

number of participants, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: April 16, 2018.

Gary Taverman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by the investigation is aluminum common alloy sheet (common alloy sheet), which is a flat-rolled aluminum product having a thickness of 6.3 mm or less, but greater than 0.2 mm, in coils or cut-to-length, regardless of width. Common alloy sheet within the scope of the investigation includes both not clad aluminum sheet, as well as multi-alloy, clad aluminum sheet. With respect to not clad aluminum sheet, common alloy sheet is manufactured from a 1XXX-, 3XXX-, or 5XXX-series alloy as designated by the Aluminum Association. With respect to multi-alloy, clad aluminum sheet, common alloy sheet is produced from a 3XXX-series core, to which cladding layers are applied to either one or both sides of the core.

Common alloy sheet may be made to ASTM specification B209-14, but can also be made to other specifications. Regardless of specification, however, all common alloy sheet meeting the scope description is included in the scope. Subject merchandise includes common alloy sheet that has been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to annealing, tempering, painting, varnishing, trimming, cutting, punching, and/or slitting, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the common alloy sheet.

Excluded from the scope of the investigation is aluminum can stock, which is suitable for use in the manufacture of aluminum beverage cans, lids of such cans, or tabs used to open such cans. Aluminum can stock is produced to gauges that range from 0.200 mm to 0.292 mm, and has an H-19, H-41, H-48, or H-391 temper. In addition, aluminum can stock has a lubricant applied to the flat surfaces of the can stock to facilitate its movement through machines used in the manufacture of beverage cans. Aluminum can stock is properly classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7606.12.3045 and 7606.12.3055.

Where the nominal and actual measurements vary, a product is within the scope if application of either the nominal or actual measurement would place it within the scope based on the definitions set for the above.

Common alloy sheet is currently classifiable under HTSUS subheadings 7606.11.3060, 7606.11.6000, 7606.12.3090, 7606.12.6000, 7606.91.3090, 7606.91.6080, 7606.92.3090, and 7606.92.6080. Further, merchandise that falls within the scope of these investigation may also be entered into the United States under HTSUS subheadings 7606.11.3030, 7606.12.3030, 7606.91.3060, 7606.91.6040, 7606.92.3060, 7606.92.6040, 7607.11.9090. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope Comments
- IV. Scope of the Investigation
- V. Injury Test
- VI. Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances
- VII. Application of the CVD Law to Imports From China
- VIII. Subsidies Valuation
- IX. Benchmarks and Interest Rates
- X. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences
- XI. Analysis of Programs
- XII. ITC Notification
- XIII. Disclosure and Public Comment
- XIV. Verification
- XV. Conclusion

[FR Doc. 2018-08391 Filed 4-20-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG165

Magnuson-Stevens 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, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would exempt one commercial fishing vessel from the Northeast multispecies minimum mesh size and minimum fish size regulations in support of gear research to target healthy haddock and redfish stocks.

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 Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 8, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line "GMRI Off-bottom Trawl EFP."

- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "GMRI Off-bottom Trawl EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Spencer Talmage, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on March 20, 2018, in support of a 2016 Saltonstall-Kennedy Program project titled "Complementary testing of off-bottom trawls to target Georges Bank haddock." The EFP would exempt one fishing vessel from minimum mesh size requirements at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(ii) and temporarily exempt the vessel from minimum fish size requirements in 50 CFR part 648, subparts B and D through

O, for biological sampling purposes only. An EFP for this project was issued during the 2017 fishing year; however, no activity was conducted under the EFP.

The project would test the efficacy of an off-bottom trawl fitted with a small-mesh codend to access healthy haddock and redfish stocks while avoiding other groundfish stocks. Additional project objectives include the development of a fuel-efficient trawl that also reduces disruption to benthic habitat. One vessel, the F/V *Teresa Marie IV*, would conduct a three-phase research plan to test the off-bottom trawl with two different codends: A 4.5-inch (11.43-cm) diamond mesh when targeting redfish; and a 5.1-inch (12.954-cm) square mesh when targeting haddock. The proposed EFP trips for each phase of this project are summarized in Table 1. The proposed off-bottom trawl would require an exemption from the Northeast multispecies minimum mesh size requirements because the codend and extension mesh size would be less than the minimum regulated mesh.

