

DATES: The Ad Hoc VMS Committee will meet Tuesday, October 7, 2003 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Burner, Pacific Fishery Management Council Groundfish Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the Council recommendation to expand the VMS program for West Coast groundfish fisheries to additional fishery sectors. The Council approved a pilot program for the limited entry trawl and limited entry fixed gear sectors and recommended implementation on January 1, 2004. The committee needs to consider expanding the VMS program to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of area closures in commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries. The composition of the committee was revised by the Council at the June 2003 meeting to include representatives of limited entry, recreational charter vessel, and open access fishery sectors as well as representatives of the Enforcement Consultants, National Marine Fisheries Service, and fish processors.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 9, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 03-23436 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D 081403A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1708-00

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML), National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (PI: Dr. Thomas Loughlin) has been issued a permit to take Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) for purposes of scientific research.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7235; fax (907)586-7012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Carrie Hubard (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 4, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 33477) that a request for a scientific research permit to take the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued 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), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The Permit authorizes NMML to take Northern fur seals during scientific research. Seals will be captured, tagged, sampled and incidentally harassed during annual censuses on the Pribilof Islands. All of this work is essential for: (1) monitoring the status and trends of the northern fur seal population, (2) evaluating the condition of animals from each cohort (health and strength of year-class), (3) monitoring the diet, and (4) documenting the movement patterns, foraging behavior, and essential foraging

habitat of various age and sex classes of fur seals. The information collected under this permit will be important for assessing the recovery of this depleted species and for evaluating management actions.

Dated: September 3, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-23437 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

September 10, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

ACTION: Directive to the Commissioner of Customs.

SUMMARY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) has determined that certain textile and apparel goods from Ghana shall be treated as "handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles" and qualify for preferential treatment under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Imports of eligible products from Ghana with an appropriate visa will qualify for duty-free treatment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Flaaten, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 782-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Public Law 106-200) (AGOA) provides preferential tariff treatment for imports of certain textile and apparel products of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, including handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles of a beneficiary country that are certified as such by the competent authority in the beneficiary country. In Executive Order 13191, the President authorized CITA to consult with beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries and to determine which, if any, particular textile and apparel goods shall be treated as being handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles. (66 FR 7272)

In a letter to the Commissioner of Customs dated January 18, 2001, the

United States Trade Representative directed Customs to require that importers provide an appropriate export visa from a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country to obtain preferential treatment under section 112(a) of the AGOA (66 FR 7837). The first digit of the visa number corresponds to one of nine groupings of textile and apparel products that are eligible for preferential tariff treatment. Grouping "9" is reserved for handmade, handloomed, or folklore articles.

CITA has consulted with Ghanaian authorities, and has determined that handloomed fabrics, handloomed articles (e.g., handloomed rugs, scarves, place mats, and tablecloths), handmade articles made from handloomed fabrics, and the folklore articles described in the annex to this notice, if produced in and exported from Ghana, are eligible for preferential tariff treatment under section 112(a) of the AGOA. In the letter published below, CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to allow duty-free entry of such products under U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading 9819.11.27 if accompanied by an appropriate AGOA visa in grouping "9".

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection,
Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: The Committee for the Implementation of Textiles Agreements (CITA), pursuant to Sections 112(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of Pub. L. No. 106-200) (AGOA) and Executive Order 13191 of January 17, 2001, has determined, effective on September 15, 2003, that the following articles shall be treated as "handloomed, handmade, and folklore articles" under the AGOA: (a) handloomed fabrics, handloomed articles (e.g., handloomed rugs, scarves, placemats, and tablecloths), and hand-made articles made from handloomed fabrics, if made in Ghana from fabric handloomed in Ghana; and (b) the folklore articles described in the attachment to this letter if made in Ghana. Such articles are eligible for duty-free treatment only if entered under subheading 9819.11.27 and accompanied by a properly completed visa for product grouping "9", in accordance with the provisions of the Visa Arrangement between the Government of Ghana and the Government of the United States Concerning Textile and Apparel Articles Claiming Preferential Tariff Treatment under Section 112 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. After additional consultations with Ghanaian authorities, CITA may determine that other

textile and apparel goods shall be treated as handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles.

