

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this application, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Ms. Straley proposes to conduct photo-identification scientific research on up to 1,000 humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) from December 1, 1997, to November 30, 2002, in Alaska waters. The objective of the proposed research is to develop long-term sighting histories of individual humpback whales to assess stock structure, life history parameters, feeding behaviors, social behaviors of feeding populations, and population estimates. Up to 500 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), 20 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), 200 gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and 500 fin whales (*B. physalus*) may be opportunistically photo-identified during the course of the research.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 24, 1997.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-28833 Filed 10-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Adjustment of an Import Limit and Sublimit for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Fiji

October 27, 1997.

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing a limit and sublimit.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 4, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The current limit for Categories 338/339/638/639 and sublimit for Categories 338-S/339-S/638-S/639-S are being increased, respectively, for carryover and carryforward.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the **CORRELATION:** Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 61 FR 54985, published on October 23, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements**

October 27, 1997.

Commissioner of Customs,  
*Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.*

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on October 16, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Fiji and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1997 and extends through December 31, 1997.

Effective on November 4, 1997, you are directed to increase the limit and sublimit for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
338/339/638/639 .....	1,266,110 dozen of which not more than 977,923 dozen shall be in Categories 338-S/339-S/638-S/639-S <sup>2</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Category 338-S: only HTS numbers 6103.22.0050, 6105.10.0010, 6105.10.0030, 6105.90.8010, 6109.10.0027, 6110.20.1025, 6110.20.2040, 6110.20.2065, 6110.90.9068, 6112.11.0030 and 6114.20.0005; Category 339-S: only HTS numbers 6104.22.0060, 6104.29.2049, 6106.10.0010, 6106.10.0030, 6106.90.2510, 6106.90.3010, 6109.10.0070, 6110.20.1030, 6110.20.2045, 6110.20.2075, 6110.90.9070, 6112.11.0040, 6114.20.0010 and 6117.90.9020; Category 638-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.90.1007, 6109.90.1009, 6109.90.1013 and 6109.90.1025; Category 639-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.90.1050, 6109.90.1060, 6109.90.1065 and 6109.90.1070.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C.553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Consolidation and Amendment of Export Visa Requirements to Include the Electronic Visa Information System for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Taiwan

October 29, 1997.

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).