The 4.5-inch (11.43-cm) diamond mesh codend was previously authorized for use in the redfish exempted fishery, through a regulatory exemption to sectors, based on the results of previous redfish selectivity research (REDNET). This exemption has been modified a number of times in order to balance the conservation requirements, and economic goals of the fishery. In fishing

year 2017, a 5.5-inch (14.0-cm) mesh was authorized within the redfish exemption area. During the REDNET study, substantial catches of redfish with low levels of incidental catch or bycatch of regulated species were observed when using a 4.5-inch (11.43-cm) mesh codend. Under this EFP, testing of the net outfitted with the 4.5-inch (11.43-cm) mesh codend would only occur in the Redfish Exemption Area.

The square-mesh 5.1-inch (13.0-cm) codend was selected based on the Canadian haddock fishery, which uses a 5-inch (12.7-cm) square-mesh codend. The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has also conducted studies on the selectivity of various mesh sizes. This codend mesh size has been approved for use in a previous EFP issued to Atlantic Trawlers Fishing, Inc. Only a small number of trips were taken under that EFP, which limited the ability to produce statistically reliable results.

During Phase 1, the captain and crew of the F/V *Teresa Marie IV* would familiarize themselves with the operation of the off-bottom trawl. Testing would include how to deploy the trawl to a desired operating depth, maintain depth, adjust depth, and haul back. Tow duration could be as short as 30 minutes or as long as 3 to 4 hours, depending on the outcome of the gear testing. A GMRI research technician would be on board to conduct catch

sampling and collect data on the performance of the net. Catch is likely to be minimal in this phase; many tows will be conducted in areas where limited catch is expected, as the purpose of this phase to optimize gear performance, not demonstrate catch composition. However, any legal-size groundfish catch would be retained for sale, consistent with the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and all catch would be attributed against the applicable sector Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE).

In Phase 2, the off-bottom trawl would be evaluated during a 5-day controlled study on-board the F/V *Teresa Marie IV* conducted in August or September 2017. The off-bottom trawl would be tested at two towing speeds (three and four kts) while actively fishing in order to represent normal working conditions. Underwater cameras would be used to film the off-bottom trawl in operation. Catch would be retained for sale and attributed against the applicable sector ACE. Phase 3 would test the off-bottom trawl using both codends under a wide range of commercial conditions to broadly characterize the fishing performance of the net. Phase 3 would include ten 8-day trips occurring from August through December 2017. For Phase 2 and 3, catch would be retained for sale and attributed against the applicable sector ACE.

TABLE 1—PROPOSED EFP TRIPS

Phase	Number of trips	DAS per trip	Season	Location (statistical areas)	Target species
1	1	5	August/September	512, 513, 515 (3 days) 521, 522 (2 days)	Redfish. Haddock.
2	1	5	August/September	512, 513, 515 (3 days) 521, 522 (2 days)	Redfish. Haddock.
3	10	8	August–October October–December	521, 522 (5 days) 512, 513, 515 (3 days) 512, 513, 515 (5 days) 521, 522 (5 days)	Haddock. Redfish. Redfish. Haddock.

Catch from the F/V *Teresa Marie IV* using a haddock separator trawl in fishing year 2016 was used to estimate anticipated catch using the off-bottom trawl for this project. The average catch of haddock per trip was 5,500 lb (2,495 kg) in the Gulf of Maine, 6,400 lb (2,903 kg) in the Eastern U.S./Canada management area of Georges Bank, and 22,300 lb (10,115 kg) in Georges Bank West. The average catch of redfish in the Gulf of Maine was 2,000 lb (907 kg) per trip. The average catch of cod per trip was 180 lb (82 kg) in the Gulf of Maine, 70 lb (32 kg) in the Eastern U.S./Canada

management area of Georges Bank, and 530 lb (240 kg) in Georges Bank West. The off-bottom trawl is expected to catch at least as much haddock as a bottom trawl, with substantial reductions in cod catch, and the complete elimination of flatfish catch. If these ratios are not realized, GMRI indicated that the off-bottom trawl would be deemed unsuccessful, and the project may be abandoned.

