

International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 7025, Washington, DC 20230; via fax at (202) 482-4272; or, via e-mail at [promotion@tinnet.ita.doc.gov](mailto:promotion@tinnet.ita.doc.gov). Minutes will be available within 30 days of this meeting.

The Board is mandated by Pub. L. 108-7, Section 210. As directed by Pub. L. 108-7, Section 210, the Secretary of Commerce shall design, develop and implement an international advertising and promotional campaign, which seeks to encourage individuals to travel to the United States. The Board shall recommend to the Secretary of Commerce the appropriate coordinated activities for funding. This campaign shall be a multi-media effort that seeks to leverage the Federal dollars with contributions of cash and in-kind products unique to the travel and tourism industry. The Board was chartered in August of 2003 and will expire on August 8, 2005.

Ellis Island is accessible by Circle Line-Statue of Liberty Ferry, Inc. ferries only. There is a fee to take Circle Line-Statue of Liberty Ferry boats. Ferries depart from Battery Park in New York City and Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey. Persons attending this meeting should allow ample time to clear security. All passengers will be screened before they board the Circle Line-Statue of Liberty Ferry boats, and there will be restrictions on backpacks and luggage. Visitors are advised to arrive early, leaving up to one hour for processing through the security system.

For further information phone Cary Justice, Office of Service Industries, Tourism and Finance (SITF), International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482-2560. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to SITF.

Dated: August 15, 2003.

**Cary G. Justice,**

*Special Assistant, Office of Service Industries, Tourism, and Finance.*

[FR Doc. 03-21303 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### North American Free Trade Agreement, Article 1904; NAFTA Panel Reviews; Notice of Panel Decision

**AGENCY:** NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade

Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of panel decision.

**SUMMARY:** On August 13, 2003, the binational panel issued its decision in the review of the final results of the countervailing duty determination made by the International Trade Administration (ITA) respecting Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada (Secretariat File No. USA-CDA-2002-1904-03) affirmed in part and remanded in part the determination of the Department of Commerce. The Department will return the determination on remand no later than October 14, 2003. A copy of the complete panel decision is available from the NAFTA Secretariat.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from the other country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

*Panel Decision:* On August 13, 2003, the Binational Panel affirmed in part and remanded in part the Department of Commerce's final antidumping duty determination. The following issues were remanded to the Department:

1. To determine the adequacy of remuneration, and therefore benefit, based upon cross-border benchmarks. To make a new determination as to whether there is a benefit using a standard other than cross-border benchmarks.

2. To reconsider the matter of excluding reprocessed Maritimes-origin lumber in light of the Panel's opinion.

3. The Panel vacates the Department's rejection of an exclusion for used

railroad ties and remands for reconsideration in light of the Panel's opinion.

4. Commerce failed to properly apply its own "input source" criterion by failing to grant applications submitted by all companies that relied on the source of their lumber as a basis for exclusion. The Panel remanded this issue to Commerce for consideration of those additional companies whose applications were based on input source.

5. The Panel remands the issue of the inclusion of residual products in the denominator of the subsidy calculation to the Department for further consideration.

Commerce was directed to issue its determination on remand within 60 days of the issuance of the decision or not later than October 14, 2003.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

**Caratina L. Alston,**

*United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.*

[FR Doc. 03-21250 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081203C]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of two Letters of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two 1-year Letters of Authorization (LOAs) to take marine mammals by harassment incidental to the U.S. Navy's operation of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) sonar operations to the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy, 2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C., and persons operating under his authority.

**DATES:** Effective from August 16, 2003, through August 15, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the June 27, 2003, application is available by writing to Chris E. Yates, Acting Chief, Marine

Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by telephoning the contact listed here.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kimberly Skrupky, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322, ext 163.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon 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 and regulations are issued.

Permission may be granted for periods of 5 years or less if NMFS finds that the taking will have no more than a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking.

Regulations governing the taking of marine mammals incidental to the U.S. Navy's operation of SURTASS LFA sonar were published on July 16, 2002 (67 FR 46712), and remain in effect until August 15, 2007. For detailed information on this action, please refer to that document. These regulations include mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements for the incidental taking of marine mammals by the SURTASS LFA sonar system.

**Summary of Request**

On June 27, 2003, NMFS received an application from the U.S. Navy for two LOAs, each LOA covering one ship, under the regulations issued on July 16, 2002 (67 FR 46712). The Navy requested that the LOAs become effective on August 16, 2003. This application updated the information contained in the original application for an LOA dated August 12, 1999, and the revised application submitted on April 6, 2000, for takings of marine mammals by harassment incidental to deploying the

SURTASS LFA sonar system for training, testing and routine military operations. The June 27, 2003, application requested authorization to take, by harassment, small numbers of marine mammals incidental to operation of the SURTASS LFA sonar system using the Research Vessel *Cory Chouest* and the *USNS Impeccable*, for a period not to exceed 1 year. The application's take estimates are based on 12 nominal 9-day active sonar missions (or equivalent shorter missions) among both vessels, regardless of which vessel is performing a specific mission, not to exceed a total of 432 hours of transmission time combined for both vessels.

The specified geographic regions identified in the application are the following oceanographic provinces described in Longhurst (1998) and identified in 50 CFR 216.180(a): the Archipelagic Deep Basins Province, the North Pacific Tropical Gyre (West) Province, and the North Pacific Tropical Gyre (East) Province, and the Western Pacific Warm Pool Province, all within the Pacific Trade Wind Biome; the Kuroshio Current Province, within the Pacific Westerly Winds Biome; the North Pacific Epicontinental Sea Province, within the Pacific Polar Biome; and the China Sea Coastal Province, within the North Pacific Coastal Biome. The Navy's operating areas, as identified in the application, are portions of the provinces but do not encompass the entire area of the provinces. Due to critical naval warfare requirements, the U.S. Navy has identified the necessity for both SURTASS LFA sonar vessels to be stationed in the North Pacific Ocean during fiscal year 2004.

**Authority:** Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS issued two LOAs to the U.S. Navy on August 14, 2003 authorizing the taking, by harassment only, of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to operating the SURTASS LFA sonar system for training, testing and routine military operations. Issuance of these LOAs is based on findings, described in the preamble to the final rule (67 FR 46712, July 16, 2002), that the activities described in the two LOAs will result in the taking of no more than small numbers of marine mammals, and the total taking will have no more than a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses. A copy of the LOAs and other cited documents are available at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/)

*PR2/Acoustics\_Program/Sound.htm#Sonar*

These LOAs remain valid until August 15, 2004, provided the Navy is in conformance with the conditions of the regulations and the LOAs, and the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in 50 CFR 216.184-216.186 (67 FR 46712, July 16, 2002) and in the LOAs are undertaken.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

**Laurie K. Allen,**

*Acting Office Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 080703C]

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

**ACTION:** Applications for scientific research permit modifications (1369, 1335).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS received applications to modify existing scientific research permits related to threatened Pacific salmon and steelhead. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts.

**DATES:** Comments or requests for a public hearing on the permit modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (*see ADDRESSES*) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific daylight savings time on September 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the modification requests should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5435. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph: 503-231-2005, Fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: [Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov](mailto:Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov)). Permit applications are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**