

notice at 67 FR 70406, November 22, 2002. *Order Date:* July 31, 2002.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as these instruments are intended to be used, was being manufactured in the United States at the time the instruments were ordered. Reasons: Each foreign instrument is a conventional transmission electron microscope (CTEM) and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring a CTEM. We know of no CTEM, or any other instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of each instrument.

Gerald A. Zerdy,

Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 02-31973 Filed 12-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Notice of Allocation of Tariff Rate Quotas on the Import of Certain Worsted Wool Fabrics for Calendar Year 2003

AGENCY: Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration.

ACTION: Notice of allocation of 2003 worsted wool fabric tariff rate quota.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Department) has determined the allocation for calendar year 2003 of imports of certain worsted wool fabrics under tariff rate quotas established by Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 as amended by the Trade Act of 2002. The companies that are being provided an allocation are listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sergio Botero, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (The Act) as amended by the Trade Act of 2002 creates two tariff rate quotas, providing for temporary reductions in the import duties on two categories of worsted wool fabrics suitable for use in making suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers. For worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters greater than 18.5 microns (Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) heading 9902.51.11), the

reduction in duty is limited to 4,500,000 square meters per year. For worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters of 18.5 microns or less (HTS heading 9902.51.12), the reduction is limited to 3,500,000 square meters per year. The Act requires the President to ensure that such fabrics are fairly allocated to persons (including firms, corporations, or other legal entities) who cut and sew men's and boys' worsted wool suits and suit-like jackets and trousers in the United States and who apply for an allocation based on the amount of such suits cut and sewn during the prior calendar year. Presidential Proclamation 7383, of December 1, 2000, authorized the Secretary of Commerce to allocate the quantity of worsted wool fabric imports under the tariff rate quotas. On January 22, 2001 the Department published regulations establishing procedures for applying for, and determining, such allocations. 66 FR 6459, 15 CFR 335.

On August 28, 2002, the Department published a notice soliciting applications for an allocation of the 2003 tariff rate quotas with a closing date of September 27, 2002. The Department received timely applications for the HTS 9902.51.11 tariff rate quota from 15 firms. The Department received timely applications for the HTS 9902.51.12 tariff rate quota from 14 firms. All applicants were determined eligible for an allocation.

Most applicants submitted data on a business confidential basis. As allocations to firms were determined on the basis of this data, the Department considers individual firm allocations to be business confidential.

Firms That Received Allocations

1. HTS 9902.51.11, FABRICS, OF WORSTED WOOL, WITH AVERAGE FIBER DIAMETER GREATER THAN 18.5 MICRON, CERTIFIED BY THE IMPORTER AS SUITABLE FOR USE IN MAKING SUITS, SUIT-TYPE JACKETS, OR TROUSERS (PROVIDED FOR IN SUBHEADING 5112.11.60 AND 5112.19.95)

Amount allocated: 4,500,000 square meters.

Companies Receiving Allocation:

American Fashion, Inc.--Chula Vista, CA
Bowdon Manufacturing Co., Inc.--Bowdon, GA
Calvin Clothing Company, Inc.--Scranton, PA
Corbin Ltd.--Ashland, KY
Hartmarx Corporation--Chicago, IL
Hartz & Company, Inc.--Frederick, MD
Hugo Boss Cleveland, Inc.--Cleveland, TN
JA Apparel Corp.--New York, NY
John H. Daniel Co.--Knoxville, TN
Majer Brands Company, Inc.--Hanover, PA
Saint Laurie Ltd.--New York, NY
Sewell Clothing Company, Inc.--Bremen, GA
Southwick Clothing L.L.C.--Lawrence, MA
Toluca Garment Company-Toluca, IL
The Tom James Co.--Franklin, TN

2. HTS 9902.51.12, FABRICS, OF WORSTED WOOL, WITH AVERAGE FIBER DIAMETER OF 18.5 MICRON OR LESS, CERTIFIED BY THE IMPORTER AS SUITABLE FOR USE IN MAKING SUITS, SUIT-TYPE JACKETS, OR TROUSERS (PROVIDED FOR IN SUBHEADING 5112.11.30 AND 5112.19.60)

Amount allocated: 3,500,000 square meters.

