

results, as provided for by section 751(a)(1) of the Act.

(1) The cash deposit rate for OBV will be 5.85%;

(2) For previously reviewed or investigated companies not listed above, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recent period;

(3) If the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, a prior review, or the original less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent period for the manufacturer of the merchandise; and

(4) If neither the exporter nor the manufacturer is a firm covered in this or any previous review conducted by the Department, the cash deposit rate will be 16.99 percent, the "all others" rate established in the LTFV investigation.

This notice serves as a reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 353.26 to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during the review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This amendment of the final results of review and this notice are in accordance with section 751(f) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(f)) and 19 CFR 353.28(c)(1995).

Dated: June 10, 1997.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-423-805]

Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From Belgium: Extension of Time Limits for Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

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

ACTION: Extension of time limits for antidumping duty administrative review of cut-to-length carbon steel plate from Belgium.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce ("the Department") is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the third antidumping duty

administrative review of the antidumping order on Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Belgium. This review covers one manufacturer and exporter of the subject merchandise: Fabrique de Fer de Charleroi. The period of review is August 1, 1995 through July 31, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 19, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maureen McPhillips or Linda Ludwig, AD/CVD Enforcement Group III—Office 8, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482-3019 or 482-3833, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department initiated this administrative review on September 16, 1996 (61 FR 48882). Because it is not practicable to complete this review within the time limits mandated by section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act"), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act of 1994, the Department is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the aforementioned reviews to September 2, 1997, in accordance with Section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act of 1994 (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(3)(A)). See Memorandum from Joseph Spetrini to Robert LaRussa, dated June 4, 1997. The deadline for the final results of this review will continue to be 120 days after publication of the preliminary results.

Dated: June 4, 1997.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enforcement Group III.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060697A]

Marine Mammals; Pinniped Removal Authority

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

ACTION: Proposed extension of Letter of Authorization and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS solicits public comments on a request from the State of Washington and a proposal by NMFS to

extend a Letter of Authorization for the lethal removal of individually identifiable California sea lions that are having significant negative impact on the status and recovery of winter steelhead that migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA. This action is authorized under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or to Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Scordino (206) 526-6143, or Tom Eagle (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 120(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, NMFS issued a 3-year Letter of Authorization (LOA) that is valid through June 30, 1997, to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for the lethal removal of California sea lions that are having significant negative impact on the status and recovery of winter steelhead that migrate through the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA. Information on Washington's application for lethal removal, the process for considering the application which included formation of a Pinniped-Fishery Task Force, and the terms and conditions of the LOA issued to WDFW was published in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 1994 (59 FR 39325), September 27, 1994 (59 FR 49234), January 19, 1995 (60 FR 3841), August 15, 1995 (60 FR 42146), March 26, 1996 (61 FR 13153), and August 26, 1996 (61 FR 43737). Background information on the sea lion-steelhead conflict at the Ballard Locks and findings on the environmental consequences of issuance of the LOA are provided in two Environmental Assessments prepared by NMFS in 1995 and 1996 (see **ADDRESSES**).

No lethal removals were conducted during the 3-year authorization. In 1995, one sea lion (#17) was captured on January 25 and held in temporary captivity until June 7. Two other sea lions (#87 and #225) were captured late in the season and translocated out to the Strait of San Juan de Fuca and released. In 1996, three sea lions (#17, #45, and #225) were captured and placed in permanent captivity for public display. No sea lions were removed, either temporarily or permanently, from the Ballard Locks area in 1997.

The State of Washington has requested that NMFS extend the LOA for an additional 8 years (with a new expiration date of June 30, 2005) citing a need to manage the problem of sea lion predation on winter steelhead beyond the current expiration date of June 30, 1997. WDFW requested an 8-year extension so that it encompasses approximately two complete steelhead life cycles which WDFW believes is the minimum time necessary to determine whether their efforts to recover the steelhead population have succeeded. WDFW is not requesting any modifications to the terms and conditions of the LOA other than the extension to June 30, 2005. WDFW made its request after considering the deliberations of the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force met in September 1996 and submitted a report to NMFS that recommends that the LOA be extended because insufficient time had passed to evaluate the success of management actions at Ballard Locks. The Task Force opinions on the extension ranged from no extension to a period of 8 years (two steelhead cycles) with the majority of the Task Force favoring an extension of 4 years (one steelhead cycle) to June 30, 2001. Copies of the Task Force report and the letter from WDFW requesting the extension are available (see ADDRESSES).

