

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 092004F]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat Advisory Panel in October, 2004. Recommendations from the panel will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 13, 2004 from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01932; telephone: (978) 777-2500.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Panel will review the gear descriptions developed for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and begin preparation of documentation on the subtypes of gear used in the Northeast region and include the following information: (1) Name of gear type or sub-type; (2) principle species captured; (3) geographic area, bottom types, depths where it's used; (4) description of how these gears are used including information regarding fishing intensity, frequency and seasonality of specific gear use; (5) distinguishing features of gear (e.g., range of footrope/headrope lengths, bottom gear attached to footrope, mesh size, type/size of doors); and (6) anything else that would affect how much of the gear contacts the bottom or how "hard" net fishes the bottom.

The Advisory Panel will also consider whether currently proposed or additional areas to those identified in the original "Dedicated Habitat Research Area" (DHRA) document should be considered as the Council develops its Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus amendment and will develop

advice on the attributes of any suggested DHRA alternatives. The panel may consider other additional topics at the discretion of the Chair.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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 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 dates.

Dated: September 21, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E4-2362 Filed 9-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 092104A]

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), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a

final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow one vessel to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP may allow for exemptions from the NE multispecies rolling closure areas and the days-at-sea (DAS) effort control program for up to 16 DAS for testing a bycatch reducing gear modification. 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 on this document must be received on or before October 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is DA564@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: "Comments on UNH Double Grid Gear Modification EFP Proposal." Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on UNH Double Grid Gear Modification EFP Proposal." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hooker, Fishery Policy Analyst, phone 978-281-9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bart McNeel, in cooperation with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNH), submitted an application for an EFP on May 21, 2004. This is a continuation of a project that was begun in 2002. This EFP would authorize one commercial vessel to conduct sea trials using a double grid excluder device. The final phase of this 2-year study would be conducted by UNH with the goal of designing a trawl gear through modifications to the grid bar orientations to release sub-legal sized cod and flatfish species incidental to the catch, while retaining fish of marketable size. To accomplish this, the commercial fishing vessel would conduct trawl net gear trials using the double grid excluder device within the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank area from 40°30' N. latitude to the coast of Maine, excluding the Western and

Eastern U.S./Canada Areas and all groundfish year-round closure areas.

The fishing portion of this study began in March 2002. The applicant requests an exemption from 16 DAS to complete the project during the 2004 fishing year. Based upon the catch rates from eight days of fishing in the 2003 fishing year, the following catch is estimated for the 2004 fishing year: Cod 7,200 lb (3,266 kg); American plaice 992 lb (450 kg); witch flounder 688 lb (312 kg); haddock 1,376 lb (624 kg); monkfish 2,317 lb (1,051 kg); pollock 144 lb (65 kg); and white hake 400 lb (181 kg). Estimated discards are estimated to be: Cod 5,008 lb (2,272 kg); dogfish 9,008 lb (4,085 kg); American plaice 112 lb (51 kg); witch flounder 32 lb (15 kg); herring 2,608 lb (1,183 kg); lobster 32 lb (15 kg); monkfish 48 lb (22 kg); whiting 800 lb (363 kg); skate 64 lb (29 kg); and white hake 2,528 lb (1,147 kg). All undersized fish would be returned to the sea as quickly as possible. Legal-sized fish that would otherwise have to be discarded would be allowed to be retained and sold within the applicable GOM possession limits. The participating vessel would be required to report all landings in its Vessel Trip Report.

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

Dated: September 21, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E4-2363 Filed 9-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Establishment of Import Limits for Certain Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Belarus

September 20, 2004.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection establishing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2005.

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 website 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 Bilateral Textile Memorandum of Understanding dated January 10, 2003 between the Governments of the United States and Belarus, as amended on May 13, 2004, establishes limits for the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

These limits may be revised if Belarus becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to Belarus.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to establish the limits.

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). Information regarding the availability of the 2005 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

September 20, 2004.

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

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2005, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Belarus and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2005 and extending through December 31, 2005:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
435	68,666 dozen.
448	35,374 dozen.

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
622	10,224,760 square meters of which not more than 1,685,400 square meters shall be in Category 622-L ¹ and not more than 648,006 square meters shall be in Category 622-N ² .

¹Category 622-L: only HTS numbers 7019.51.9010, 7019.52.4010, 7019.52.9010, 7019.59.4010, and 7019.59.9010.

²Category 622-N: only HTS numbers 7019.52.40.21, 7019.52.90.21, 7019.59.40.21, 7019.59.90.21.

Products in the above categories exported during 2004 shall be charged to the applicable category limits and sublimits for that year (see directives dated December 12, 2003 and March 1, 2004 and) to the extent of any unfilled balance. In the event the limits and sublimits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such products shall be charged to the limits and sublimits set forth in this directive.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the current bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and Belarus.

These limits may be revised if Belarus becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to Belarus.

In carrying out the above directions, the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection should construe entry into the United States for consumption to include entry for consumption into the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.
[FR Doc. E4-2364 Filed 9-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

September 20, 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: September 24, 2004.