Companies Receiving Allocation:

American Fashion, Inc.--Chula Vista, CA
Brooks Brothers--New York, NY
Hartmarx Corporation--Chicago, IL
Hartz & Company, Inc.--Frederick, MD
Hugo Boss Cleveland, Inc.--Cleveland, TN
JA Apparel Corp.--New York, NY
John H. Daniel Co.--Knoxville, TN
Majer Brands Company, Inc.--Hanover, PA
Martin Greenfield--Brooklyn, NY
Saint Laurie Ltd--New York, NY
Sewell Clothing Company, Inc.--Bremen, GA
Southwick Clothing L.L.C.--Lawrence, MA
Toluca Garment Compan-Toluca, IL
The Tom James Co.--Franklin, TN

Dated: December 13, 2002.

James C. Leonard III,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Apparel and Consumer Goods Industries, Department of Commerce.

[FR Doc.02-31939 Filed 12-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111202A]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Construction and Operation of Offshore Oil and Gas Facilities in the Beaufort Sea

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a letter of authorization (LOA) to take a small number of marine mammals incidental to the production of offshore oil and gas at the Northstar development in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska has been issued to BP Exploration (Alaska), Anchorage, AK (BPXA).

DATES: This LOA is effective from December 9, 2002, until December 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: A copy of BPXA's letter and/or the LOA may be obtained by writing to the Office of Protected

Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead (301) 713-2055, ext. 128, or Bradley Smith (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals. Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) of marine mammals for subsistence uses, and if regulations are prescribed setting forth the permissible methods of taking and the requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of marine mammals incidental to construction and operation of the offshore oil and gas facility at Northstar in the Beaufort Sea were published and made effective on May 25, 2000 (65 FR 34014), and remain in effect until May 25, 2005.

Summary of Request

On September 25, 2002, NMFS received a request from BPXA for a renewal of an LOA issued on September 28, 2000 (65 FR 58265) and reissued on December 14, 2001 (66 FR 65923, December 21, 2001), for the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production operations at Northstar, under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA. This request contained information in compliance with 50 CFR 216.209, which updated information provided in BPXA's original application for takings incidental to construction and operations at Northstar. The current LOA for the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production at the Northstar facility will expire on November 30, 2002.

Impacts on marine mammals may occur through noise from barge, helicopter traffic, drilling, and other noise sources on the platform. Impacts

may also result if there is an oil spill resulting from production. While noise impacts on marine mammals will be low (this structure will make less noise than standard jack-up rigs, the concrete island drilling structure, or seismic activity), bowhead whales will likely hear the noise at distances up to 10 km (6.2 mi) from the island. In addition, there may be some harassment, injury, or mortality of ringed seals during ice road construction. Noise impacts may result in the harassment of approximately 215 bowheads, 5 gray whales and 15 beluga whales. Year-round operations at Northstar may result in the harassment of up to approximately 95 ringed seals and 1 bearded seal being harassed and the incidental mortality of up to 5 ringed seal pups.

As oil spills are highly unlikely, impacts on marine mammals from an oil spill are also unlikely to take place. However, in order to mitigate the potential for impacts on bowheads and the subsistence use of bowheads, BPXA has confirmed to NMFS that it will not drill into oil-bearing strata during periods of open water or broken ice, essentially the time period between June 13 and ending with the presence of 18 inches of continuous ice cover for one-half mile in all directions. This mitigation is due to the present lack of adequate ability to clean up after an oil spill has occurred. Additional mitigation has been proposed by BPXA to the North Slope Borough native community to ensure that, in the event that an oil spill did occur, it would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the subsistence use of the bowhead whale.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In accordance with section 6.01 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-6 (Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, May 20, 1999), NMFS has analyzed both the context and intensity of this action and determined, based on a programmatic NEPA assessment conducted on the impact of NMFS' rulemaking for the issuance of IHAs (61 FR 15884; April 10, 1996); the Corps of Engineers' 1998 Final Environmental Impact Statement for Northstar construction and oil production; and the contents, results, and analyses of BP's marine mammal monitoring program from 1999 through October, 2002, will not individually or cumulatively result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment as defined in

40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, based on this analysis, the action of issuing an LOA governing the incidental taking of marine mammals, by harassment for this activity meets the definition of a "Categorical Exclusion" as defined under NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 and is exempted from further environmental review.

Endangered Species Act

On March 4, 1999, NMFS concluded consultation, under the Endangered Species Act, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on permitting the construction and operation at the Northstar site. The finding of that consultation was that construction and operation at Northstar is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the bowhead whale stock. Because issuance of a small take authorization to BPXA under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA is a Federal action, NMFS has completed section 7 consultation on this action. The finding of this consultation was that the issuance of the subject small take authorization was unlikely to adversely affect the bowhead whale.

Determinations

In NMFS' final 5-year rule notice published on May 25, 2000 (63 FR 32207), and in the notice published on December 21, 2001 (66 FR 65923) regarding the LOA for oil production at Northstar and in internal supporting documentation, NMFS has determined, that the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production operations at the Northstar offshore oil and gas facility in state and federal waters, will not result in more than the incidental taking of small numbers of bowhead whales, beluga whales, ringed seals, and, possibly California gray whales, bearded seals and spotted seals. NMFS noted in addition, that the taking will have only a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks, would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these species or stocks for taking for subsistence uses, and would result in the least practicable impact on these stocks. As the results from the monitoring program carried out since 1999 have not indicated that the determinations made in 2000 and 2001 were in error, nor that estimated levels of incidental harassment have been exceeded, and as the activity that was reviewed in 2001 (oil production activities) has not changed, these determinations remain valid.

Dated: December 9, 2002.

Laurie K. Allen,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-31982 Filed 12-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121102A]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) from January 7 through 10, 2003.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- January 7, 2003, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- January 8, 2003, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- January 9, 2003, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- January 10, 2003, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street, NW, Washington D.C. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, Office of Constituent Services, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurel Bryant, Designated Federal Official; telephone: (301) 713-9501 ext. 171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1982), notice is hereby given of meetings of MAFAC. MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 17, 1972, to advise the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. This Committee ensures that the living marine resource policies and programs of the Nation are adequate to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, and of environmental, state, consumer, academic, tribal, and other national interests.

Matters to Be Considered

January 7, 2003

Orientation and program briefings for new MAFAC members.

January 8, 2003

Overview of NOAA Fisheries, including progress toward regulatory streamlining efforts, agency's assessment of its progress in implementing the Sustainable Fishing Act, and progress toward a national bycatch strategy. The key challenges and priorities for 2003 will be discussed along with MAFAC's role in contributing to those priorities. Topics for discussion include reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and various management components such as individual fishing quotas, overcapacity and the national standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In addition, MAFAC will receive a report on a draft technical guidance document for implementing ecosystem management approaches for marine resource management.

January 9, 2003

Committee will review it's operation, policy and structure and address any operational and organizational modifications as well as conduct subcommittee work on identified issues.

January 10, 2003

Committee will make final reports to NOAA Fisheries and adjourn.

Time will be set aside for public comment on agenda items.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to MAFAC (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: December 16, 2002.

John Oliver,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 02-31981 Filed 12-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120302A]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing and Scientific Research Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of 2003 Exempted Fishing and Scientific Research Permits; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS). These EFPs/SRPs would authorize collections of a limited number of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection and public display. Generally, the EFPs will be valid through December 31, 2003. NMFS also announces the intent to issue EFPs upon receiving applications from U.S. fishermen whose vessels fish for Atlantic HMS while operating under contract within the Exclusive Economic Zone of other nations. These EFPs would allow a U.S. fishing vessel to fish so as to be consistent with another country's regulations without violating U.S. regulations, and would ensure that such vessels report to the proper authorities.

DATES: Written comments on these collection, research and fishing activities will be considered by NMFS in issuing such EFPs/SRPs if received on or before January 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The EFP/SRP applications and copies of the regulations under which EFPs/SRPs are issued may also be requested from this address. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301)713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Stirratt or Sari Kiraly, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EFPs and SRPs are requested and issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS.

Issuance of EFPs and/or SRPs may be necessary because possession of certain shark species is prohibited, possession of billfishes on board commercial fishing vessels is prohibited, and because the commercial fisheries for bluefin tuna, swordfish and large coastal sharks may be closed for extended