

Porpoise Bycatch Estimates. Copies of the information may also be requested from Richard Merrick, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543; or Doug Beach, Northeast Regional Office (F/NER3), One Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Wieting, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at (301) 713-2322, ext. 157; Richard Merrick, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, (508) 495-2291; or Doug Beach, Northeast Region, (978) 281-9254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS implemented a plan in December of 1998 to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch in the Northeast sink gillnet fishery to below the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level for that stock. The Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan includes a combination of management measures including fishery closures and gear modifications. The Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan aims to reduce New England harbor porpoise takes through two types of gillnet fishery closures: (1) Closures to all vessels except those using acoustic deterrent devices (or "pingers") and (2) In a limited number of cases, complete closures to all sink gillnet gear.

NMFS is hereby making available harbor porpoise incidental take levels for 1998 and the months of January through April of 1999, as estimated by NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

For 1998, the total estimated bycatch of harbor porpoise was 778 animals. For January through April of 1999, total estimated bycatch of harbor porpoise was 157 animals (104 in the Gulf of Maine and 53 in the Mid-Atlantic). NMFS considers the numbers to be the best estimates of harbor porpoise mortality in gillnet fisheries in the Gulf of Maine and the Mid-Atlantic during the time frames specified.

NMFS will make information publicly available on harbor porpoise incidental take on a calendar-year quarterly basis through the end of the year 2001. Notification of the information availability will be published in the **Federal Register** on an annual basis.

This information along with other material provided by NMFS staff will be reviewed by the Gulf of Maine Harbor Porpoise Team to evaluate what further action may be necessary for the coming year.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-22467 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082399C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 848-1335

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Honolulu Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396, has requested an amendment to scientific research and enhancement Permit No. 848-1335.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001); and

Protected Resources Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700 (808/973-2937).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that

comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 848-1335, issued on July 10, 1997 (62 FR 32586) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 848-1335 authorizes the permit holder to: to conduct population assessment, disease assessment, recovery actions, and pelagic ecology studies of Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) at all locations within the Hawaiian Archipelago and at Johnston Atoll, through May 31, 2002. Research methods include: observation and monitoring; capture; physical and chemical restraint; flipper tagging and retagging; instrumentation; bleach marking; measuring and weighing; blood and tissue sampling; swabbing; biopsy sampling (blubber); lavage; capture for the purpose of rehabilitation and release to the wild; experimental medical treatment; and relocation or removal of up to 10 adult male Hawaiian monk seals from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, in the event that such seals are known to cause mortality to nursing or weaned pups.

The Permittee is now requesting to amend Activity IV, Task 7 of the permit to increase the number of animals authorized to be taken from 30 to 100 seals annually for the duration of the permit. In addition, authorization is requested to: (1) allow retrieval of time-depth recorders (TDRs) from Hawaiian monk seals; (2) provide additional take by instrumentation (including sonic tags) to support continued research into the foraging ecology of Hawaiian monk seals; and (3) allow an additional procedure, isotopic water dilution, to estimate the body composition as an indication of foraging success and condition of study subjects. Activity IV, Task 7 currently authorizes seals to be captured, sedated, blood sampled, and tagged with various instrument packages up to two times each (once to apply the instrument package and once to remove it).

For this amendment, some of these seals may be taken up to three times: Once to apply a VHF transmitter; a second time to apply a TDR or satellite-linked time-depth recorder (SLTDR), and a third time to retrieve the TDR/SLTDR. The increased takes are necessary to: (1) remove time-depth recorders (TDRs) from weaned Hawaiian monk seal pups, and (2) continue research on Hawaiian monk seal foraging ecology in future years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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

Dated: August 24, 1999.

Ann Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 99-22466 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products and Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Apparel Produced or Manufactured in the Philippines

August 12, 1999.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 19, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482094212. 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) 927095850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustras.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482093715.

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 current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for special shift.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 63 FR 67050, published on December 4, 1998.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

August 12, 1999.

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 November 30, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man09made fiber textiles and textile products and silk blend and other vegetable fiber apparel, produced or manufactured in the Philippines and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on August 19, 1999, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ^{1A}
Levels in Group I	
352/652	2,212,828 dozen.
36909S1A ²	9,917 kilograms.
611	5,201,529 square meters.
633	56,384 dozen.
636	1,910,481 dozen.
643	606,355 numbers.
645/646	736,831 dozen.
649	5,714,665 dozen.
65909H1A ³	1,659,613 kilograms.
847	330,211 dozen.

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ^{1A}
Group II	
20009227,	239,200,611 square meters equivalent.
30009326, 332,	
35909O1A ⁴ , 360,	
362, 363,	
36909O1A ⁵ ,	
40009414,	
43409438, 440,	
442, 444, 448,	
459pt.1A ⁶ , 464,	
469pt.1A ⁷ ,	
60009607,	
61309629, 644,	
65909O1A ⁸ , 666,	
66909O1A ⁹ ,	
67009O1A ¹⁰ , 831,	
83309838,	
84009846,	
85009858 and	
859pt.1A ¹¹ , as a group.	

^{1A}The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1998.

²1A Category 36909S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

³1A Category 65909H: only HTS numbers 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090 and 6505.90.8090.

⁴1A Category 35909O: all HTS numbers except 6103.42.2025, 6103.49.8034, 6104.62.1020, 6104.69.8010, 6114.20.0048, 6114.20.0052, 6203.42.2010, 6203.42.2090, 6204.62.2010, 6211.32.0010, 6211.32.0025, 6211.42.0010 (Category 35909C); and 6406.99.1550 (Category 359pt.).

⁵1A Category 36909O: all HTS numbers except 6307.10.2005 (Category 36909S); 5601.10.1000, 5601.21.0090, 5701.90.1020, 5701.90.2020, 5702.10.9020, 5702.39.2010, 5702.49.1020, 5702.49.1080, 5702.59.1000, 5702.99.1010, 5702.99.1090, 5705.00.2020 and 6406.10.7700 (Category 369pt.).

⁶1A Category 459pt.: all HTS numbers except 6405.20.6030, 6405.20.6060, 6405.20.6090, 6406.99.1505 and 6406.99.1560.

⁷1A Category 469pt.: all HTS numbers except 5601.29.0020, 5603.94.1010 and 6406.10.9020.

⁸1A Category 65909O: all HTS numbers except 6103.23.0055, 6103.43.2020, 6103.43.2025, 6103.49.2000, 6103.49.8038, 6104.63.1020, 6104.63.1030, 6104.69.1000, 6104.69.8014, 6114.30.3044, 6114.30.3054, 6203.43.2010, 6203.43.2090, 6203.49.1010, 6203.49.1090, 6204.63.1510, 6204.69.1010, 6210.10.9010, 6211.33.0010, 6211.33.0017, 6211.43.0010 (Category 65909C); 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090, 6505.90.8090 (Category 65909H); 6406.99.1510 and 6406.99.1540 (Category 659pt.).

⁹1A Category 66909O: all HTS numbers except 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020, 6305.39.0000 (Category 66909P); 5601.10.2000, 5601.22.0090, 5607.49.3000, 5607.50.4000 and 6406.10.9040 (Category 669pt.).

¹⁰1A Category 67009O: all HTS numbers except 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3031, 4202.92.9026 and 6307.90.9907 (Category 67009L).