

	Period to be deferred
Deferral Initiative of Administrative Review	
Germany: Large Newspaper Printing Presses and Components, Thereof, Whether Assembled or Unassembled, A-428-821 Koenig & Bauer-Albert AG	9/1/97-8/31/98
Germany: Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate, A-428-816 Novosteel SA	8/1/97-7/31/98
Germany: Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate, C-428-817 Novosteel SA	1/1/97-12/31/97

During any administrative review covering all or part of a period falling between the first and second or third and fourth anniversary of the publication of an antidumping duty order under § 351.211 or a determination under § 351.218(d) (sunset review), the Secretary, if requested by a domestic interested party within 30 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the review, will determine whether antidumping duties have been absorbed by an exporter or producer subject to the review if the subject merchandise is sold in the United States through an importer which is affiliated with such exporter or producer. The request must include the name(s) of the exporter or producer for which the inquiry is requested.

For transition orders defined in section 751(c)(6) of the Act, the Secretary will apply paragraph (j)(1) of this section to any administrative review initiated in 1996 or 1998 (19 CFR 351.213(j)(1-2)).

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305.

These initiations and this notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)) and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i).

Dated: October 26, 1998.

Holly A. Kuga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-29047 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-533-816]

Notice of Postponement of Time Limit for Countervailing Duty Investigation: Elastic Rubber Tape From India

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vincent Kane or Sally Hastings, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3099, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2815 or 482-3464, respectively.

Postponement

On September 8, 1998, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated a countervailing duty investigation of elastic rubber tape from India. On October 16, 1998, in accordance with section 351.205(e) of the Department's regulations (62 FR 27295, May 19, 1997), the petitioners made a timely request that the Department postpone its preliminary determination. As we find no compelling reasons to deny the petitioners' request, we are postponing the preliminary determination in this investigation to no later than November 30, 1998, pursuant to section 703(c)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

This notice is published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Laurie Parkhill,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-29048 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112197A]

Comprehensive Research and Monitoring Plan for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of final plan.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of a plan for research and monitoring to support the conservation

and management of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) as required by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). NMFS has prepared the "Comprehensive Research and Monitoring Program for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species" (Plan) based on extensive consultation with relevant Federal and state agencies, scientific and technical experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, and other interested persons, public and private. Members of the public were provided with an opportunity to submit comments on the draft plan, and these comments were considered in developing the final plan.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Plan should be sent to Dr. Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Husted, telephone (301) 713-2347; FAX (301) 713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS currently undertakes a broad range of actions to address research and monitoring priorities, including rulemaking, scientific activities within the agency, and external partnerships that extend research capabilities. The agency has developed its existing research and monitoring program for HMS through a process of consultative reviews and public meetings with relevant Federal and state agencies, scientific and technical experts, commercial and recreational fishermen, and other interested persons, public and private. NMFS will continue to follow this same public process, which has proven to be an effective means of consulting all interested parties.

The final plan is based on the existing research and monitoring program at NMFS as well as on suggestions for future initiatives based on domestic and international priorities. It has been prepared pursuant to section 971i(b) of ATCA, which directs the Secretary of Commerce to develop and implement a comprehensive research and monitoring program to support the conservation

and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other HMS. Section 971i(b) requires that the comprehensive research and monitoring program for HMS shall provide for, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Statistically designed cooperative tagging studies;
2. Genetic and biochemical stock analyses;
3. Population censuses carried out through aerial surveys of fishing grounds and known migration areas;
4. Adequate observer coverage and port sampling of commercial and recreational fishing activity;
5. Collection of comparable real-time data on commercial and recreational catches and landings through the use of permits, logbooks, landings reports for charter operations and fishing tournaments, and programs to provide reliable reporting of the catch by private anglers;
6. Studies of the life history parameters of bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species;
7. Integration of data from all sources and the preparation of data bases to support management decisions; and
8. Other research as necessary.

Comments and Responses

Research Priorities

Comment: The final plan should clearly outline research priorities, rather than provide a compendium of possibilities for future research activities. There should be a strong emphasis on submitting the results to peer reviewed journals.

Response: NMFS agrees. The final plan has been restructured to include a section on priorities. This approach should provide a better context for the description of HMS research activities that follows. NMFS will continue to submit the findings of research projects that are conducted or sponsored by the agency to a vigorous peer review process in the appropriate forum.

Funding for Research

Comment: The plan should include a section with a time line that establishes a schedule for accomplishing this research. The document should also outline how the agency anticipates funding the research plan.

Response: These are not required elements of the plan, pursuant to ATCA section 971i(b). NMFS is unable to predict future funding for these projects since the appropriation process is revisited annually by Congress and many HMS research initiatives are dependent upon international cooperation and funding. Therefore,

funding levels and future dates of completion for the projects outlined in this plan have not been identified.

Request for Proposals

Comment: NMFS should initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) as a means of publicizing and undertaking the research in this comprehensive plan. The RFP should indicate the amount of funding available for these projects.

Response: NMFS has been unable to issue an RFP due to insufficient discretionary funding. This year's funding is largely dedicated to previous commitments to multi-year projects and implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Data Collection in Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

Comment: NMFS should strengthen its data collection methodology to ensure that comparable data are collected for commercial and recreational fisheries, as required by ATCA.

Response: NMFS is aware that ATCA requires the collection of comparable real-time data on commercial and recreational catches and landings through the use of permits, logbooks, landings reports for charter operations and fishing tournaments, and programs to provide reliable reporting of catch by private anglers. Existing regulations, as well as the draft Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP) and the draft Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Billfishes (Billfish FMP), contain specific proposed management measures to address this legal requirement. NMFS is committed to strengthening and improving the collection of data in all HMS fisheries as an integral part of a comprehensive program for research and monitoring.

Comment: The Plan should include a more thorough discussion of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey and the Large Pelagic Survey that explains the parameters of these surveys, including sample size and calibration.

Response: NMFS does not consider this level of detail to be an appropriate part of the Plan. The draft HMS FMP provides more details relative to these surveys of the recreational HMS fisheries.

Studies of Life Histories

Comment: The draft plan does not contain enough detail on how NMFS intends to collect information on Essential Fish Habitat, pursuant to requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Response: The draft HMS FMP and the draft Amendment to the Billfish FMP each contain a substantial discussion of information needs relative to Essential Fish Habitat for species covered by the Plan. Development of these draft documents has included extensive involvement from the Advisory Panels and the public. Therefore, while this information is indeed relevant to the life histories of HMS, a complete discussion of Essential Fish Habitat data needs is not repeated in the ATCA plan.

Socioeconomic Studies

Comment: NMFS should study the socioeconomic consequences of proposed management measures for HMS fisheries, including limited access.

Response: A number of socioeconomic research projects relative to HMS were conducted in 1997 and 1998 with funding from NMFS, as mentioned in the Plan. Numerous social and economic analyses have also been conducted in conjunction with the preparation of the draft HMS FMP and the draft Amendment to the Billfish FMP. NMFS agrees that socioeconomic studies are an essential part of a comprehensive research program for HMS.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: October 22, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-29020 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102198A]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the Washington State Department of Corrections (WDOC) for authorization to take small numbers of harbor seals by harassment incidental to the nonexplosive demolition of the Still Harbor Dock Facility on McNeil Island