC: Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass (FMP); Atlantic Bluefish (FMP); Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish (FMP); Monkfish (non-FMP); Tilefish (non-FMP),

3. South Atlantic (SA) FMC: SA Snapper-Grouper (FMP); SA Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) (FMP),
 4. Caribbean FMC: Caribbean Shallow Water Reef Fish (FMP); Caribbean Pelagics (non-FMP),
 5. Gulf of Mexico (GOM) FMC: GOM Reef Fish (FMP); GOM Snapper/Grouper (FMP); GOM CMP (FMP),
 6. Pacific FMC: West Coast Groundfish (FMP); Pacific Halibut (non-FMP); Shark/Bonito Longline/Setline (non-FMP),
 7. North Pacific FMC: Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BS-AI) Groundfish (FMP); Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish (FMP); Octopus/Squid Longline (non-FMP),
 8. Western Pacific (WP) FMC: WP Bottomfish/Seamount Groundfish (FMP and non-FMP); WP Pelagics (non-FMP), and
 9. Secretary of Commerce Control: Atlantic Swordfish (FMP); Atlantic Sharks (FMP); Atlantic Tunas (non-FMP).
 - b. U.S. State and State Cooperative Fisheries Management Agreements.
 - c. International Fisheries Agreements:
 1. International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT),
 2. Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and
 3. International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC).
 - d. U.S. Flagged Vessels.
- References
- Appendices
- I. International Plan of Action for the Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries
 - II. Seabird Interaction Minimization Methods for Longline Fisheries
 - III. NMFS National Bycatch Plan, Executive Summary
 - IV. Summaries of Relevant Statutes: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act
 - V. Future Conferences and Events Related to Seabird-Fishery Interactions
 - VI. NMFS Regional Science Center and Management Council Contact Information

Dated: September 1, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-23359 Filed 9-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990902244-9244-01; I.D. 042699A]

Vessel Monitoring Systems; List of Approved Mobile Transmitting Units and Communications Service Providers

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

ACTION: Notice of vessel monitoring systems; approval.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of the vessel monitoring systems (VMS) approved by NOAA for use by pelagic longline vessels in the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries and sets forth relevant features of each VMS.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the list of NOAA approved VMS mobile transmitting units and NOAA approved VMS communications service providers, write to NOAA Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 415, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

To obtain information regarding the status of VMSs being evaluated by NOAA for approval, write to NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 415, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

For more addresses regarding approved VMSs, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section, under the heading **VMS Provider Addresses**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Current listing information: Linda Taylor, Outreach Specialist, phone 301-427-2010, fax 301-427-2055.

Installation and activation checklists: For a copy of the checklist, contact Sandra Yin, VMS Specialist, phone 301-427-2300. For questions regarding the checklist, contact Fred Kyle, Special Agent, NOAA Enforcement, Southeast Division, phone 727-570-5344. To submit a completed and signed checklist, mail or fax it to NOAA Enforcement, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, Koger Building, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, fax 727-570-5355.

Status of evaluations: Sandra Yin, VMS Specialist, phone 301-427-2300, fax 301-427-2055.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. The VMS Requirement

The NMFS has issued a regulation, codified at 50 CFR part 635, requiring the use of VMS by pelagic longline vessels in the HMS Fisheries. This requirement becomes effective January 1, 2000. The placement of VMS units on the fishing vessels in this fishery will enable NMFS to determine vessel locations and will complement the Agency's efforts to monitor and enforce compliance with applicable regulations.

This document provides notice of the VMS mobile transceiver units and the mobile communications service providers that have been approved by NOAA for use in the HMS Fisheries. The VMS consists of both the mobile transceiver unit placed on the vessel and the communications service provider that supplies the wireless link between the unit on the vessel and the shoreside data user. In the HMS Fisheries, the vessel owner is required to procure both VMS components. The two VMS components may, or may not, be provided by a single vendor, depending on the mobile transceiver unit selected. Thus, the vessel owner may be required to procure the mobile transceiver unit and the mobile communications service separately.

To the extent that the use of VMS is required by applicable regulations, NMFS is considered to be the operator and user of the VMS mobile transceiver unit and the user of any required data, regardless of who is required to pay for the mobile transceiver unit onboard a vessel and for the associated communications services. Accordingly, NMFS will specify how the VMS mobile transceiver units must be configured, installed, and activated. This does not, however, preclude the vessel owner from procuring a VMS that provides additional services and capabilities used exclusively by the vessel owner and operator.

On September 23, 1993, NMFS published proposed VMS standards at 58 FR 49285. On March 31, 1994, NMFS published final VMS standards at 59 FR 15180. These notices stated that NMFS endorses the use of VMS and defined specifications and criteria for VMS use.

On September 8, 1998, NOAA published a request for information (RFI) in the Commerce Business Daily in which it stated the minimum VMS specifications necessary for NOAA's approval. The RFI requested that responses from interested VMS providers include supporting information which would demonstrate that the VMS could meet the minimum specifications established by OLE. The submitted supporting information was

used as the basis for approving the mobile transceiver units and communications service providers specified in this document.

This notice lists each currently approved VMS and sets forth the features of each VMS. The list of VMS mobile transceiver units and communications service providers approved by NOAA will be updated and revised as others are approved. The list will be published in the *Federal Register* upon each revision.

Implementation of required VMS usage in the HMS fisheries has been delayed until January 1, 2000; however, fishing vessel owners and operators should not delay their purchase and installation of a VMS mobile transceiver unit. Vendors may require extended periods of time to deliver a mobile transceiver unit and to complete its installation.

II. VMS Mobile Transceiver Units

A. *ArgoNet Mar GE Approval*

Argos is approved for the HMS fisheries based on its cost effectiveness and on its ability to meet other specified VMS elements. Fishing vessel owners and operators should be aware that Argos approval for the HMS fisheries is limited to 3 years from July 23, 1999, and this approval may or may not be extended at the end of the 3-year period.

The approved Argos mobile transceiver unit for the HMS Fisheries is the ArgoNet Mar GE for which North American Collection and Location by Satellite, Inc. (NACLS) is the sole service provider. The NACLS provides (a) the ArgoNet MAR GE mobile transceiver unit installed on the vessel, (b) the ArgoNet satellite service, (c) delivery of position reports to the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement and to the vessel owner, and (d) optional software to display vessel positions. The NACLS address is listed under the heading for VMS Provider Addresses.

The ArgoNet MAR GE uses NOAA polar-orbiting satellites, and, as such, it is considered a NOAA Data Collection and Location System (DCS). The use of any NOAA DCS is governed by 15 CFR part 911. Pursuant to those regulations, use of a NOAA DCS can be authorized only if it is determined that there are no commercial space-based services available that meet the user's requirements. At this time, Argos is the only space-based DCS that meets NMFS' important requirement of cost effectiveness to the Government. Therefore, the use of Argos has been authorized, pursuant to the DCS regulations, for a 3-year period. The regulations provide that, at the end of

the 3-year period, approval of Argos must be reconsidered using the regulatory criteria at which time it may be renewed for a subsequent 3-year period, if appropriate.

ArgoNet MAR GE Features: The ArgoNet MAR GE utilizes a single mobile transmitting unit mounted atop the vessel. The unit contains an Argos transmitter, an integrated global positioning system (GPS) receiver, a battery, and an antenna. The mobile transceiver unit is connected to a power junction box in the wheelhouse, which can be installed in less than 1 hour.

The GPS position reporting starts automatically when the power is connected. The unit is configured for automatic reduced position transmissions when the vessel is stationary (i.e., in port). When the vessel is in port, position transmissions are automatically reduced to one per week. This allows for port stays without significant power drain or power shut-down. The unit restarts normal position transmissions automatically when the vessel goes to sea.

The unit requires 18 to 32 volts direct current (VDC) at 375 milliamp during normal operations at sea, and 18 to 32 VDC at 350 milliamp while the vessel is in reduced position transmission mode (i.e., in port). Operation continues for 48 hours on the internal battery if external power is lost. Operation resumes automatically when external power is restored.

