

SUMMARY: The President's Export Council (PEC) will hold a full Council meeting to discuss topics related to export expansion. The meeting will include briefings on trade priorities and issues, Information Technology Agreement, economic sanctions, and Virtual Trade Mission activities. The PEC was established on December 20, 1973, and reconstituted May 4, 1979, to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. trade. It was most recently renewed by Executive Order 12991.

DATES: April 24, 1997.

TIME: 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

ADDRESS: The Washington Court Hotel, Atrium Ballroom, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC., 20001-1527. This program is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be submitted by April 16, 1997, to Lori Way, President's Export Council, Room 2015B, Washington, DC, 20230. (Phone: 202-482-1124) Seating is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sylvia Lino Prosak or Lori Way, President's Export Council, Room 2015B, Washington, DC, 20230 (Phone: 202-482-1124).

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Sylvia Lino Prosak,

*Staff Director and Executive Secretary,
President's Export Council.*

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022497A]

Fisheries Bycatch Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft NMFS bycatch plan, *Managing the Nation's Bycatch: Priorities, Programs and Actions for the National Marine Fisheries Service*. The NMFS bycatch plan will guide the agency's bycatch-related research and management for the next decade. Any written comments received will be considered by NMFS in the adoption and implementation of the final bycatch plan.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before May 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the NMFS bycatch plan should be directed to the NMFS Office of Science and Technology, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD. 20910. PHONE:(301)713-2363. FAX: (301)713-1875. The NMFS bycatch plan is also available in its entirety on the Internet at <http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Witzig, 508-495-2305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Interest in bycatch in the Nation's fisheries has received increased attention in the last decade. During this time, NMFS and its constituents have come to agree that fisheries bycatch is an issue of great concern to those interested in sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems. Congress has emphasized NMFS' responsibility to address bycatch in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Following a series of public symposia and workshops with industry, the conservation community, scientists, Native Alaskan groups, and others, NMFS undertook development of a national bycatch plan. The NMFS bycatch plan will be used as a blueprint for the agency's bycatch-related research and management for the next decade.

In the development of the plan, NMFS conducted a survey of available information on bycatch in the Nation's fisheries and efforts to understand and manage the issue. The survey, which is included in the bycatch plan, is intended to update information previously compiled elsewhere, and to serve as a benchmark from which to judge future efforts in data collection and management efforts to mitigate negative effects of bycatches.

Issues in each of NMFS' administrative regions and on the national level are addressed in detail in the NMFS bycatch plan. This discussion forms the basis for a set of research and management recommendations that will help guide the agency's bycatch-related activities. Broadly, recommendations in the plan address the acquisition of bycatch data, gear technology and selectivity research, the effects of bycatch, research on individual incentive programs to manage bycatch, development and implementation of conservation and management measures to address bycatch, and information exchange and cooperative management.

Request for Comments

NMFS intends that the final version of the bycatch plan will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person concerned with this draft NMFS Bycatch Plan.

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Rolland A. Schmitten,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-8364 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Petition of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. for Exemptive Relief To Permit United States Customers To Establish or Offset Positions in Certain Foreign Currency Options on the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd. Through Registered Broker-Dealers

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final order.

SUMMARY: In response to a petition by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX"), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission" or "CFTC") has issued an Order (the "Order") exempting from regulation under the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act" or "CEA")¹ transactions in which United States ("U.S.") customers establish or offset positions in Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX") foreign currency options on the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd. ("HKFE") through registered broker-dealers pursuant to regulation by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under the federal securities laws and subject to specified conditions as set forth herein. The Order grants the requested relief pursuant to section 4c(b) of the Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan C. Ervin, Deputy Director/Chief Counsel or Christopher W. Cummings, Attorney/Advisor, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20581. Telephone number: (202) 418-5450. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5536. Electronic mail: tm@cftc.gov.

¹ 7 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*