

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting will be to review management alternatives being considered by the Council in Amendment 15 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Reef Fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Amendment 15 includes a license limitation system for red snapper with initial trip-limit allocations. In order to help alleviate the effects of derby fishing, the amendment also considers opening the commercial season for red snapper for only the first 15 days of each month until the quota is reached and the fishery is closed. In addition to proposed measures for red snapper, Amendment 15 considers alternatives regarding the harvest of reef fish in traps other than permitted reef-fish traps and the potential removal of certain species of sea basses, grunts, and porgies from the management unit.

The Law Enforcement AP will also review the current regulations on bag limits for reef fish species and any potential enforcement problems. Finally, the AP will review the schedule for implementation of Amendment 9 to the Shrimp FMP that requires virtually all shrimp trawls used in Federal waters west of Cape San Blas, FL to be equipped with certified bycatch reduction devices.

At 1:00 p.m., members of the Law Enforcement AP will attend a meeting of the Ad Hoc Interjurisdictional Legal Panel of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at the same location. This meeting will focus on:

(1) Consistency of state fishery regulations with Magnuson-Stevens Act FMP guidelines;

(2) Consistency among Gulf States in licensing and vessel registration;

(3) Development of guidelines for effective state prosecution of Federal fishery violations; and

(4) Future of state jurisdictional authority within and without states' waters. If necessary, the Law Enforcement AP will reconvene following the Ad Hoc Legal Panel meeting to consider any recommendations that arise from these discussions. All business is expected to be concluded by 5:00 p.m.

The AP comprises chief enforcement agents for the state and Federal fishery agencies in the Gulf area who advise the Council on law enforcement issues.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by March 12, 1997.

Dated: February 26, 1997.  
Bruce Morehead,  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-5336 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

#### [I.D. 022597C]

#### **Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of reports; notice of public meetings and hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has begun its annual preseason management process for the 1997 ocean salmon fisheries. This notice announces the availability of Council documents and the dates and locations of Council meetings and public hearings. These actions comprise the complete schedule of events followed by the Council for determining the annual proposed and final modifications to ocean salmon management measures.

**DATES:** Written comments on the season options must be received by April 2, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201; telephone: (503) 326-6352. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations of public meetings and hearings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Coon, Salmon Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

February 24, 1997: Council reports which summarize the 1996 salmon season and project the expected salmon stock abundance for 1997 are available to the public from the Council office.

March 3-7, 1997: Council and advisory entities meet at the Red Lion Hotel Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR, to adopt 1997 regulatory options for public review.

March 18, 1997: Report with proposed management options and public hearing

schedule is mailed to the public. (The report includes options, rationale, and summary of biological and economic impacts.)

March 31 - April 1, 1997: Public hearings are held to receive comments on the proposed ocean salmon fishery regulatory options adopted by the Council. All public hearings begin at 7 p.m. on the dates and at the locations specified below.

March 31, 1997: Westport High School Commons, 2850 S. Montesano Street, Westport, WA.

March 31, 1997: Pony Village Motor Inn, Ballroom, Virginia Avenue, North Bend, OR.

April 1, 1997: Red Lion Inn, Chinook Room, 400 Industry, Astoria, OR.

April 1, 1997: Red Lion Inn, Evergreen Room, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA.

April 7-11, 1997: Council and its advisory entities meet at the Clarion Hotel, Millbrae, CA, to adopt final 1997 regulatory measures.

April 17, 1997: Newsletter describing adopted ocean salmon fishing management measures is mailed to the public.

April 11-22, 1997: Salmon Technical Team completes "Preseason Report III Analysis of Council Adopted Regulatory Measures for 1996 Ocean Salmon Fisheries."

May 1, 1997: Federal regulations implemented and preseason report III available for distribution to the public.

#### Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 26, 1997.  
Bruce Morehead,  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-5334 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

#### [I.D. 022797B]

#### **Marine Mammals; Permit No. 968 (P557D)**

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

**ACTION:** Scientific research permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific

research permit no. 968 submitted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate Project, Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California 92093-02252, has been granted.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

This amendment incorporates into Permit No. 968 refinements to the research protocol, as provided for by Special Condition A.5. of Permit 968.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 27, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-5382 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### New Export Visa Stamp for Certain Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Japan

February 27, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs providing for the use of a new export visa stamp.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

Beginning on April 1, 1997, the "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and the "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association" will merge to form the "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association."

Effective on April 1, 1997, regardless of the date of export, textile products from Japan shall be accompanied by a visa with the new stamped marking "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association," instead of the ones from the former "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association." There will be a grace period from April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, during which the old or the new visas will be acceptable. The new visa stamp must accompany goods exported on and after May 1, 1997.

Export visa stamps from Japan with the following markings remain unchanged and will continue to be accepted: "Japan Woollen & Linen Textiles Exporters Association," "The Japan Textile Products Exporters' Association" and "Japan General Merchandise Exporters' Association." The exempt certification stamp will continue unchanged with the "The

Japan Textile Products Exporters' Association" marking.

See 52 FR 4639, published on February 13, 1987.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 27, 1997.

Commissioner of Customs,

Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on February 6, 1987, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directed you to prohibit entry of certain textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Japan for which the Government of Japan has not issued an appropriate visa or exempt certification.

Beginning on April 1, 1997, the "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and the "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association" will merge to form the "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association."

Effective on April 1, 1997, regardless of the date of export, textile products from Japan shall be accompanied by a visa with the new stamped marking "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association," instead of the ones from the former "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association." There will be a grace period for goods exported from April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, during which the old or the new visas will be acceptable. The new visa stamp must accompany goods exported on and after May 1, 1997.

A facsimile of the new visa stamp is enclosed with this letter. The remaining visa and certification stamps remain unchanged.

Shipments entered or withdrawn from warehouse according to this directive which are not accompanied by an appropriate export visa shall be denied entry and a new visa must be obtained.

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

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F