The unit contains a protected push button to request assistance from United States search and rescue authorities. However, search and rescue authorities can not use the MAR GE transmitter to communicate with the vessel because ArgoNet communications are one way, i.e., from the vessel to the control center.

Optional reports can be transmitted with the purchase of a low-cost, handheld keypad.

A vessel owner wishing to purchase this system may contact the provider listed for ArgoNet Mar GE under the VMS Provider Addresses heading. The owner should identify himself or herself as a vessel owner in the "United States HMS Fishery."

The vessel owner purchasing the system will need to complete an ArgoNet contract with NACLS and establish credit with ArgoNet. The MAR GE transceiver the vessel owner purchases will be pre-configured to meet the HMS Fisheries' VMS requirement. The NACLS will notify the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement that the vessel is VMS registered.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 635.69(d), the Agency will provide an installation and

activation checklist, which the vessel owner must follow and then return to NMFS having signed a statement certifying compliance with the installation procedures on the checklist. Installation may be performed by experienced crew or by an electronics specialist. The owner pays installation costs.

The owner may confirm that position reports are being received by calling the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL, at 727-570-5344, approximately 8 hours after installation.

B. INMARSAT-C Transceivers

While Argos has been type-approved based on its cost effectiveness and its ability to meet other specified VMS elements, there are other VMS mobile transceiver units and communications service providers that NMFS has determined meet the minimum technical requirements necessary pursuant to regulations implementing the fishery management plan, but which do not meet the user's (i.e., NMFS) cost-effectiveness requirements. These VMSs may be used at the discretion of the vessel owners.

The Inmarsat-C satellite communications VMS transmitting units that meet the minimum technical requirements for the HMS Fisheries are as follows: Thrane & Thrane Fishery "Capsat" (part number TT-3022D-NMFS); Trimble Galaxy TNL7005 (part number 17760-45) with software v5.1; and Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 (part number 30090-45) with software v5.1. Both Trimble units use antenna part number 25132-01 and must run software version 5.1, or later. Those vessels using earlier versions of Trimble software (5.0, and earlier) must contact their Trimble-Authorized Support Dealer to perform an upgrade to firmware version 5.10 or 5.10a, and set the parameters equivalent to software version 5.1, or later. The addresses for the Thrane & Thrane distributor (LandSea Systems) and the Trimble dealer contact are provided under the heading VMS Provider Addresses.

Thrane & Thrane TT-3022D-NMFS Features: The transceiver consists of an integrated GPS/Inmarsat-C unit in the wheelhouse and an antenna mounted atop the vessel. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations (non-Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (non-GMDSS)). Satellite commissioning services are provided by LandSea Systems personnel.

Automatic GPS position reporting starts after transceiver installation and power activation onboard the vessel. The unit is a car-radio-sized transceiver using a floating 10 to 32 VDC power

supply. The unit is configured for automatic reduced position transmissions when the vessel is stationary (i.e., in port). It allows for port stays without power drain or power shut down. The unit restarts normal position transmission automatically when the vessel goes to sea.

The outside antenna, model TT-3005M, is a compact omni-directional Inmarsat-C/GPS antenna, providing operation down to $\pm 15^\circ$ angles. Although the unit contains push buttons to request emergency assistance from United States search and rescue authorities, search and rescue authorities can use the transceiver to communicate with the vessel only when additional equipment not required by NMFS is purchased (i.e., a message terminal display).

A configuration option is available to automatically send position reports to a private address, such as a fleet management company. Another available option is the ability to send and receive private e-mail and other messages with the purchase and installation of an input device such as a laptop or personal computer.

A vessel owner wishing to purchase this system may contact the entity identified under the heading VMS Provider Addresses for Thrane & Thrane TT-3022D-NMFS. The owner should identify himself or herself as a vessel owner in the "United States HMS Fishery." The Thrane & Thrane transceiver and antenna the vessel owner purchases will be configured for the HMS Fisheries.

To use this transceiver, the vessel owner will need to establish an Inmarsat-C system use contract with an approved Inmarsat-C communications service provider. The owner will be required to complete the Inmarsat-C "Registration for Service Activation for Maritime Mobile Earth Station." The owner should consult with LandSea when completing this form.

LandSea Systems personnel will perform the following before shipment: (a) Configure the TT-3022D-NMFS according to NOAA OLE specifications for the HMS Fisheries; (b) download the predetermined NMFS position reporting and broadcast command identification numbers into the transceiver; (c) test the transceiver to ensure operation when installation has been completed on the vessel; and (d) forward the Inmarsat service provider and transceiver identifying information to the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 635.69(d), the Agency will provide an installation and activation checklist which the vessel owner must follow. The vessel owner

must sign a statement on the checklist certifying compliance with the installation procedures and return the checklist to NMFS. Installation can be performed by experienced crew or by an electronics specialist, and the installation cost is paid by the owner.

The owner may confirm that automated position reports are being received by calling the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL, at 727-570-5344.

Trimble Galaxy TNL7005 part number 17760-45, Software v5.1, Features: The transceiver consists of an integrated GPS/Inmarsat-C unit in the wheelhouse and an antenna mounted atop the vessel. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations (non-GMDSS). The installation will be performed by Trimble-authorized support dealers and must be paid for by the owner.

Automatic GPS position reporting starts after coordination with the communications service provider. Although the unit contains push buttons to request emergency assistance from United States search and rescue authorities, search and rescue authorities can use the transceiver to communicate with the vessel only when additional equipment not required by NMFS is purchased (i.e., a message terminal display).

A configuration option is available to automatically send position reports to a private address, such as a fleet management company. Another available option is the ability to send/receive private e-mail and other messages with the purchase and installation of an input device, such as a laptop or personal computer.

Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 part number 30090-45, Software v5.1 Features: The Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 transceiver has the same features as the Trimble Galaxy TNL7005, except that it also includes an integrated computer for messaging, including Internet e-mail. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations, and it is GMDSS.

Trimble Galaxy—General Features: A vessel owner wishing to purchase this system should contact the entity identified under VMS Provider Addresses for Trimble Galaxy Information. The owner should identify himself or herself as a vessel owner in the "United States HMS Fishery."

In addition to purchasing an approved Trimble transceiver (TNL7005 or TNL8005) and an antenna for the HMS fishery, the vessel owner will need to establish an Inmarsat-C system use contract with an approved Inmarsat-C communications service provider. The

transceiver will need to be commissioned with the service provider.

The installation of the transceiver and antenna must be performed by Trimble-trained and Trimble-authorized support dealers and must be paid for by the owner. To set up the transceiver for NMFS VMS operations, the owner will (a) turn on the power of the vessel transceiver; (b) contact the Inmarsat-C system communications service provider; (c) have the service provider's Customer Service download the pre-determined NMFS position reporting and broadcast commands from the provider's control center to the vessel transceiver via satellite; and (d) confirm with Customer Service that periodic position reports are now automatically being sent to NOAA. Customer Service will confirm service activation by forwarding to the Office for Law Enforcement the following identifying information: (a) Trimble transceiver serial number; (b) Inmarsat Identification number; (c) Data Network Identification (DNID) and member numbers; (d) Enhanced Network Identification (ENID) numbers; (e) owner name; (f) vessel name; and (g) Vessel documentation or registration number.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 635.69(d), the Agency will provide an installation and activation checklist which the vessel owner must follow. The vessel owner must sign a statement on the checklist certifying compliance with the installation procedures and return the checklist to NMFS. The installation cost is paid by the owner.

The owner may confirm that automated position reports are being received by calling the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL, at 727-570-5344.

III. Communications Service Providers

A. NACLS

NACLS is the sole provider of Argos satellite services. Selecting to use the approved Argonet MAR GE transceiver unit also requires using NACLS as the service provider. For more information, refer to Section II.A Argonet MAR GE Approval.

B. COMSAT-C

COMSAT-C is a store-and-forward data messaging service. COMSAT C allows users to send and receive information virtually anywhere in the world - on land, at sea, and in the air. COMSAT-C supports a wide variety of applications including Internet e-mail, position and weather reporting, a free daily news service, and remote

equipment monitoring and control. Mariners can use COMSAT-C free of charge to send critical safety at sea messages as part of the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system and of the NOAA Shipboard Environmental Acquisition System programs. For the COMSAT address, look under the heading VMS Provider Addresses.