All trips would carry a GMRI sampler, an assigned at-sea observer, or an independently contracted data collection technician. In Phases 1 and 2, a GMRI sampler would be onboard to

document the operational performance of the off-bottom trawl, and sample catch. In Phase 3, a GMRI sampler would be onboard the F/V *Teresa Marie IV* during at least two fishing trips. An assigned at-sea observer or independent contracted data collection technician would collect data during remaining trips with the off-bottom trawl. The volume of the catch is anticipated to be large, so sub-sampling protocols have been developed. A sub-sample of the total catch would be taken from the checker pens to estimate total catch, including cod and other non-target

species by weight. All fish in the subsample would be weighed, and length measurements would be taken for cod and other non-target catch. All bycatch would be returned to the sea as soon as practicable following data collection. Exemption from minimum sizes would support catch sampling activities and ensure the vessel is not in conflict with possession regulations while collecting catch data. All trips would otherwise be conducted in a manner consistent with normal commercial fishing conditions and catch consistent with the Northeast Multispecies FMP would be retained for sale. Trips not accompanied by GMRI researchers would be required to carry an At-Sea Monitor (ASM), Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) observer, or privately contracted data collection technician. On trips assigned to carry an ASM or observer by NEFOP, normal sampling protocols would be carried out. The vessel is responsible for notifying its monitoring provider of upcoming research trips and ensuring a research technician is present on all EFP trips not selected for observer coverage through Pre-Trip Notification System.

GMRI needs this exemption to allow them to conduct testing of a net configuration that is prohibited by the current regulations. If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP

throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 18, 2018.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-08390 Filed 4-20-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits and permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits or permit amendments have

been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: (301) 427-8401; fax: (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore (Permit No. 21339), Erin Markin (Permit Nos. 21169 and 21301), Amy Hapeman (Permit No. 21367); Courtney Smith (Permit Nos. 16479-04 and 21059), Carrie Hubard (Permit Nos. 19655-01, 19703, and 20993), and Shasta McClenahan (Permit No. 21966) at (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests for a permit or permit amendment had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the research, go to www.federalregister.gov and search on the permit number provided in the table below.

Permit No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous Federal Register notice	Permit or Amendment issuance date
16479-04	0648-XA84 ..	Pacific Whale Foundation (Responsible Party: Jens Curie, M.Sc.), 300 Maalaea Road, Suite 211, Wailuku, HI 96793.	82 FR 29053; June 27, 2017 ..	March 28, 2018.
19655-01	0648-XF085	Adam Pack, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 West Kawili Street, Hilo, HI 96720.	82 FR 3727; January 12, 2017	March 30, 2018.
19703	0648-XF154	Fred Sharpe, Ph.D., Alaska Whale Foundation, 4739 University Way NE, No. 1230, Seattle, WA 98105.	82 FR 4860; January 17, 2017	March 30, 2018.
20993	0648-XF154	Christopher Cilfone, Be Blue, 2569 Douglas Highway, Unit 1, Juneau, AK 99801.	82 FR 29053; June 27, 2017 ..	March 12, 2018.
21059	0648-XF378	Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (Responsible Party: Philip N. Hooge, Ph.D.), P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, AK 99826.	82 FR 32328; July 13, 2017	March 30, 2018.
21169	0648-XF619	Inwater Research Group, Inc. (Responsible Party: Michael Bresette), 4160 NE Hyline Drive, Jensen Beach, FL 34957.	82 FR 42984; September 12, 2017.	March 9, 2018.
21301	0648-XF528	Kara Dodge, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MS#33, Redfield 256, Woods Hole, MA 02543.	82 FR 41001; August 29, 2017	March 9, 2018.
21367	0648-XF862	Christopher Marshall, Ph.D., Texas A&M University at Galveston, 200 Seawolf Parkway, Galveston, TX 77553.	82 FR 60588; December 21, 2017.	March 16, 2018.
21339	0648-XF871	Kerri Smith, University of Texas at El Paso, 500 West University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968.	82 FR 57730; December 7, 2017.	March 15, 2018.
21966	0645-XG026	Mystic Aquarium (Responsible Party: Katie Cubina), 55 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355.	83 FR 8437; February 27, 2018.	March 30, 2018.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance of these permit was based on a finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and

policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Authority: The requested permits have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered