

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Secretarial Business Development Mission to Mexico, June 17–20, 2002**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice to announce secretary Evans' business development mission to Mexico during June 17–20, 2002.

SUMMARY: Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans will lead a senior-level business development mission to Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico, on June 17–20, 2002. The focus of the mission will be to help U.S. companies explore business opportunities in Mexico. The delegation will include approximately 15 U.S.-based senior executives of small, medium and large U.S. firms representing, but not limited to, technology, equipment, and services in the following key growth sectors: energy and energy efficiency, environmental and water resources, information technology, telecommunications, transportation, medical and manufacturing. These key sectors reflect Mexico's infrastructure needs, the growth of a consumer society, and the boom in manufacturing created by NAFTA and proximity to the U.S.

DATES: Applications should be submitted to the Office of Business Liaison by May 1, 2002. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Business Liaison; Room 5062; Department of Commerce; Washington, DC 20230; Tel: (202) 482–1360; Fax: (202) 482–4054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Secretarial Business Development Mission to Mexico**

June 17–20, 2002.

Mission Statement*I. Description of the Mission*

Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans will lead a senior-level business development mission to Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico.

The focus of the mission will be to help U.S. companies explore business opportunities in Mexico. The delegation will include approximately 15 U.S.-based senior executives of small, medium and large U.S. firms representing, but not limited to, technology, equipment, and services in the following key growth sectors: energy and energy efficiency, environmental

and water resources, information technology, telecommunications, transportation, medical, and manufacturing. These key sectors reflect Mexico's infrastructure needs, the growth of a consumer society, and the boom in manufacturing created by NAFTA and proximity to the U.S. market.

II. Commercial Setting for the Mission

Mexico is the second largest export market for the United States after Canada. U.S. exports to Mexico totaled \$102 billion in 2001, with substantial sales in virtually every product sector in which the United States is globally competitive. U.S. exports to Mexico have registered annual growth of more than ten percent in five of the last six years, peaking in 2000 with a 28 percent increase. Although the Mexican economy cooled in tandem with the United States economy during 2001, prospects are favorable for a renewal in growth in the latter half of 2002.

Mexico recently obtained "investment grade" status for its public debt from both Moody's and Standard and Poor's, a reflection of the country's sound economic fundamentals and stable macroeconomic policy.

III. Goals for the Mission

The mission aims to further both U.S. commercial policy objectives and advance specific business interests. It is intended to:

- Assist individual U.S. companies to pursue export and other new business opportunities in Mexico, by introducing them to key host government decision-making officials and to potential business partners;
 - Assist new-to-market firms to evaluate the market potential for their products and gain an understanding of how to operate successfully in Mexico's commercial environment; and
 - Enhance the dialogue between government and industry on issues affecting the development of U.S.-Mexican commercial relations.
- Emphasize the benefits of international trade for improving the standard of living and quality of life for all mankind.
- Highlight examples of the corporate citizenship and active involvement by U.S. businesses in the communities where they operate in the United States and abroad.

IV. Scenario for the Mission

The Business Development Mission will provide participants with exposure to high-level business and government contacts, and an understanding of market trends and the commercial

environment. American Embassy officials will provide a detailed briefing on the economic, commercial, and political climate, and participants will receive individual counseling on their specific interests from U.S. Commercial Service industry specialists. Meetings will be arranged as appropriate with senior government officials and potential business partners. Representational events will also be organized to provide mission participants with opportunities to meet Mexico's business and government representatives, as well as U.S. business people living and working in Mexico.

The tentative trip itinerary will be as follows:

June 17th—Arrive Mexico City

June 18th—One-on-One Business

Meetings in Mexico City

June 19th—Travel to Monterrey, One-on-One Business Meetings in Monterrey

June 20th—One-on-One Business

Meetings in Monterrey

June 21st—Optional spin-off trips to

Guadalajara or Tijuana for further

business meetings, at additional expense.