COMSAT-C Features: Vessel owners wishing to use COMSAT-C will need to purchase an Inmarsat-C transceiver and antenna approved for the fishery. The owner will need to complete an Inmarsat-C system use contract with COMSAT, including a provision for a mobile earth station license (FCC requirement). The transceiver will need to be commissioned with Inmarsat according to COMSAT instructions. The owner should refer to and follow the configuration, installation, and service activation procedures for the specific transceiver purchased.

It is recommended that the vessel owner keep for his or her records and that COMSAT have on record the following identifying information: (a) Signed and dated receipts and contracts; (b) transceiver serial number; (c) COMSAT customer number, user name and password; (d) E-mail address of transceiver; (e) Inmarsat identification number; (f) Data Network Identification numbers (DNID and ENID), including the member number; (g) owner name; (h) vessel name; (i) vessel documentation or registration number; and (j) mobile earth station license (FCC license).

The owner may confirm transceiver operation and communications service to ensure that position reports are automatically sent to and received by the Office for Law Enforcement before leaving on a fishing trip under VMS. The NOAA Office for Law Enforcement does not regard the fishing vessel as participating in VMS until position reports are automatically received. For confirmation purposes, contact the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL, at 727-570-5344.

C. Station 12

Station 12 is a provider of Inmarsat satellite communications services. Station 12 offers seamless, global Inmarsat-C coverage. Station 12 is approved for VMS use with Inmarsat-C services. For the Station 12 address, look under the heading VMS Provider Addresses.

Station 12 Features: Customer Service supports the security and privacy of vessel accounts and messages with the following: (a) Password authentication for vessel owners or agents and for the

NOAA Office for Law Enforcement to prevent unauthorized changes or inquiries; and (b) separation of private messages from Office for Law Enforcement messages. (The Office for Law Enforcement receives VMS-related position reports, only.)

Billing is separated between accounts for the vessel owner and the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement. VMS position reports and vessel-initiated messaging are paid for by the vessel owner. Messaging initiated from the Office for Law Enforcement operations center is paid for by NOAA.

Customer Service supports and establishes a two-way transmission of transceiver unit configuration commands between the transceiver and land-based control centers. This supports the Office for Law Enforcement's message needs and, optionally, fishermen's private message needs.

When the transceiver transmits a message requesting emergency assistance (GMDSS alert), Station 12 (through Inmarsat) forwards the information to the United States Coast Guard. However, unless non-NMFS required equipment is purchased (i.e., an addition of a message terminal display), the United States Coast Guard can not use the transceiver to communicate with the vessel.

The vessel owner can configure automatic position reports to be sent to a private address, such as to a fleet management company. The vessel can send and receive private e-mail and other messages when the transceiver has such an input device as a laptop or personal computer attached.

Vessel owners wishing to use Station 12 will need to purchase an Inmarsat-C transceiver and antenna approved for the fishery. The owner will need to complete an Inmarsat-C system use contract with Station 12, including a mobile earth station license (FCC requirement). The transceiver will need to be commissioned with Inmarsat according to Station 12's instructions. The owner should refer to and follow the configuration, installation, and service activation procedures for the specific transceiver purchased.

It is recommended that the vessel owner keep for his or her records and that Station 12 have on record the following identifying information: (a) Signed and dated receipts and contracts; (b) transceiver serial number; (c) Station 12 customer number, user name, and password; (d) E-mail address of transceiver; (e) Inmarsat identification number; (f) Data Network Identification numbers (DNID and ENID), including the member number; (g) owner name;

(h) vessel name; (i) vessel documentation or registration number; and (j) mobile earth station license (FCC license).

The owner may confirm transceiver operation and communications service to ensure that position reports are automatically sent to and received by the Office for Law Enforcement before leaving on a fishing trip under VMS. The NOAA Office for Law Enforcement does not regard the fishing vessel as participating in VMS until position reports are automatically received. For confirmation purposes contact the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL, at 727-570-5344.

