

behavioral observations of sea lions on rookeries, haul outs and tagged sea lions at sea; and mortality incidental to research. The objectives of the study are to understand how diets vary temporally and spatially, and how this variation is related to population trends and abundance, nutritional stress, and commercial fishing activities.

File No. 1034-1773: Dr. Horning has requested a five-year permit to surgically implant dual "Life History Transmitters" into up to 80 free-ranging Steller sea lions ages nine months to four years, using ship-based surgical operations under gas anesthesia. The objectives of the proposed study are (1) to determine age specific survival rates for juvenile Steller sea lions, (2) to determine the time of year for the greatest mortality of juvenile Steller sea lions, (3) to determine approximate locations of mortalities, (4) to analyze ontogenetic and seasonal changes in the dive behavior and dive effort from deceased animals and relate these to environmental conditions and prey abundance as assessed by other groups, (5) to test the effects of body condition and health indicators on survival of juveniles, and (6) to assess the predictive power of parameters measurable in juvenile Steller sea lions for future survival. All animals captured would also be subject to comprehensive "body condition and health assessments" and would be hot-branded for future identification. Dr. Horning has also requested a number of incidental mortalities.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed permits and permit amendments. The draft EA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the applications. The scope of the draft EA includes the following six environmental impact issues: (1) Is NMFS able to coordinate research under the various permits and ensure that activities are not unnecessarily duplicative and do not result in significant adverse impacts on threatened and endangered Steller sea lions? (2) Is NMFS able to adequately monitor the effects of the overall research program on Steller sea lions? (3) Can NMFS coordinate and synthesize the data generated by this research program in a way that is useful or meaningful for conservation of Steller sea lions? (4) Are all of the research proposals consistent with permit issuance criteria under the MMPA and

ESA, such as whether all of the projects are likely to contribute to conservation of Steller sea lions? (5) Does the amount of incidental mortality to be authorized represent a significant adverse impact on Steller sea lions? (6) What are the potential effects of various research activities, either individually or cumulatively, on Steller sea lions as a species? Chapter 4 of the draft EA outlines NMFS analytical approach to evaluating alternatives.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 29, 2005.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

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## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for April 21, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 401 F Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20001-2728. Items of discussion affecting the appearance of Washington, DC, may include buildings, parks and memorials.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our Web site: <http://www.cfa.gov>. Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address or call 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated in Washington, DC, March 25, 2005.

**Thomas Luebke,**

*Secretary.*

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Request for Public Comments on Commercial Availability Petition under the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

March 31, 2005.

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

**ACTION:** Request for public comments concerning a request for a determination that certain 100 percent cotton, carbon-merized, four-thread twill weave fabric cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the CBTPA.

**SUMMARY:** On March 29, 2005 the Chairman of CITA received a petition from Sandler, Travis, & Rosenberg, P.A., on behalf of their client, Dillard's Inc., alleging that certain 100 percent cotton, carbon-merized, four-thread twill weave fabric, of the specifications detailed below, classified in subheading 5208.33.00.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The petition requests that woven cotton shirts and blouses of such fabrics assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries be eligible for preferential treatment under the CBTPA. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether such fabrics can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be submitted by April 19, 2005, to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(II) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as added by Section 211(a) of the CBTPA; Section 6 of Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

### BACKGROUND:

The CBTPA provides for quota- and duty-free treatment for qualifying textile and apparel products. Such treatment is