

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Portland service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Portland WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Portland service area from the Portland RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future Portland WFO after consolidation is included as attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO Portland Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area"), and the future WFO Portland Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the RWSO Portland service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Oregon is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Portland service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

A. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; and spare parts and maintenance personnel are available on site. Coordination was completed with one national work-around remaining in effect.

B. The Partial and Final User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents that two negative comments were received. Both negative comments addressed the same concern which was a valid problem. This problem has since been corrected to the satisfaction of each individual, as stated in the service Confirmation Report.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Portland service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Committee) (attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (attachment J). On _____ the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been

addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Thomas D. Potter

Date _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.

[FR Doc. 96-9497 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 040996C]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for an experimental fishing permit.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application from Mr. David Fraser (applicant) for an experimental fishing permit (EFP). If granted, the EFP would authorize an investigation about the viability of using pelagic trawl gear to conduct directed fisheries on rockfish species in the Gulf of Alaska. It is intended to promote the objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP application are available by writing to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald J. Berg, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 672 authorizes issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. The procedures for issuing EFPs are contained in the regulations at § 675.6. NMFS received a request from the applicant on December 26, 1995, that, if approved would provide specified amounts of groundfish species for purposes of being harvested with pelagic trawl gear to demonstrate the feasibility of catching certain rockfish which otherwise are harvested with bottom trawl gear. The requested amounts are as follows:

Pacific ocean perch - 75 metric tons (mt),
Yellowtail rockfish - 75 mt,
Widow rockfish - 150 mt, and

Other rockfish - 75 mt.

In accordance with regulations, NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to it. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 17-22, 1996, meeting and has invited the applicant to appear in support of the application if the applicant desires. The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska under agenda item D-1(d).

A copy of the application is available for review from the NMFS Regional Director (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 12, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-9713 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of the Ukraine on Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products

April 15, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on categories for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

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).

On March 29, 1996, in accordance with Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended, the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of the Ukraine with respect to cotton and man-made fiber woven shirts in Categories 340/640, produced or manufactured in the Ukraine.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of the Ukraine, the

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements may later establish a limit for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of man-made fiber textile products in Categories 340/640, produced or manufactured in the Ukraine and exported during the twelve-month period which began on March 29, 1996 and extends through March 28, 1997, at a level of not less than 406,469 dozen.

A statement of serious damage concerning Categories 340/640 follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding the treatment of Categories 340/640, or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in Categories 340/640, is invited to submit 10 copies of such comments or information to Troy H. Cribb, Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; ATTN: Helen L. LeGrande. The comments received will be considered in the context of the consultations with the Government of the Ukraine.

Because the exact timing of the consultations is not yet certain, comments should be submitted promptly. Comments or information submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Office of Textiles and Apparel, room H3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Further comments may be invited regarding particular comments or information received from the public which the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements considers appropriate for further consideration.

The solicitation of comments regarding any aspect of the implementation of an agreement is not a waiver in any respect of the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1) relating to matters which constitute "a foreign affairs function of the United States."

The United States remains committed to finding a solution concerning Categories 340/640. Should such a solution be reached in consultations with the Government of the Ukraine, further notice will be published in the Federal Register.

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 60 FR 65299, published on December 19, 1995).

Troy H. Cribb,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Statement of Serious Damage—Ukraine
Cotton and Manmade Fiber Men's and Boys' Woven Shirts—Category 340/640
March 1996

Import Situation and Conclusion

U.S. imports of cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts, Category 340/640, from the Ukraine reached 406,469 dozen in 1995, more than double the 185,803 dozen imported in 1994. Imports from the Ukraine were 1.1 percent of total U.S. imports of Category 340/640 in 1995, and were equivalent to 3.1 percent of U.S. production of Category 340/640 for the year-ending September 1995.

U.S. imports of cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts, Category 340/640, from the Ukraine entered the U.S. at an average landed duty-paid value of \$60.62 per dozen in 1995, 58 percent below the average U.S. producers' price for cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts.

The sharp and substantial increase of low-valued Category 340/640 imports from the Ukraine is causing serious damage to the U.S. industry producing cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts.

U.S. Production, Import Penetration, and Market Share

U.S. production of cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts, Category 340/640, fell from 13,880,000 dozen in 1992 to 13,292,000 dozen in 1993, a decline of 4 percent. Domestic production increased by 2 percent in 1994 to 13,589,000 dozen but remained 2 percent below the 1992 level. Domestic production of cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts declined in 1995, falling to 9,459,000 dozen in the first nine months of 1995, 5 percent below the January-September 1994 level. The year-ending September 1995 production level at 13,096,000 dozen was 4 percent below the calendar year 1994 level and 6 percent below the 1992 level. In contrast, imports of Category 340/640 increased every year since 1992, rising from 30,395,000 dozen in 1992 to 35,908,000 dozen in 1995, 18 percent above the 1992 level.

The ratio of imports to domestic production increased from 219 percent in 1992 to 242 percent in 1994 and reached 295 percent in the first nine months of 1995. The share of the U.S. market for cotton and manmade fiber men's and boys' woven shirts held by

domestic manufacturers fell from 27 percent in 1992 to 22 percent in 1994, and to 18 percent during January-September 1995.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 20, 1996

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 14, November 3, 1995, February 9, 16, 23, March 1 and 8, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (60 F.R. 36266, 55835, 61 F.R. 4962, 6234, 6977, 8045 and 9439) of proposed additions to the Procurement List. After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the