

Administration, PASS Testimony, P. O. Box 17746, Baltimore, MD 21235.

SSA will allow unscheduled testimony from members of the public. However, depending on the number of individuals/organizations wishing to present statements, the time allotted for unscheduled testimony may be limited.

For further information about the forum and to register for presentations, contact: Pamela Reim, Telephone: (415) 744-4664, FAX: (415) 744-2839, E-Mail: pam.reim@ssa.gov.

For further information about PASS, including information about any future forums, you may also contact Steve Fear at (410) 965-9824, or Ray Marzoli at (410) 965-9826.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Marilyn O'Connell,

Acting Associate Commissioner for Program Benefits Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2550]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

SUMMARY: On May 1, 1997, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 14 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The certification earlier in 1997 of Nigeria and Brazil on these same grounds remains valid, so a total of 16 nations are currently certified on this basis. The Department also certified that the fishing environments in 24 other countries do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 1997 pursuant to Section 609.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-3940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each

year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

The certifications of Nigeria, made on January 14, 1997, and of Brazil, made on April 2, 1997, remain valid. Both nations were certified on the grounds that they have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in such fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. On May 1, 1997, the Department certified 14 additional nations on this basis: Belize, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Ecuador and Colombia, certified on these grounds in 1996, did not retain their certifications because they failed to show that their regulations requiring the use of sea turtle excluder devices (TEDs) were being adequately enforced.

The Department also certified 24 shrimp harvesting nations as having fishing environments that do not pose a danger to sea turtles. Sixteen nations have shrimping grounds only in cold waters where the risk of taking sea turtles is negligible. They are: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

Eight nations only harvest shrimp using small boats with crews of less than five that use manual rather than mechanical means to retrieve nets. Use of such small-scale technology does not adversely affect sea turtles. The eight nations are: the Bahamas, Brunei, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Oman, Peru and Sri Lanka.

Any shipment of shrimp harvested in Ecuador or Colombia with a recorded date of export prior to May 1, 1997 will be allowed entry into the United States even if it arrives on or after May 1, 1997. That is, shipments of shrimp harvested in these countries in transit prior to the effective date of the ban are not barred from entry.

The Department of State communicated the certifications under section 609 to the Office of Trade Operations of the United States Customs Service in a letter transmitted on May 2, 1996. The letter noted that the Department has informed U.S. importers and foreign nations that after May 1, 1997, the Exporter's/Importer's Declaration required to be submitted with all shrimp imports must be the latest version (OMB Approval No. 140-0095, expiration date 9-31-99). We have also notified Customs and foreign and domestic users of the DSP-121 form that, in accordance with a U.S. Court of International Trade order of October 8, 1996, shrimp harvested with TEDs in uncertified nations may not be imported into the United States and that exemption 7.2 on the DSP 121 is not valid until further notice.

Dated: May 15, 1997.

Mary Beth West,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans.

[FR Doc. 97-14293 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE-97-29]

Petitions for Exemption; Summary of Petitions Received; Dispositions of Petitions Issued

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR Part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Chapter I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on petitions received must identify the petition docket number involved and must be received on or before June 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on any petition in triplicate to: Federal