

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

All actions available in the Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

File 774-1649 - Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018;

File 1010-1641 - Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426; and

File 1010-641 - Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are 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 and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

File 774-1679 - The United States Antarctic Marine Living Resources (U.S.-AMLR) Program, administered by the SWFSC, requests permission to take pinniped species in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica, as part of a long-term ecosystem monitoring program established in 1986. Permission is requested to take Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*), Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*), and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) by harassment associated with life history studies and census surveys for abundance and distribution of pinnipeds. The targeted species for census surveys is the Antarctic fur seal, however, due to overlap of their breeding range with southern elephant and ice seals, a relatively small number of other Antarctic pinniped could be

taken incidentally during these surveys. Studies will be conducted annually during austral summers over the next five years (2001/02-2005/06) and primarily restricted to Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica. The AMLR Program also proposes to conduct a regional census survey for estimates of abundance and distribution of pinniped in the South Shetlands.

File 1010-1641 - The applicant proposes to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by harassment during aerial surveys, vessel-based behavioral observations, and scat collection. The purpose of the research is to provide additional information on seasonal prey consumption by Steller sea lions through scat collection at rookeries and haulouts along the Alaska Peninsula and Eastern Aleutian Islands and to improve the accuracy and precision of population indices through expanded aerial and vessel surveys in the western Gulf of Alaska.

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 activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, 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 a particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

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

Dated: August 16, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-21206 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081501D]

Draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001)

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triennially, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent years. Any written comments on the draft plan will be considered by NMFS in the development of the final Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001).

DATES: Comments on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) will be accepted on or before September 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on and requests for copies of the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) should be directed to John T. Everett, Chief, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. PHONE: (301) 713-2363. FAX: (301) 713-1875.

The NMFS draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) may be reviewed in its entirety on the World Wide Web at <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st2/index.html>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Everett or Mark Chandler at 301-713-2363 ext. 152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 404 of the MSFCMA requires the Secretary of Commerce to publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the five years immediately following the its publication. The MSFCMA requires that the plan address four major areas of research: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. The MSFCMA specifies that the plan shall contain a limited number of priority objectives for each of these research

areas; indicate goals and timetables; provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research; provide for collection and dissemination of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities; and be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected states.

In 1997, the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan (FSP) was published. The FSP was developed in a comprehensive manner, with extraordinary public involvement, including 16 public meetings. The following year, NMFS released the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (1998). Both the original (1998) and the updated (2001) Strategic Plans for Fisheries Research are based upon and entirely consistent with the FSP. Many of the objectives found under the "Major Fishery Research Objectives and Goals" section of the subject document can be matched with those in the FSP.

The scope of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) is solely fisheries research to support the MSFCMA. It does not include the regulatory and enforcement components of the NMFS mission. NMFS currently conducts a comprehensive program of fisheries research and involves industry and others interested in fisheries in planning and implementing its objectives.

NMFS intends that the final version of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions on this draft NMFS Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person.

Dated: August 15, 2001.

William Fox, Jr.,

Director Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-21093 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Dominican Republic

August 16, 2001.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 24, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, 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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at http://www.customs.gov. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at http://otexa.ita.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

The current limit for Category 448 is being increased for swing, reducing the limit for Category 444 to account for the swing being applied.

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 65 FR 82328, published on December 28, 2000). Also see 65 FR 75671, published on December 4, 2000.

D. Michael Hutchinson

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

August 16, 2001.

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 November 28, 2000, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the Dominican Republic and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2001 and extends through December 31, 2001.

Effective on August 24, 2001, you are directed to adjust the current limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Table with 2 columns: Category, Adjusted twelve-month limit 1. Row 1: 444 64,854 numbers.

Table with 2 columns: Category, Adjusted twelve-month limit 1. Row 1: 448 47,039 dozen.

1The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2000.

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

Sincerely, D. Michael Hutchinson, Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. [FR Doc. 01-21155 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Notice of Transmittal of Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2002 to the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget

Pursuant to Section 254(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(b)), the Congressional Budget Office hereby reports that it has submitted its Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2002 to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Office of Management and Budget.

William J. Gainer,

Associate Director, Management, Congressional Budget Office.

[FR Doc. 01-21097 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0113]

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Submission for OMB Review; Acquisition of Helium

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0113).

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat has submitted to the Office