

July 13, 1988.

Jan W. Mares,

Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration.

[FR Doc. 88-16214 Filed 7-18-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

National Bureau of Standards**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[Docket No. 61236-7140]

**Proposal To Retain the Unit Known as
the U.S. Survey Foot**AGENCIES: National Bureau of
Standards, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration,
Commerce.

ACTION: Request for Public Comments.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from land surveyors and mappers, Federal, state and local officials, and from members of the public, regarding a preliminary decision by the Director of the National Bureau of Standards and the Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, to retain the unit known as the U.S. Survey Foot, as defined in a 1959 Federal Register notice. A final decision will not be made until all comments received have been reviewed.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before November 16, 1988.

ADDRESS: The comments should be sent to Director, Charting and Geodetic Services, N/CG, WSC-1, Room 1006, National Ocean Service, NOAA, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James E. Stem, N/CG1x4, Rockwall Building, Room 819, National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, Rockville, Maryland 20852; phone: 301-443-8749.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: A Federal Register notice published jointly on July 1, 1959 (24 FR 5348) by the Directors of the National Bureau of Standards and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey refined the definition of the yard in metric terms. The notice also pointed out the very slight difference between the new definition of the yard (0.9144 meter) and the 1893 definition (3600/3937 meter), from which the U.S. Survey Foot (1200/3937 meter) is derived. The "international foot" of 0.3048 meter is shorter than the U.S. Survey Foot by 2 parts per million.

The 1959 notice stated that the U.S. Survey Foot would continue to be used "until such time as it becomes desirable and expedient to readjust the basic

geodetic survey networks in the United States, after which the ratio of a yard, equal to 0.9144 meter, shall apply."

The readjustment of the basic geodetic survey networks by the Office of Charting and Geodetic Services, National Ocean Service, is complete. Hence a decision on whether to adopt the foot as derived from the international definition of the yard in accordance with the above-quoted portion of the 1959 notice will need to be made.

Since 1959, the U.S. Survey Foot has remained dominant in land surveying, mapping, and related activities in the United States, and still is incorporated in legal definitions in many states as well as in practical usage. Hence, it has tentatively been decided not to adopt the international foot of 0.3048 meter for surveying and mapping activities in the United States. Before reaching a final decision in this matter, it is deemed appropriate and necessary to solicit the comments of land surveyors, Federal, state and local officials, and any others from among the public at large who are engaged in surveying and mapping or are interested in or affected by surveying and mapping operations. A final decision will be reached after careful consideration of all the comments that are received in response to this notice. The final decision will be published in the Federal Register and will be publicly announced in other media as deemed appropriate.

Even if the final decision affirms the preliminary decision not to adopt the international definition of the foot in surveying and mapping services, it should be noted that the Office of Charting and Geodetic Services, National Ocean Service, per a 1977 Federal Register notice [42 FR 15943], uses the meter exclusively and plans to provide the new coordinates resulting from the adjustment of the basic geodetic survey networks in meters. Technical advice in converting coordinates between meters and feet will be given to those requesting it.

The effect of this notice is to allow the U.S. Survey Foot to be used indefinitely for surveying and mapping in the United States. No other part of the 1959 notice is in any way affected by this notice.

Date: May 31, 1988.

Ernest Ambler,

Director, National Bureau of Standards.

Date: May 16, 1988.

John J. Carey,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean
Services and Coastal Zone Management,
NOAA.

[FR Doc. 88-16174 Filed 7-18-88; 8:45 am]

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Please cite the number and title of inventions of interest.

Douglas J. Campion,

Associate Director, Office of Federal Patent
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