DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020100C]

Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Spring Species Working Group Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT announces its spring meeting with its Species Working Groups on March 6 and 7, 2000.

DATES: The open sessions of the Committee meeting will be held on March 6, 2000, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and on March 7, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed sessions will be held on March 6, 2000, from 2:30 p.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m., and on March 7, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Silver Spring, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Blankenbeker at (301) 713–2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in open session to receive and to discuss information on (1) 1999 ICCAT meeting results and U.S. implementation of ICCAT decisions, (2) NMFS and ICCAT research and monitoring activities, (3) the Food and Agriculture Organization's work related to illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, (4) the second meeting of ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria, (5) Advisory Committee operational issues, (6) consultation regarding the identification of countries that are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT, (7) the results of the meetings of the Committee's Species Working Groups, and (8) other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species. The public will have access to the open sessions of the meeting, but there will be no opportunity for public comment.

Sessions of the Advisory Committee's Species Working Groups will not be open to the public, but, as noted earlier, the results of the working group discussions will be reported to the full Advisory Committee during the Committee's afternoon open session on March 7.

Special Accommodations

The meeting locations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kim Blankenbeker at (301) 713–2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 3, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Minneapolis Grain Exchange: Proposed Amendments to the Quality Specifications of the Durum Wheat Futures Contract

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed amendments to contract terms and conditions.

SUMMARY: The Minneapolis Grain Exchange (MGE or Exchange) has proposed amendments to the Exchange's durum wheat futures contract. The proposed amendments would revise the futures contract's quality specifications. The proposed amendments were submitted under the Commission's 45-day Fast Track procedures which provides that, absent any contrary action by the Commission, the proposed amendments may be deemed approved on February 24, 2000—45 days after the Commission's receipt of the proposals. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposed amendments is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street, NW Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418–5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the proposed amendments to the MGE durum wheat futures contract.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact John Bird of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone (202) 418–5274. Facsimile number: (202) 418–5527. Electronic mail: jbird@cftc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The futures contract currently calls for the delivery of durum wheat meeting specified quality requirements. These existing requirements, with one exception, meet or exceed the standards for U.S. grade No. 2 hard amber durum wheat. In addition, the contract sets forth standards for protein content, falling number, moisture content, dockage, and hard vitreous amber kernels which are not specified in the official U.S. standards for grain. The proposed amendments would make the contract's standards conform to the requirements for U.S. No. 2 hard amber durum wheat and would reduce the contract's standards for protein content, falling number, and hard vitreous kernels. The proposed and current quality specifications are shown in the table below.

Grade factor or quality standard	Current specification	Proposed specification
Minimum Test Weight	60 lbs. per bushel	58 lbs. per bushel
Maximum Heat Damaged Kernels	0.2%	0.2%
Maximum Total Damaged Kernels	2.0%	4.0%
Maximum Foreign Material	1.0%	0.7%
Maximum Shrunken and Broken Kernels	3.0%	5.0%
Maximum Total Defects	5.0%	5.0%
Maximum Total Other Classes	2.0%	2.0%