V. Criteria for Participant Selection

The recruitment and selection of private sector participants for this mission will be conducted according to the "Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce-Overseas Trade Missions" established in March 1997. Promotion and recruitment will include, but not be limited to, posting on appropriate Department of Commerce web pages, notification in the **Federal Register**, and through distribution of the trade mission statement and further information to national and other trade associations and trade publications. Approximately 15 companies will be selected for the mission. Companies will be selected according to the criteria set out below.

Eligibility

Participating companies must be incorporated in the United States. A company is eligible to participate only if the products and/or services that it will promote (a) are manufactured or produced in the United States; or (b) if manufactured or produced outside the United States, are marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have U.S. content representing at least 51 percent of the value of the finished good or service.

Selection Criteria

Companies will be selected for participation in the mission on the basis of:

- Consistency of the company's goals with the scope and desired outcome of the mission as described herein;

- Relevance of a company's business and product line to market opportunities in Mexico;

- Seniority of the representative of the designated company;

- Past, present, or prospective international business activity;

- Diversity of company size, type, location, demographics, and traditional under-representation in business;

- Degree of company's commitment to corporate citizenship.

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process.

VI. Time Frame for Applications

Applications for the trade mission to Mexico were made available on March 22, 2002. The fee to participate in the mission will be between \$4,000–\$6,000. Expenses for travel, lodging, and some meals will be the responsibility of each participant. For additional information on the trade mission or to obtain an application, contact the Department of Commerce Office of Business Liaison at 202–482–1360. Applications should be submitted to the Office of Business Liaison by May 1, 2002, in order to ensure sufficient time to obtain in-country appointments for applicants selected to participate in the mission. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contact: Office of Business Liaison, Room 5062, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, Tel: (202) 482–1360, Fax: (202) 482–4054.

Mission Web Site: <http://www.doc.gov/mexicotrademission>.

Dated: April 8, 2002.

Laron Jensen,

Acting Deputy Director General.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040502A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for scientific research permits (1362, 1363,

1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1376) and receipt of applications to modify research permits (1135, 1141, 1177, 1315, 1317, 1322).

SUMMARY: NMFS has received 11 new scientific research permit applications and six applications to modify existing scientific research permits related to Pacific salmon and steelhead. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of the listed species and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight savings time on May 13, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232–2737 (503–230–5400). Comments may also be sent via fax to 503–230–5435. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Stone, Portland, OR (ph: 503–231–2317, Fax: 503–230–5435, e-mail: steve.stone@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, Puget Sound (PS); threatened Lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened Snake River (SnR) spring/summer and fall; endangered Upper Columbia River (UCR); threatened Upper Willamette River (UWR).

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*): threatened Southern OR/Northern CA Coasts (SONCC).

Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*): endangered Snake River (SnR)

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): endangered UCR, threatened LCR, threatened Middle Columbia River (MCR), and threatened SnR.

Authority

Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the ESA, is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species

that are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR Parts 222–226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearings is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

New Applications Received

Permit 1362

The Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (ICFWRU) requests a 3–year permit (1362) for take of adult, threatened, artificially propagated, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a scientific research project proposed to occur at Bonneville Dam on the lower Columbia River, Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River, and in the tributaries of the upper Salmon River in Idaho. The objective of the research is to evaluate the energy costs, survival, and reproductive success of adult salmon associated with their passage around the hydropower dams on the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers. Information collected from the research will be used directly by managers to operate fishways and manage spill and flow regimes to maximize passage and survival of adult salmonids at the dams. As many as 200 adult, threatened, artificially propagated, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon that originated from the upper Salmon River region are proposed to be lethally taken in 2002 to obtain energy use data. In addition, ICFWRU requests take to collect tissues from ESA-listed adult salmon carcasses in the upper Salmon River region.

Permit 1363

The Fish Passage Center (FPC) requests a 5–year permit (1363) for annual takes of juvenile, threatened, naturally produced, SnR spring/summer chinook salmon and juvenile, threatened, SnR steelhead associated with a project designed to measure the smolt-to-adult survival rates of hatchery and wild spring/summer chinook