

develop a National Plan of Action (NPOA) pursuant to the endorsement of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Ministerial Meeting in March 1999. Noting the increased concern about the expanding catches of sharks and their potential negative impacts on shark populations, this IPOA calls on COFI member states to develop voluntarily national plans to ensure the conservation and management of sharks for their long-term sustainable use. The United States has committed to reporting on the implementation of the NPOA to COFI, no later than the 25th COFI session in February 2001. This document provides a revised time frame for the completion of this NPOA.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NOAA Fisheries / SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Margo Schulze-Haugen, or Steve Meyers, 301-713-2347, or fax 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The IPOA for the conservation and management of sharks was endorsed in principle at the 23rd FAO COFI session in February 1999 and also at the Fisheries Ministerial Meeting in March 1999. As with the two other IPOAs for seabirds and fishing capacity, the IPOA for sharks calls on members to develop voluntarily an NPOA on this issue.

On September 30, 1999, NMFS announced that the NPOA was currently under development, with a draft NPOA for sharks tentatively due for publication in the **Federal Register** in December, 1999, and full completion by February, 2000 (64 FR 52772). Unforeseen circumstances require NMFS to change the schedule on the availability of the draft and final NPOA. NMFS now tentatively expects to have a draft NPOA for sharks available for public review in June, 2000, and a final NPOA available in September, 2000.

Dated: March 21, 2000.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032000F]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory committees.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory committees will meet in Anchorage, AK the week of April 10, 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: All meetings through Saturday, April 15, will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W. Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK. On Sunday and Monday, April 16-17, the Council will meet at the Fourth Avenue Theater, 630 W. Fourth Avenue, in Anchorage.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Times

The Advisory Panel meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., April 10, and continue through Thursday, April 13.

The Scientific Committee will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 10, and continue through Tuesday, April 11.

The Council will begin their plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, continuing through Monday, April 17.

All meetings are open to the public except Executive Sessions which may be held during the week to discuss litigation and/or personnel matters.

Council:

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. Reports
 - (a) Executive Director's Report.
 - (b) State Fisheries Report by Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.
 - (c) NMFS Management Report.

(d) Enforcement and Surveillance reports by NMFS and the Coast Guard.

(e) Seabird Bycatch Report.

(f) Report on March meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

(g) Gulf of Alaska Ecosystems Management Report.

2. Halibut Charterboat Guideline Harvest Level/Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ): Receive committee report on preliminary elements and options for potential IFQ system.

(a) Observer Program:

(b) Observer Committee report.

(c) Review of six regulatory amendments recommended by NMFS.

(d) Report on experimental fishing project for observer sampling methods.

3. Pacific cod license limitation endorsements: Final action.

4. Steller Sea Lions:

(a) Status reports on litigation, implementation of sea lion protective measures, and biological opinion number three.

(b) Extend emergency rule for sea lion protection measures.

5. American Fisheries Act:

(a) Action to extend emergency rules for 180 days.

(b) Status report on development of Environmental Impact Statement.

6. Halibut Subsistence: initial review of amendment.

7. Habitat Areas of Particular Concern: Final action on protection of invertebrates.

8. Groundfish Management:

(a) Review groundfish fishery management plan updates and review Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) scoping document.

(b) Status report on the groundfish specification process.

(c) Review Experimental Fishing Permit for halibut excluders.

9. Crab Management:

(a) Initial review of rebuilding plans for St. Matthew blue and Opilio crabs.

(b) Updates on crab cooperatives and permit buyback program.

Advisory Meetings:

Advisory Panel: With the exception of the reports listed under Item 1, the agenda for the Advisory Panel will mirror that of the Council listed above.

Scientific and Statistical Committee: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will address the following items on the Council agenda:

1. Observer Program issues.
2. Progress on the Groundfish SEIS.
3. Pacific cod license limitation endorsements.
4. Habitat areas of particular concern.
5. Crab rebuilding plans.
6. Review Experimental Fishing Permit for halibut excluders.

7. Review and comment on NMFS Economic Guidelines.

Other committees and workgroups may hold impromptu meetings throughout the meeting week. Such meetings will be announced during regularly-scheduled meetings of the Council, Advisory Panel, and SSC, and will be posted at the hotel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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 at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 21, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00-7501 Filed 3-24-00; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Oman

March 21, 2000.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 28, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. 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) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>.

www.customs.ustreas.gov. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 increased for carryover and recrediting of unused carryforward.

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 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Also see 64 FR 70223, published on December 16, 1999.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 21, 2000.

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 10, 1999, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Oman and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000.

Effective on March 28, 2000, you are directed to increase the current limits for the following categories, as provided for under the current bilateral textile agreement between the Governments of the United States and the Sultanate of Oman:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
334/634	176,640 dozen.
335/635	314,911 dozen.
338/339	653,441 dozen.
340/640	287,097 dozen.
341/641	236,182 dozen.
347/348	986,616 dozen.
647/648/847	482,765 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1999.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 00-7406 Filed 3-24-00; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Thailand

March 21, 2000.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. 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) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>.

For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 reduced for carryforward used. The current limits are being increased in Category 603 for unused carryforward.

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 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Also see 64 FR 68336, published on December 7, 1999.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 21, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.