

cooperative closure with Texas for 2004. The Shrimp AP will also review Draft Amendment 13 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP) addressing maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), and maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for shrimp stocks, as well as improved effort alternatives and standardized bycatch reporting methodologies. The Shrimp AP will also review an Options Paper for Amendment 14 that includes alternatives for vessel monitoring systems (VMS), additional bycatch reduction measures, and measures to reduce effort in order to achieve OY.

The Shrimp AP consists principally of commercial shrimp fishermen, dealers, and association representatives.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Trish Kennedy at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*) by December 29, 2003.

Dated: December 16, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E3-00601 Filed 12-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121503A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel (AP) and the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) from January 6 through January 7, 2004.

DATES: The Council's Red Snapper AP and SSC will convene jointly at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2004, to receive a presentation on the vermilion snapper and make recommendations. The AP and SSC will hold separate meetings to discuss Draft Reef Fish Amendment 22 (a red snapper rebuilding plan) beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2004, and will conclude by 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL; telephone: 813-877-6688.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AP and SSC will meet jointly on Tuesday, January 6 2004 to receive a presentation on the vermilion snapper catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) indices from the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Vermilion snapper were recently declared to be overfished by the NOAA Fisheries Regional Office, which triggers a requirement that the Council develop a rebuilding plan. However, the most recent vermilion snapper stock assessment was conducted in 2001 using data through 1999, and some fishermen feel that it may not be representative of the current status of the stock. The updated CPUE analyses, which uses data through 2002, will show if there has been any change in catch rates since 1999, but it is not a full stock assessment. Based on the results of the new CPUE analyses, the AP and SSC will each be asked to recommend whether the Council should request a new vermilion snapper stock assessment from NOAA Fisheries. The SSC will also be asked to evaluate the scientific validity of the new CPUE analyses. If a new stock assessment is requested, the earliest it could be done is 2005, and it would replace a scamp assessment that is currently scheduled for that year. Scamp, one of the most commonly caught grouper species after red grouper and gag, has never had a

stock assessment done, and its status is unknown.

On Wednesday, January 7, 2004, the AP and SSC will convene separately to discuss Draft Reef Fish Amendment 22, a red snapper rebuilding plan. Although there is a red snapper rebuilding plan currently in place, that plan was developed prior to implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (SFA), and it is not in full compliance with provisions of the SFA. Draft Amendment 22 will create a new rebuilding plan that is in compliance by establishing status determination criteria (minimum stock size threshold, maximum fishing mortality rate, maximum sustainable yield, and optimum yield). Draft Amendment 22 will also contain alternatives to select a rebuilding strategy that will restore the red snapper stock within the time frame allowed under SFA (the recovery time in the absence of fishing mortality plus one generation time, equal to 32 years for red snapper). The amendment will also contain alternatives to implement or revise bycatch reporting methodologies in the commercial and recreational red snapper fisheries.

The recommendations of the AP and SSC will be presented to the Gulf Council at its January 12-15, 2004 meeting in Austin, TX. At that meeting, the Council will decide whether to request a vermilion snapper stock assessment in place of a scamp assessment in 2005, and will take final action on selection of proposed alternatives for Amendment 22.

Copies of the updated vermilion snapper CPUE analyses and Draft Reef Fish Amendment 22 can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-228-2815 (toll-free 888-833-1844), or can be downloaded from the Council website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>).

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP/SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP/SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to

Trish Kennedy at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*) by December 29, 2003.

Dated: December 16, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E3-00602 Filed 12-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in India

December 17, 2003.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 23, 2003.

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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection 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 Group II is being increased for special swing from Category 369-S, decreasing the limit for Category 369-S to account for the special swing being applied to Group II.

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 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003). Also

see 67 FR 68569, published on November 12, 2002.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 17, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 1, 2002, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in India and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2003 and extends through December 31, 2003.

Effective on December 23, 2003, you are directed to adjust the current limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
Levels in Group I 369-S ²	740,745 kilograms.
Group II 200, 201, 220, 224-227, 237, 239pt. ³ , 300, 301, 331pt. ⁴ , 332, 333, 352, 359pt. ⁵ , 360-362, 603, 604, 611-620, 624-629, 631pt. ⁶ , 633, 638, 639, 643-646, 652, 659pt. ⁷ , 666pt. ⁸ , 845, 846 and 852, as a group	191,947,246 square meters equivalent.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2002.

² Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

³ Category 239pt.: only HTS number 6209.20.5040 (diapers).

⁴ Category 331pt.: all HTS numbers except 6116.10.1720, 6116.10.4810, 6116.10.5510, 6116.10.7510, 6116.92.6410, 6116.92.6420, 6116.92.6430, 6116.92.6440, 6116.92.7450, 6116.92.7460, 6116.92.7470, 6116.92.8800, 6116.92.9400 and 6116.99.9510.

⁵ Category 359pt.: all HTS numbers except 6115.19.8010, 6117.10.6010, 6117.20.9010, 6203.22.1000, 6204.22.1000, 6212.90.0010, 6214.90.0010, 6406.99.1550, 6505.90.1525, 6505.90.1540, 6505.90.2060 and 6505.90.2545.

⁶ Category 631pt.: all HTS numbers except 6116.10.1730, 6116.10.4820, 6116.10.5520, 6116.10.7520, 6116.93.8800, 6116.93.9400, 6116.99.4800, 6116.99.5400 and 6116.99.9530.

⁷ Category 659pt.: all HTS numbers except 6115.11.0010, 6115.12.2000, 6117.10.2030, 6117.20.9030, 6212.90.0030, 6214.30.0000, 6214.40.0000, 6406.99.1510 and 6406.99.1540.

⁸ Category 666pt.: all HTS numbers except 5805.00.4010, 6301.10.0000, 6301.40.0010, 6301.40.0020, 6301.90.0010, 6302.53.0010, 6302.53.0020, 6302.53.0030, 6302.93.1000, 6302.93.2000, 6303.12.0000, 6303.19.0010, 6303.92.1000, 6303.92.2010, 6303.92.2020, 6303.99.0010, 6304.11.2000, 6304.19.1500, 6304.19.2000, 6304.91.0040, 6304.93.0000, 6304.99.6020, 6307.90.9884, 9404.90.8522 and 9404.90.9522.

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,

James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E3-00608 Filed 12-19-03 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Denying Entry to Textiles and Textile Products Allegedly Manufactured by a Certain Factory in El Salvador

December 16, 2003.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to deny entry to shipments allegedly manufactured by a certain factory in El Salvador.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 12475 of May 9, 1984, as amended.

The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection has conducted on-site verification of textile and apparel production in a number of foreign countries. Based on information obtained through on-site verifications and from other sources, U.S. Customs has informed CITA that certain companies were illegally transshipping, were closed, or were unable to produce records to verify production. The Chairman of CITA has directed the U.S. Customs Service to issue regulations regarding the denial of entry of shipments from such companies. (*See*