May 28, 1996), NMFS released an EA that addressed the impacts on the human environment from issuance of the authorization and the alternatives to the proposed action. No comments were received on that document and, on July 18, 1996, NMFS concluded that neither implementation of the proposed authorization to BPXA for the harassment of small numbers of several species of marine mammals incidental to conducting seismic surveys during the open water season in the U.S. Beaufort Sea nor the alternatives to that action would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. As a result, the preparation of an environmental impact statement on this action is not required by section 102(2) of NEPA or its implementing regulations. A copy of the EA is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

This year's activity is a continuation of the seismic work conducted in 1996 and 1997. For BPXA's 1998 application, NMFS has conducted a review of the impacts expected from the issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization in comparison to those impacts evaluated in 1996. As assessed in detail in this document, NMFS has preliminarily determined that there will be no more than a negligible impact on marine mammals from the issuance of the harassment authorization and that there will not be any unmitigable impacts to subsistence communities, provided the mitigation measures required under the authorization are implemented. Because the activity is substantially the same as the one conducted in 1996 and no new impacts on the environment have been identified, a new EA is not warranted.

Conclusions

NMFS has preliminarily determined that the short-term impact of conducting seismic surveys in the U.S. Beaufort Sea will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of cetaceans and possibly pinnipeds. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species to avoid the resultant noise, this behavioral change is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals.

As the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals (which vary annually due to variable ice conditions and other factors) in the area of seismic operations, due to the distribution and abundance of marine mammals during the projected period of activity and the location of the proposed seismic activity in waters generally too shallow and distant from the edge of the pack ice for most marine mammals of concern, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment will be avoided through the incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned in this document. No rookeries, mating grounds, areas of concentrated feeding, or other areas of special significance for marine mammals occur within or near the planned area of operations during the season of operations.

Because bowhead whales are east of the seismic area in the Canadian Beaufort Sea until late August/early September, seismic activities are not expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. After August 31, 1998, BPXA will initiate aerial survey flights for bowhead whale assessments. Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs will be the subject of consultation between BPXA and subsistence users.

Also, while open-water seismic exploration in the U.S. Beaufort Sea has some potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut, because (1) the peak sealing season is during the winter months, (2) the main summer sealing is off the Colville Delta), and (3) the zone of influence by seismic sources on belukha and seals is fairly small, NMFS believes that BPXA's seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for the 1998 Beaufort Sea open water season for a seismic survey provided the above mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed seismic activity would result in the harassment of only small numbers of bowhead whales, gray whales, and possibly belukha whales, bearded seals, and largha seals; would have a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, and information, concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: May 1, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98–12001 Filed 5–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 1998.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Enforcement Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202–418–5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–12118 Filed 5–4–98; 10:46 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB review; comment request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Title and OMB Number: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Appendix I, Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program; OMB Number 0704–0332.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 124.

Responses Per Respondent: 2.

Annual Responses: 248.

Average Burden Per Response: 1 hour response; 2 recordkeeping hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 496 (Includes 248 recordkeeping hours.)

Needs and Uses: In order to evaluate whether the purposes of the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program (established under Section 831 of Public Law 101–510, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, as amended) have been attained, Appendix I of the DFARS requires that companies participating in

the Program as mentors, keep records and report on progress in achieving the developmental assistance objectives under each mentor-protégé agreement. Participation in the program is voluntary and is open to companies with at least one active subcontracting plan negotiated with DoD or another Federal agency. The report is used by the Government to assess whether the purposes of the Program have been attained. It requires mentor firms to report semiannually by attaching to their SF 295, Summary Subcontract Report,: (1) A statement that includes the number of active mentor-protégé agreements in effect and the progress in achieving development assistance objectives under each agreement; and (2) a copy of the SF 294, Subcontracting Report for Individual Contracts, for each contract where developmental assistance was credited, with a statement identifying the amount of dollars credited to the small disadvantaged business subcontract goal as a result of developmental assistance; an explanation as to the relationship between the developmental assistance provided the protégé firm(s) under the Program and the activities under the contract covered by the SF 294(s); and the number and dollar value of subcontractors awarded to the protégé firm(s).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: Semiannually.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Peter N. Weiss.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Weiss at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written request for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202–4302.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–11985 Filed 5–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Acquisition Reform (Phase IV), R&D Subpanel

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Acquisition Reform (Phase IV), R&D Subpanel will meet in closed session on May 14–15, June 10–11, July 15–16, September 2–3, and October 20, at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia; and on August 10–11, 1998 at the Beckman Center, Irvin, California. The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings the Task Force will review the current status of reform implementation and appropriate set of metrics, and recommend further actions for the Department to accelerate progress. A particular focus of this effort should be the development and implementation of metrics that could be used by the DoD to periodically measure success in the effectiveness of the overall acquisition reform efforts.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II, (1994)), it has been determined that these DSB Task Force meetings, concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) (1994), and that accordingly these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: May 1, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–12049 Filed 5–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Acquisition Reform (Phase IV)

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Acquisition Reform (Phase IV) will meet in closed session on May 13, June 12, July 17, September 4, October 19, December 14, 1998, and January 22, 1999 at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings the Task Force will review the current status of reform implementation and appropriate set of metrics, and recommend further actions for the Department to accelerate progress. A particular focus of this effort should be the development and implementation of metrics that could be used by the DoD to periodically measure success in the effectiveness of the overall acquisition reform efforts.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II, (1994)), it has been determined that these DSB Task Force meetings, concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) (1994), and that accordingly these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: May 1, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–12050 Filed 5–5–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708–8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information