

sector; they are, therefore, not Special Government Employees. Each member of the CINTAC must be a U.S. citizen, and must not be registered as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. No member shall represent a company that is majority owned or controlled by a foreign government entity or entities.

Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary from the date of appointment to the Committee to the date on which the Committee's charter terminates. The Secretary shall designate the CINTAC Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall serve in those positions at the pleasure of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Services shall designate a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) from among the employees of the Office of Energy and Environmental Industries. The Committee meets approximately four times a year, usually in Washington, D.C.

III. Compensation

Members of the CINTAC will not be compensated for their services or reimbursed for their travel expenses.

IV. Nominations

The Secretary of Commerce invites nominations to the CINTAC for the charter term consistent with the above membership requirements. Self-nominations will be accepted. If you are interested in nominating someone to become a member of the CINTAC, please provide the following information (2 pages maximum):

- (1) Name;
- (2) Title;
- (3) Work phone, fax, and, email address;
- (4) Company or trade association name and address including Web site address;
- (5) Short biography of nominee including credentials;
- (6) Brief description of the company or trade association and its business activities, company size (number of employees and annual sales), and export markets served; and,
- (7) An affirmative statement that the applicant and entity to be represented meet all eligibility criteria, specifically addressing that the applicant:
 - (a) Is a U.S. citizen;
 - (b) Is not required to register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended; and,
 - (c) Is not a federally-registered lobbyist, and that the applicant understands that if appointed, the applicant will not be allowed to

continue to serve as a CINTAC member if the applicant becomes a federally-registered lobbyist.

Please do not send company or trade association brochures or any other information.

All nominations should be submitted in pdf or MS Word format via email to David.Kincaid@trade.gov, via FAX to 202-482-5665, or via mail to David Kincaid, Office of Energy & Environmental Industries, Room 4053, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Nominations for immediate consideration must be received by close of business December 7, 2012. Nominees selected for appointment to CINTAC will be notified by return mail.

Dated: October 31, 2012.

Edward A. O'Malley,

Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries.

[FR Doc. 2012-26998 Filed 11-5-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Subsidy Programs Provided by Countries Exporting Softwood Lumber and Softwood Lumber Products to the United States; Request for Comment

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Department) seeks public comment on any subsidies, including stumpage subsidies, provided by certain countries exporting softwood lumber or softwood lumber products to the United States during the period January 1 through June 30, 2012.

DATES: Comments must be submitted within thirty days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: See the Submission of Comments section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Terpstra, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 18, 2008, section 805 of Title VIII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Softwood Lumber Act of 2008) was enacted into law. Under this provision, the Secretary of Commerce is mandated to submit to the appropriate

Congressional committees a report every 180 days on any subsidy provided by countries exporting softwood lumber or softwood lumber products to the United States, including stumpage subsidies.

The Department submitted its last subsidy report on June 15, 2012. As part of its newest report, the Department intends to include a list of subsidy programs identified with sufficient clarity by the public in response to this notice.

Request for Comments

Given the large number of countries that export softwood lumber and softwood lumber products to the United States, we are soliciting public comment only on subsidies provided by countries whose exports accounted for at least one percent of total U.S. imports of softwood lumber by quantity, as classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule code 4407.1001 (which accounts for the vast majority of imports), during the period January 1 through June 30, 2012. Official U.S. import data published by the United States International Trade Commission Tariff and Trade DataWeb indicate that only one country, Canada, exported softwood lumber to the United States during that time period in amounts sufficient to account for at least one percent of U.S. imports of softwood lumber products. We intend to rely on similar previous six-month periods to identify the countries subject to future reports on softwood lumber subsidies. For example, we will rely on U.S. imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products during the period July 1 through December, 2012, to select the countries subject to the next report.

Under U.S. trade law, a subsidy exists where a government authority: (i) Provides a financial contribution; (ii) provides any form of income or price support within the meaning of Article XVI of the GATT 1994; or (iii) makes a payment to a funding mechanism to provide a financial contribution to a person, or entrusts or directs a private entity to make a financial contribution, if providing the contribution would normally be vested in the government and the practice does not differ in substance from practices normally followed by governments, and a benefit is thereby conferred. See section 771(5)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

Parties should include in their comments: (1) The country which provided the subsidy; (2) the name of the subsidy program; (3) a brief description (at least 3-4 sentences) of the subsidy program; and (4) the

government body or authority that provided the subsidy.

