

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day Council meeting on May 11–13, 2004, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 beginning at 1 p.m. and on Wednesday and Thursday, May 12 and 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone (401)421-0700. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465-0492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Following introductions, the Council will receive a report from its Habitat/Marine Protected Areas Committee. During the discussion, the Council will review and select Essential Fish Habitat alternatives for inclusion in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). After considering recommendations from its Dogfish Committee as well as the Mid-Atlantic Council, the New England Council will approve issues to be addressed in Amendment 1 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP.

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Reports on recent activities will be provided by the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council will use the remainder of the day to consider groundfish management issues. The Council could take final action on Framework Adjustment 40A to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, alternatives that would create limited opportunities for the use of Category "B" days-at-sea as discussed in Amendment 13 to the FMP. B days are among the effort controls included in the amendment which has not yet been approved by the

Secretary of Commerce. After a mid-day break, the Council will review the operations plan of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association Hook Sector and provide its comments to the Regional Administrator.

Thursday, May 13, 2004

On Thursday, the Council's Research Steering Committee will report on and ask for approval of a policy that addresses the review and use of new research in the fishery management process. Following this agenda item NOAA Fisheries staff will solicit comments from the Council on Amendment 2 to Highly Migratory Species FMP and Amendment 2 to the Billfish FMP as part of scoping for these actions. The Council will consider whether to propose changing the specification process in the Red Crab FMP from an annual to a three-year process in a future framework adjustment to the plan. The Council also will consider making a recommendation to NOAA Fisheries on a possible change to the current penalty schedule as it concerns egregious violations of fishery management rules. Following a break there will be an open comment period for anyone wishing to bring issues before the Council that do not appear on the agenda. Before adjourning, there will be a report from the Chairman of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee on how the Council should use stock assessment advice in light of changing assessments and retrospective patterns in fishing mortality and biomass estimates. Any other outstanding business will be addressed at the end of the day.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final 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 Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 19, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E4-907 Filed 4-22-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041604A]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 909-1465-02

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific research Permit No. 909-1465-02 submitted by Dan Engelhaupt, Biological Sciences Department, University of Durham, P.O. Box 197, Picton, New Zealand, has been granted.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289, fax (301)713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubard or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the provisions of 50 CFR 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222-226).

The modification extends the expiration date of the Permit from April 30, 2004, to April 30, 2005, for takes of sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and other cetacean species in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and western North Atlantic.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a

finding that such permit: (1) Was applied in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the threatened and endangered species which are the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 16, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 04-9305 Filed 4-22-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Nepal

April 19, 2004.

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: April 23, 2004.

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 Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Web site at <http://www.cbp.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site 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 limits for certain categories are being adjusted to reflect Nepal's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Also, the limit for Category 369-S, increased for carryover in a previous **Federal Register** notice and letter to Customs, is being revised to reflect WTO accession.

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 69 FR 4926, published on February 2, 2004). Also see 68 FR 68598, published on December 9, 2003; and 69 FR 5838, published on February 6, 2004.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

April 19, 2004.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directives issued to you on December 3, 2003 and February 2, 2004 by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. These directives concern imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Nepal and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2004 and extending through December 31, 2004.

Effective on April 23, 2004, you are directed to adjust the current limits for the following categories to reflect Nepal's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
336/636	369,322 dozen.
340	484,925 dozen.
341	1,347,305 dozen.
342/642	423,230 dozen.
347/348	1,092,267 dozen.
363	9,876,850 numbers.
369-S ²	1,235,323 kilograms.
640	244,061 dozen.
641	550,294 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2003.

² Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

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,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.
[Doc. E4-908 Filed 4-22-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Designations under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provisions of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

April 19, 2004.

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

ACTION: Designation.

SUMMARY: The Committee has determined that certain fabrics, classified in subheading 5210.11 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), not of square construction, containing more than 70 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 70 metric, used in the production of women's and girls' blouses, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the CBTPA. The Committee hereby designates such apparel articles that are both cut and sewn or otherwise assembled in an eligible country from these fabrics as eligible for quota-free and duty-free treatment under the textile and apparel commercial availability provisions of the CBTPA, and eligible under the HTSUS subheading 9820.11.27 to enter free of quotas and duties, provided all other fabrics are U.S. formed from yarns wholly formed in the U.S., including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under HTS heading 5602 or 5603 and are wholly formed in the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 23, 2004.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Authority: Section 211 of the CBTPA, amending Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(II) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA); Presidential Proclamations 7351 of October 2, 2000; Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

Background

The commercial availability provision of the CBTPA provides for duty-free and quota-free treatment for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary CBTPA countries from fabric or yarn that is not formed in the United States or a beneficiary CBTPA country if it has been determined that such yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied