

b. Extension of overfishing and rebuilding considerations to species outside fishery management plans.

4. Deferral of scallop management to State of Alaska and discussion of limited entry considerations for the scallop fishery.

5. Report on Steller sea lion research.

6. Reports on bycatch estimation.

7. Discuss need to continue requirement for salmon bycatch retention until counted by an observer.

The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. A report from NMFS on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and a report from the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 1998 halibut quotas.

2. Final action on a third-party arrangement (joint project agreement) for observer procurement services.

3. Preliminary review of analysis for the allocation of pollock between inshore and offshore fisheries; direct staff on further development of alternatives.

4. Preliminary review of an amendment to the fishery management plans to incorporate essential fish habitat information as required by the Magnuson Act; direction to staff.

5. Final action on research priorities.

6. Review the local area management plan for Sitka Sound halibut, and discuss area management plans in general; determine how to proceed; direction to staff.

7. Under the Council's license limitation program for groundfish and crab, the following items will be discussed:

a. Crab buyback program: status report and discussion;

b. Discussion and direction to staff on potential amendments to the program;

c. Discussion of multi-species community development quota regulations with regard to vessel exemptions; direction to staff; and

d. Discussion and direction to staff on extension of the current moratorium on entry to the groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska.

8. Status report on Amendment 3 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan, and discussion of future limited entry program; direction to staff.

9. Groundfish amendments scheduled for action are as follows:

a. Final action on a regulatory amendment to revise Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trimester pollock allocations;

b. Final action on an amendment for stand-down and/or preregistration requirements in the Western and Central GOA;

c. Initial review of options to streamline the setting of total allowable catches; directions to staff to release for public review and/or revise;

d. Final action on an amendment to allocate shortraker/rougheye quota to fixed gear in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands;

e. Initial review of an amendment to revise boundaries for Eastern GOA regulatory area; and

f. Discussion and direction to staff on possible bycatch amendments.

9. Other groundfish issues scheduled for discussion are: a. Trip limits in the Western and Central GOA; direction to staff;

b. Salmon bycatch retention issues; direction to staff;

c. Catch and bycatch measurement; direction to staff; and

d. Vessel bycatch accounts; direction to staff.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during the meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 14, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1342 Filed 1-15-98; 1:31 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011398B]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 369-1440)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Bruce Mate, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, 2030

South Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365-5296, has applied in due form for a permit to take humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), blue, (*Balaenoptera musculus*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), northern right (*Eubalaena glacialis*), bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), and sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 20, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13822, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular 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 email or other electronic media.

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.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The applicant seeks authorization to tag and collect a skin sample from 100 each of various large whale species in the North Pacific, North Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico over a five-year period. Approximately 1,000 additional whales of each species may be harassed during these activities. In addition, the applicant wishes to conduct non-invasive, opportunistic research on various pinniped and cetacean species.

The application and related documents are available for review

upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700;

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213;

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668;

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; and

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432.

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.

Dated: January 14, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1343 Filed 1-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Amendment of Quota and Visa Requirements for Discharge Printed Fabric Produced or Manufactured in Egypt

January 14, 1998.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending quota and visa requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 22, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Helen L. LeGrande, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and

Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1862, as amended.

In exchange of notes dated December 3, 1997 and December 29, 1997, the Governments of the United States and Egypt agreed that discharge printed fabric classified in Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) numbers 5208.52.3035, 5208.52.4035, 5209.51.6032 (Category 313), 5209.51.6015 (Category 314), 5208.52.4055 (Category 315), 5208.59.2085 (Category 317), 5208.59.2015, 5209.59.0015 and 5211.59.0015 (Category 326) which is produced or manufactured in Egypt and imported on or after January 1, 1998 will no longer be subject to visa requirements and will not be subject to 1998 limits. The new designation for Categories 313, 314, 315, 317, 317 and 326 will be part-category 313-O, 314-O, 315-O, 317-O, and 326-O, respectively. The 1998 quota levels established for Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 remain the same for the newly established part-categories.

Also effective on January 22, 1998, products in Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326, produced or manufactured in Egypt and exported from Egypt on or after January 1, 1998 must be accompanied by a 313-O, 314-O, 315-O, 317-O and 326-O part-category visa. There will be a grace period from January 1, 1998 through January 31, 1998 during which products exported from Egypt in Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 may be accompanied by the whole or new part-category visa. A visa will not be required for discharge printed fabric in Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 beginning on January 1, 1998, regardless of the date of export.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the export quota and visa requirements.

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 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 52 FR 48857 published on December 28, 1987; 55 FR 49936, published on

December 3, 1990; and 62 FR 67829, published on December 30, 1997.

**D. Michael Hutchinson,**

*Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

January 14, 1998.

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 December 22, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Egypt and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1998 and extends through December 31, 1998.

Effective on January 22, 1998, discharge printed fabric classified in Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) numbers 5208.52.3035, 5208.52.4035, 5209.51.6032 (Category 313), 5209.51.6015 (Category 314), 5208.52.4055 (Category 315), 5208.59.2085 (Category 317), 5208.59.2015, 5209.59.0015 and 5211.59.0015 (Category 326) which is produced or manufactured in Egypt and imported on or after January 1, 1998 will no longer be subject to visa requirements and will not be subject to 1998 limits, pursuant to exchange of notes dated December 3, 1997 and December 29, 1997 between the governments of the United States and Egypt. The new designation for Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 will be Categories 313-O<sup>1</sup>, 314-O<sup>2</sup>, 315-O<sup>3</sup>, 317-O<sup>4</sup> and 326-O<sup>5</sup>, respectively.

The 1998 quota levels established for Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 remain the same for the newly established part-Categories 313-O, 314-O, 315-O, 317-O and 326-O.

Also effective on January 22, 1998, you are directed to amend further the directive dated December 21, 1987 to require a part-category visa for Categories 313-O, 314-O, 315-O, 317-O and 326-O, produced or manufactured in Egypt and exported on or after January 1, 1998. There will be a grace period from January 1, 1998 through January 31, 1998 during which products exported from Egypt in Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 may be accompanied by the whole or new part-category visa. A visa will not be required for discharge printed fabric in Categories 313, 314, 315, 317 and 326 beginning January 1, 1998, regardless of the date of export.

Shipments entered or withdrawn from warehouse according to this directive which

<sup>1</sup> Category 313-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.52.3035, 5208.52.4035 and 5209.51.6032.

<sup>2</sup> Category 314-O: all HTS numbers except 5209.51.6015.

<sup>3</sup> Category 315-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.52.4055.

<sup>4</sup> Category 317-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.59.2085.

<sup>5</sup> Category 326-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.59.2015, 5209.59.0015 and 5211.59.0015.