Submission of Comments

Persons wishing to comment should file comments by the date specified above. Comments should only include publicly available information. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially due to business proprietary concerns or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments or materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not include them in its report on softwood lumber subsidies. The Department requests submission of comments filed in electronic Portable Document Format (PDF) submitted on CD-ROM or by email to the email address of the IA Webmaster, below.

The comments received will be made available to the public in PDF on the Import Administration Web site at the following address: <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/public-comments.html>. Any questions concerning file formatting, access on the Internet, or other electronic filing issues should be addressed to Andrew Lee Beller, Import Administration Webmaster, at (202) 482-0866, email address: webmaster_support@trade.gov.

All comments and submissions in response to this Request for Comment should be received by the Department no later than 5 p.m., on the above-referenced deadline date.

Dated: October 26, 2012.

Christian Marsh,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. 2012-26947 Filed 11-5-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC304

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a

preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This EFP application would exempt 11 commercial fishing vessels from the following Federal American lobster regulations: (1) Gear specifications, including escape vents; (2) trap limits; and (3) trap tag requirements. In order to understand patterns of larval dispersal and settlement in the offshore Lobster Management Area 3 (Area 3), 11 federally permitted vessels would utilize a maximum combined total of 50 modified lobster traps to target juvenile American lobsters.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is NERO.EFP@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "Comments on AOLA Lobster EFP." Written comments should be sent to: John Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, NE Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on AOLA Lobster EFP."

• *Fax:* (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maria Jacob, Environmental Technician, 978-281-9180, Maria.Jacob@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed project would be conducted by the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association (AOLA) in conjunction with scientists and the fishing industry. AOLA submitted a complete application for an EFP on September 28, 2012, to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP application would exempt 11 commercial fishing vessels from the following Federal regulations: Gear specifications (including escape vents) specified under § 697.21(c); trap limits specified under § 697.19(b)(5); and trap tags specified under § 697.19(f). The EFP would authorize 11 federally permitted vessels to be exempted from parts of the Federal lobster regulations to allow the participating vessels to fish modified lobster traps, exceed trap limits, and deploy the modified traps without trap tags to analyze the extent to which young lobsters are present in the offshore Area 3. Some scientists believe that the lobster larvae will only

survive in the inshore fishery due to the depths and available light, and that there are no small lobsters offshore; however, data resulting from this project are intended to determine whether there are new lobster nursery grounds offshore.

The modified gear may include smaller wire mesh sizes, modified entrance heads/rings, and closed escape vents. The deployment of the experimental traps throughout Area 3 (statistical areas 464, 465, 561, 562, 525, 526, 537, 613, 616, and 626) would begin shortly after the issuance of the EFP and is expected to continue for 1 year. AOLA would submit progress reports twice a year to cover the first and second half of the 12-month study period. The exact specification for the chosen design would be provided in the first progress report. Participating vessels would use the experimental lobster traps as part of a commercial lobster trap trawl deployed under routine industry conditions, by adding up to three of the modified traps to the trap trawl. Under these exemptions, each vessel would be allowed to fish up to 10 traps in excess of its Federal trap allocation, for no more than 50 modified traps in the water at any given time. Modified traps would remain in the water for up to 12 consecutive months (365 days), being hauled weekly following the normal fishing schedule of the participating vessels. The gear would be compliant with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan.

The research activities occurring in Area 3 are not anticipated to have any more environmental impacts than those already occurring as part of a commercial lobster trap trawl deployed under usual industry conditions. Impacts to the lobster resource would be negligible given the limited scope of the exempted activity. Given the small mesh and entrance heads, the modified gear is not expected to catch legal lobsters. Any sublegal lobsters caught would briefly be retained onboard only for the purposes of recording their size, sex, egg stage of female lobsters, and presence of shell disease, before being promptly released back into the ocean. There should be minimal impact to bycatch species due to the use of small mesh and small entrance heads and, in addition, all bycatch species hauled from modified gear would be returned promptly to the ocean. Likewise, there would not be significant impacts on benthic habitats, given that 50 additional traps is negligible in comparison to the number of traps deployed by the lobster commercial fishery at large.