VMS Provider Addresses

For ArgoNet Mar GE information, contact North American CLS, Inc., 9200 Basil Court, Suite 306, Largo, MD 20774; voice: 301-341-1814; fax: 301-341-2130; e-mail: info@nacls.com.; website: <http://www.nacls.com>.

For Thrane & Thrane TT-3022D-NMFS information, contact Doug Price, Marine Products, LandSea Systems, Inc., 849 Seahawk Circle, Suite 103, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-7809; voice: 757-468-0448; fax: 757-468-0625, e-mail: DSP@LandSeaSystems.com.; website: <http://www.landseasystems.com>.

For regional dealer information about the Trimble Galaxy transceiver units, contact Dayna Woodward at 1-800-477-1207, or a Trimble-Authorized Support Dealer, based at local marine electronics outlets.

For COMSAT information, contact COMSAT Mobile Communications, 6560 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817; COMSAT Customer Care, phone: 301-214-3100; fax: 301-214-7284; e-mail: cmc.customercare@comsat.com.; website: www.comsat.com. Alternate Contact: Al Labbe, Manager Business Development, COMSAT-C, 6560 Rock Spring Drive, Room 4502, Bethesda, MD 20817; phone: 301-214-3214; fax: 301-214-7113; pager: 800-5COMSAT (800-526-6728); e-mail: al.labbe@comsat.com.

For Station 12 information, contact Station 12, KPN-Netherlands, Andre Cortese, 2000 L Street, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036; U.S. telephone number: 202-416-1828; e-mail: Acortese@kpnus.com; Customer Service, Netherlands, toll free: 1-888-440-8988; e-mail: station12@wxs.nl; website: www.station12.com.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*

Dated: September 2, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-23353 Filed 9-2-99; 5:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Notice of Meeting, Spectrum Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix, notice is hereby given that the Spectrum Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) will meet on September 17, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 1605 at the United States Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

The Committee was established on July 19, 1965 as the Frequency Management Advisory Council (FMAC). The name was changed in April, 1991, and in July, 1993, to reflect the increased scope of its mission. The objective of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Commerce on radio frequency spectrum planning matters and means by which the effectiveness of Federal Government frequency management may be enhanced. The Committee consists of nineteen members, fifteen from the private sector, and four from the Federal Government, whose knowledge of telecommunications is balanced in the functional areas of manufacturing, analysis and planning, operations, research, academia and international negotiations.

The principal agenda items for the meeting will be:

- (1) Ultra-Wideband (UWB) Systems;
- (2) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Private Sector Participation;
- (3) Recent Spectrum Legislation; and
- (4) Public Safety Program update.

The meeting will be open to public observations. Public entrance to the building through the main entrance is on 14th Street midway between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue. A period will be set aside for oral comments or questions by the public which do not exceed 10 minutes each per member of the public. More extensive questions or comments should be submitted in writing before 10 September, 1999. Other public statements regarding Committee affairs

may be submitted at any time before or after the meeting. Approximately 20 seats will be available for the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Federal Information Relay Service (FIPS) on 1-800-877-8339.

Copies of the minutes will be available upon request 30 days after the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Inquiries may be addressed to the Executive Secretary, SPAC, Mr. Richard A. Lancaster, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Room 4082, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone 202-482-4487.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

Richard A. Lancaster,

Executive Secretary, Spectrum Planning and Policy Advisory Committee, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-23360 Filed 9-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration Performance Review Board Membership

September 1999.

The Technology Administration Performance Review Board reviews performance appraisals, agreements, and recommended actions pertaining to employees in the Senior Executive Service and reviews performance-related pay increases for ST-3104 employees. The Board makes recommendations to the appropriate appointing authority concerning such matters so as to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of these individuals.

The following is the full membership of the Board:

- Kelly H. Carnes (NC), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Washington, DC 20230, Appointment Expires: 12/31/01
- B. Stephen Carpenter (C), Director, Office of International & Academic Affairs, Office of International and Academic Affairs, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Appointment Expires: 12/31/00
- Gordon W. Day (C), Chief, Optoelectronics Division, Optoelectronics Division (815), National Institute of Standards &