maximum of 1,533 in 2 out of 5 seasons, and a total of 3,585 in 5 years), 5 gray whales and 91 beluga whales. However, since this LOA is effective only through May 25, 2004, no bowhead, gray or beluga whales are expected to be harassed.

Year-round operations at Northstar may result in the harassment of up to approximately 191 ringed seals, 10 bearded seals, and 5 spotted seals being harassed and the incidental mortality of up to 5 ringed seal pups. No take is authorized for an oil spill. NMFS and BP believe that these estimates remain conservative since, for example, monitoring between November, 2001 and October, 2002 indicate that approximately 110 ringed seals, 1 bearded seal and 10–20 beluga whales were present in the area and potentially may have been affected (Moulton et al., 2003). MacLean and Williams (2003) and Moulton et al. (2003) indicate that Northstar production probably had little or no effect on most of the seals and no seals were injured or killed by activities along the ice road or operations at Northstar during the 2002/2003 or 2003/2004 ice-covered seasons.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the Northstar regulations (50 CFR 216.206) and described in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 34014, May 25, 2000). Additional information was provided on December 21, 2001 (66 FR 65923), when NMFS issued an LOA to BP for oil production at Northstar. Monitoring reports are submitted annually as required by the regulations, and the LOA, and plans and reports are peer-reviewed as required regulations. A list of these reports is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**). Recent peer-review meetings were held in June 2003, in Seattle, WA and in August, 2004 in Anchorage, AK. The August, 2004 meeting confirmed continued efforts begun in 2003 to convene an independent technical peer-review committee under the auspices of the North Slope Borough's Science Advisory Committee. The next open-water peer-review meeting is planned for May, 2005 in Anchorage, AK. In accordance with the original marine mammal monitoring plan, BP plans to continue monitoring in the winter/early spring 2005 for those tasks that have not been completed.

Determinations

Accordingly, NMFS issued an LOA to BPXA on December 6, 2004, authorizing the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production operations at the Northstar offshore oil and gas facility in state and federal waters in the U.S. Beaufort Sea until May 25, 2005. Issuance is based on findings, described in the preamble to the final rule (65 FR 34014, May 25, 2000), that the activities described in the LOA will result in the taking of no more than small numbers of ringed seals, and possibly bearded seals and spotted seals, and that the total taking will have a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these species or stocks for taking for subsistence uses. NMFS also prescribed the means for effecting the least practicable adverse impact on these stocks. As the results from the monitoring program carried out since 1999 have indicated that the determinations made in 2000 and 2001 were not in error, the estimated levels of incidental harassment have not been exceeded, and as the activity that was reviewed in 2001 (oil production activities) has not changed, these determinations remain valid.

Dated: December 6, 2004.

Laurie K. Allen,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04–27180 Filed 12–9–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102204B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1418

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Lawrence D. Wood, Marinelife Center of Juno Beach, 14200 U.S. Hwy. 1, Juno Beach, FL, 33408 has been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1418.

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

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; 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: Patrick Opay or Amy Sloan, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 9, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 54649) that a modification of Permit No. 1418, issued January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2118), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested modification 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 regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

The modification authorizes Mr. Wood to sample blood for sex determinations from the 75 hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) sea turtles he is already authorized to annually capture under the existing permit.

Issuance of this modification, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 6, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 04–27179 Filed 12–9–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China

December 6, 2004.

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

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of men's and boys' wool trousers (Category 447).

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a request from the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, SEAMS, and UNITE HERE! (Requestors) asking the Committee to limit imports from China of men's and boys' wool trousers in accordance with the textile