Sincerely,

D. Michael Hutchinson,
Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.
Attachment

Annex

CITA has determined that the following textile and apparel goods shall be treated as folklore articles for purposes of the AGOA. Articles must be ornamented in characteristic Ghanaian or regional folk style. An article may not include modern features such as zippers, elastic, elasticized fabrics, or hook-and-pile fasteners (such as velcro or similar holding fabric). An article may not incorporate patterns that are not traditional or historical to Ghana, such as airplanes, buses, cowboys, or cartoon characters and may not incorporate designs referencing holidays or festivals not common to traditional Ghanaian culture, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving.

1. Kente Stole

Kente is a thin strip of handloomed fabric, usually about 4 to 6 inches wide and 3 yards long. This stole can either be composed of a single strip of such kente fabric or multiple strips of kente fabric sewn together to make a wider stole to a standard length of 6 yards for women or 12 yards for men. Designs vary from colorful to plain, intricate to simple, can be done in a patchwork style (alternating blocks), contain decorative metallic threads, and have an elaborate border. Patterns vary and are usually colorful. The handloomed kente fabric used in a stole can also be a single color, traditionally dyed with vegetable dyes.

The kente stole that consists of multiple strips of such handloomed kente strips sewn together are either hand-stitched or machine sewn.

2. Adinkra

Made of handloomed fabric, usually about 4 to 6 inches wide and 3 yards long. The cotton fabric is usually plain white or brown and woven on a traditional handloom, an adinkra is a fabric that is draped around the body. The standard length is 6 yards for women and 12 yards for men. Adinkra is usually traditionally dyed a single color with vegetable dyes.

3. Agbada

Agbadas are loose fitting garments traditionally worn by men for more formal occasions, in either 2-piece, 3-piece or 4-piece sets, consisting of some or all of the following: (a) inner tunic

gown, (b) trousers, (c) outer gown, (d) cap. This garment can be made from woven fabric of any weight and vary in color and design.

(a) Loose fitting, three-quarter length, embroidered tunic inner gown. Sleeves may or may not be present, and may vary in length. Patterns and colors vary, but there is usually intricate embroidery around the neckline. The neckline can be round or have a slit down the center front. May or may not have pockets.

(b) The trousers may be long or three-quarter length and are secured at the waist by a drawstring, are loose-fitting with extra-fullness at the thighs and may contain side seam pockets.

(c) Loose flowing, non-tailored, embroidered outer gown is full length, and may have pockets, oftentimes located mid-way down the garment under the embroidery on the neckline. The neckline can be round, v-shaped, be asymmetrically v-shaped, or have a slit down the center front.

(d) The matching cap can be cylindrical or cone-shaped, with or without tassel, fitted or floppy.

4. Batakari/Fugu

Generally from the culture in the north of Ghana, 2-piece, 3-piece or 4-piece sets consisting of some or all of the following: (a) inner smock (b) trousers, (c) outer smock (d) and cap. The batakari is made of handloomed strips of kente fabric, approximately 4 inches in width, sewn together, either by machine or hand-stitched. The handloomed strips of fabric tend to be plaid-patterned. A "batakari" is also called a "fugu" or a "smock" depending on the region in which it originates in the northern part of Ghana.

(a) Loose fitting, three-quarter length, embroidered inner smock. Sleeves may or may not be present, and may vary in length. Patterns and colors vary, but there is usually intricate embroidery around the neckline. The neckline can be round, v-shaped, or have a slit down the center front. May or may not have pockets. Tends to be pleated and flare halfway down the garment.

(b) The trousers may be long or three-quarter length and are secured at the waist by a drawstring, are loose-fitting with extra-fullness at the thighs and may have side seam pockets.

(c) Loose flowing, non-tailored, embroidered outer smock is three-quarter to full length, can have pockets, oftentimes located mid-way down the garment under the embroidery on the neckline, may be pleated and flare halfway down the garment. The neckline can be round, v-shaped, be asymmetrically v-shape, or have a slit down the center front. Tends to be

pleated and flare halfway down the garment.

(d) The matching cap can be cylindrical or cone-shaped, with or without tassel, fitted or floppy.