NMFS is proposing to extend the LOA and seeks public comments on extending the LOA for a period of 4 to 8 years. Pending a final decision on the State's request, NMFS has provided an interim extension to the current LOA through September 30, 1997. This interim extension will not result in lethal removal of sea lions because the terms and conditions of the current LOA would allow lethal removal only between January 1 and May 30 of any year. After consideration of public comments, NMFS will decide whether to extend the LOA beyond September 30, 1997, and for what period of time. Notice of the final decision will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: June 13, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-16101 Filed 6-18-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[ID: 052797C]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Experimental Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Issuance of an Experimental Fishing Permit.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the issuance of an experimental fishing permit 97-01 (EFP) to the Groundfish Forum. The EFP authorizes the Groundfish Forum to conduct an experiment that would systematically test the effects of an open-top intermediate escape panel on species and size composition of catch in trawls targeting flatfish. Results of the experiment will be used to develop methods for trawl vessels targeting flatfish to avoid bycatch of pollock and Pacific cod. This EFP will provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations. The intended effect of this action is to promote the purposes and policies of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP and the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the EFP are available from Lori J. Gravel, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent A. Lind, 907-586-7228

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) authorizes the issuance of EFPs for fishing that would otherwise be prohibited under existing regulations. The procedures for issuing EFPs are set out at 50 CFR 679.6.

On April 15, 1997, NMFS announced in the **Federal Register** the receipt of an application for an EFP from the Groundfish Forum (62 FR 18316). The application requested authorization for Groundfish Forum to test the effects of an open-top intermediate escape panel on species and size composition of catch in trawls targeting flatfish. The purpose of this research is to assist industry in developing gear modifications that will reduce the bycatch of groundfish (primarily pollock

and Pacific cod) in flatfish fisheries off Alaska. This EFP will provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations because it is not economically feasible for vessels to participate in an experiment of this extent and rigor during the short commercial fisheries.

A statistical analysis completed by the Groundfish Forum and reviewed by NMFS has determined that 6 vessels fishing for a total of 300 tows will produce a 70 percent certainty of detecting a 10 percent decline in groundfish catch and a 98 percent certainty of detecting a 20 percent decline in groundfish catch. To fully complete the experiment, the Groundfish Forum estimates that 4,590 mt to 4,680 mt of groundfish may be taken by vessels participating in the experiment.

The Groundfish Forum will set up a "request for proposals" (RFP) process whereby companies submit applications to test an open panel placed in the intermediate portion of the trawl that conforms to the general description of the device described by Rose (1995). Under the rules of the experiment, the performance of the experimental gear will be tested against a standard control gear. The control gear will be a net configured for yellowfin sole fishing as per current industry practices.

The RFP will set out a general description of the type of trawl design that will be systematically tested against a control trawl gear. The type of gear design that will be tested against the control will be an "open" panel placed in the intermediary or intermediate (both terms are commonly used) portion of the trawl. The panel is effectively open because no net meshes are in the top portion of the net; only the net straps are present in the top panel portion of the net. The device to be tested was first developed by NMFS gear researchers (Rose 1995). The open panel to be tested in this experiment must be at least 16 ft in length (stretched mesh length) and occupy at least 40 percent of the intermediate portion of the test trawl net (stretched mesh basis).

Placement and shape of the panel will be determined by the company making application to participate in the experiment. Other aspects of the net design for the test gear, as well as the control gear, will have to conform to standards so that the effects of the open panel can be discerned by the experiment. Towing speed, duration of tows, and other aspects of the tows made with experimental and control nets will be restricted for purposes of isolating the effects of the open panel.