

d. Agree on quantities of fresh apples to be sold provided that each member shall be required to dedicate only that quantity or quantities as each member shall independently determine.

e. Allocate geographic areas or countries in the export markets and/or customers in export markets among members.

f. Refuse to quote prices for fresh apples, or to market or sell fresh apples, to or for any customers in the export markets, or any countries or geographic areas in the export markets.

g. Enter into exclusive and nonexclusive agreements appointing one or more export intermediaries for the sales of fresh apples with price, quantity, territorial and/or customer restrictions as provided above.

2. GLFEA and its members may exchange and discuss the following information:

a. Information about sale and marketing efforts for the export markets, activities and opportunities for sales of fresh apples in the export markets, selling strategies for the export markets, sales for the export markets, contract and spot pricing in the export markets, projected demands in the export markets for fresh apples, customary terms of sale in the export markets, prices and availability of fresh apples from competitors for sale in the export markets, and specifications for fresh apples by customers in the export markets;

b. Information about the price, quality, quantity, source, and delivery dates of fresh apples available from the members to export;

c. Information about terms and conditions of contracts for sale in the export markets to be considered and/or bid on by GLFEA and its members;

d. Information about joint bidding or selling arrangements for the export markets and allocations of sales resulting from such arrangements among the members;

e. Information about expenses specific to exporting to and within the export markets, including without limitation, transportation, trans- or intermodel shipments, insurance, inland freights to port, port storage, commissions, export sales, documentation, financing, customs, duties, and taxes;

f. Information about U.S. and foreign legislation and regulations, including Federal marketing order programs, affecting sales for the export markets;

g. Information about GLFEA or its members' export operations, including without limitation, sales and distribution networks established by GLFEA or its members in the export markets, and prior export sales by

members (including export price information); and

h. Information about export customer credit terms and credit history.

3. GLFEA and its members may meet to engage in the activities described in items 1 and 2 above.

Members (Within the Meaning of Section 325.2(l) of the Regulations)

Greg Orchards and Produce, Inc., Benton Harbor, Michigan; Riveridge Produce Marketing, Inc., Sparta, Michigan; North Bay Produce, Inc., Traverse City, Michigan; Applewood Orchards, Inc., Deerfield, Michigan; Heeren Brothers Inc., d/b/a Heeren Brothers Produce, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Greenridge Fruit, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan; Jack Brown Produce, Inc., Sparta, Michigan; BelleHarvest Sales, Inc., Belding, Michigan; A.J.'s Produce Inc., Casnovia, Michigan; and Appletree Marketing LLC, Ada, Michigan. Review continue to comply with the standards of section 303(a) of the Act.

#### Protection Provided by Certificate

This Certificate protects GLFEA and its directors, officers, and employees acting on its behalf, as well as its members, and their directors, officers, and employees acting on their behalf, from private treble damage actions and governmental criminal and civil suits under U.S. Federal and State antitrust laws for the export conduct specified in the Certificate and carried out during its effective period in compliance with its terms and conditions.

#### Definitions

1. "Supplier" means a person who produces, provides, or sells a product and/or service.

Dated: February 17, 2004.

**Jeffrey C. Anspacher,**

*Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 04-3871 Filed 2-23-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology; Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of partially closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app.

2, notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, March 16, 2004, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST; who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include updates on NIST and Management Priorities, facilities, NIST Administrative Efficiency and Effectiveness, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, as well as tours of the Advanced Measurement Laboratory. Discussions scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m. and to end at 9:25 a.m. and to begin at 2:45 p.m. to end at 5 p.m. on March 16, on the NIST budget, planning information and feedback sessions will be closed. Agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Thursday, March 11, 2004, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Mrs. Peter's e-mail address is [carolyn.peters@nist.gov](mailto:carolyn.peters@nist.gov) and her phone number is (301) 975-5607.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene March 16 at 8:15 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Employees Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Please note admittance instructions under **SUMMARY** paragraph.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carolyn J. Peters, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1004, telephone number (301) 975-5607.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 24, 2004, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which deal with

discussion of sensitive budget and planning information that would cause harm to third parties if publicly shared be closed in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2.

Dated: February 19, 2004.

**Arden L. Bement, Jr.,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-4001 Filed 2-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021804B]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Steller Sea Lion Protection Pilot Economic Survey

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before April 26, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Dr. Dan Lew, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115; telephone: (206) 526-4252; fax: (206) 526-6723; e-mail: [dan.lew@noaa.gov](mailto:dan.lew@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plans to conduct a pilot survey with the objective of testing a survey instrument that will be used to collect data for measuring the preferences that U.S. residents have toward protecting the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), which is a listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 35). NMFS is charged with

protecting this species and has identified numerous potential protection options, and begun implementing selected options, to this end (68 FR 204). Since different management options are available to protect Steller sea lions, it is important to understand the public's attitudes toward the variety of potential impacts on Steller sea lions, Alaskan fisheries and fishing communities, and the nation. This information is currently not available, yet is crucial to ensure the efficient management of Alaskan fisheries and protection of Steller sea lions.

The pilot survey instrument will present the latest information on Steller sea lions, current population trends, alternative management options, and likely impacts of management options. The survey is expected to ask respondents for information regarding their knowledge and opinions of Steller sea lions, other endangered species, Alaska fisheries and communities, and potential goals and impacts of management options available to protect the endangered population of Steller sea lions, in addition to standard socio-demographic information needed to classify respondents. The pilot pre-test will gather a sufficient number of responses to evaluate the information presentation, reliability, internal consistency, response variability, and other properties of a newly developed survey. Results from these activities will be used to make improvements to the survey instrument.

##### II. Method of Collection

Since the data collected in the pilot pre-test is not intended to be used to generate national estimates, non-probability sampling methods will be employed to select a sample that is sufficiently diverse for the purposes of providing a range of feedback on the survey instrument. It is anticipated that the pilot survey will be given to approximately 130 voluntary respondents recruited by telephone in 3-4 areas of the continental U.S. and Alaska. Telephone recruitment calls are expected to be brief, lasting up to about 3 minutes each. Individuals who agree to participate in the pilot pre-test will be asked to meet with survey administrators at a nearby central survey administration location where they will self-administer the survey and participate in a one-on-one follow-up debriefing. This debriefing involves a survey administrator asking a set of questions about the survey to elicit feedback about key design and conceptual components of the survey instrument. Respondents will be given

an honorarium for participating in the pilot pre-test activities.

Up to 1,300 recruitment phone calls are anticipated to be made to recruit the 130 participants. At 3 minutes apiece, this amounts to 65 hours. The survey is expected to take approximately 25 minutes to complete, while the debriefing will be about 15 additional minutes, for a total of about 40 minutes or 0.67 hours for the entire process. Thus, we estimate the total respondent time burden to be 151.67 hours (rounded to 152) (130 participants multiplied by 0.67 hours plus the time for recruitment calls).

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,300 in recruitment; 130 in pilot pre-test activities.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 3 minutes per recruitment; 40 minutes for pilot pre-test activities.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 152.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

##### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 18, 2004.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-4022 Filed 2-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S