5. *Kaftan*

One-piece, loose-fitting, straight-seamed, long or three-quarter length garment is ornamented, such as embroidered at the neckline, traditionally worn by women. The neckline can be round, v-shaped, or have a slit down the center front. Sleeves vary in length. The garment may or may not have slits on each side (from the bottom hem upwards). Can include matching strip of fabric to be worn in hair or as a shawl. This garment can be made from woven fabric of any weight and vary in color and design. May or may not have pockets.

6. *Joromi (Men's shirt)*

Loose fitting, straight-seamed shirt. Sleeves may or may not be present and may vary in length. Patterns and colors vary, usually with intricate ornamentation, such as embroidery, around the neckline. The neckline can be round or have a slit down the center front, but does not have a collar. May or may not have pockets. May have wooden button fastenings below the neckline.

[FR Doc. 03-23454 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-U

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Initial Defensive Operations Capability at Vandenberg Air Force Base Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Initial Defensive Operations Capability (IDOC) at Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA analyzes the potential environmental consequences of establishing the capability to launch defensive ground-based interceptors (GBIs) from Vandenberg AFB, California. The Proposed Action would use and/or modify four existing missile

silos and other support facilities as part of the GMD IDOC. The GMD IDOC activities would be operational and not test in nature. Operational launches would only occur in an emergency as an initial defense against a limited long-range ballistic missile threat. Based on this analysis, the MDA has determined that the proposed activities are not expected to result in significant impacts to the environment. The EA and Draft FONSI are available at the following locations:

- Lompoc Public Library;
- Santa Barbara Public Library (Main);
- Santa Maria Public Library; and
- University of California, Santa Barbara Library Government Publications Department.

DATES: A FONSI will be issued no earlier than October 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the document or to provide comments on the EA should be addressed to: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Attn: SMDC-EN-V (Mr. David Hasley), P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801, or by phone at 1-800-823-8823.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please call Mr. Rick Lehner, MDA Director of Communications at (703) 697-8997.

Dated: September 9, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03-23340 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

AGENCY: National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-03NT15392-0 entitled "Microhole Technology Development." The Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory's (NETL) National Petroleum Technology Office (NPTO) is seeking applications for cost-shared development and demonstration projects using microhole technologies in the United States.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the "Industry Interactive

Procurement System" (IIPS) webpage located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about September 30, 2003. Applicants can obtain access to the solicitation from the address above or through DOE/NETL's website at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Keith R. Miles, MS 921-166, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran's Mill Road, PO Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940. *E-mail Address:* miles@netl.doe.gov. *Telephone Number:* 412-386-5984.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The goal of this Microhole Technology (MHT) solicitation is to support Reservoir Life Extension/Domestic Resource Conservation by facilitating exploration and production companies in the effort to find, characterize and develop shallow domestic oil and natural gas resources inexpensively. The purpose of this solicitation is to demonstrate present MHT capabilities and development of missing key MHT components. Microhole Technology will consist of the techniques and tools used to drill, complete and characterize reservoirs 5,000 feet deep in a 3½" diameter borehole. Microhole drilling will use a coiled tubing drilling rig and appropriate Logging While Drilling (LWD), Measurement While Drilling (MWD), Directional Assembly (DA) and Positive Displacement Motor (PDM) to eventually drill a 3½" borehole to a minimum of 5,000 feet True Vertical Depth (TVD) and a minimum 1,000 feet directional displacement from the surface well location. Microhole completion equipment are those items necessary to run, set and cement casing and the associated downhole tubulars (packers, sleeves, nipples, screens, etc.), surface wellhead, perforation tools and stimulation tools. Microhole reservoir characterization equipment includes Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP) and downhole reservoir sensors. Some of the Microhole Technology parts exist and are now in use in coiled tubing and slimhole drilling. The program is open to any business, educational institution or state agency and is for the benefit of the domestic oil industry.

The two solicitation Areas of Interest are described below.

Area of Interest 1: DE-PS26-03NT15392-1: Field Demonstration

Projects in Area 1 promote the National Energy Policy goal of enhanced oil and gas recovery with advanced technology. Applications in Area 1 will be drilling programs that demonstrate current microhole technologies in