

completion of the review, of a single entry bond or security in lieu of a cash deposit for certain entries of the merchandise exported by the above-listed companies, e.g.: Exporter Anhui Honghui certified that it produced and exported the subject merchandise for the sale under review; thus, we will instruct Customs to limit Anhui Honghui's bonding option only to entries of such merchandise for which it is both the producer and exporter. Exporter Eurasia certified itself and Chuzhou as the producer of subject merchandise for the sale under review; thus, we will instruct Customs to limit the bonding option only to entries of subject merchandise exported by Eurasia and produced either by Eurasia or Chuzhou. Exporter Inner Mongolia Youth certified Qinhuangdao as the producer of subject merchandise; thus, we will limit the bonding option to entries of subject merchandise produced by Qinhuangdao and exported by Inner Mongolia Youth. Exporter Jiangsu Kanghong certified that it produced and exported the subject merchandise; thus, we will instruct Customs to limit Jiangsu Kanghong's bonding option only to entries of subject merchandise for which it is both the producer and exporter.

Interested parties that need access to proprietary information in these new shipper reviews should submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305 and 351.306. This initiation and notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)) and 19 CFR 351.214(d).

Dated: January 30, 2004.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, Group III.

[FR Doc. 04-2630 Filed 2-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[ID. 012904A]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of the Receipt an exempted fishing permit application,

announcement of the intent to issue the EFP, request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). If awarded, this EFP will allow qualifying vessels to harvest and retain federally managed groundfish in excess of cumulative trip limits. This is otherwise prohibited. Vessels fishing under this EFP will be required to carry a federal fisheries observer during all EFP fishing. This EFP proposal is intended to promote the objectives of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) by assessing the effectiveness of a new discard reduction strategy for the trawl fishery.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP application are available from Becky Renko Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Renko (206)526-6150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is authorized by the FMP and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 660.350.

Dover sole, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thornyhead, and sablefish (DTS complex) are abundant and important upper continental slope species in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Reductions in cumulative catch limits (trip limits) for the DTS complex in recent years have created strong incentives for vessels to high-grade their catch (keep only the most valuable fish) to maximize its value. In addition, differences between trip limits for the different DTS species may not accurately reflect the true ratios of the species that actually occur in the catch of the individual vessels. This could result in one species being discarded, because the trip limits of that species have been reached, while the vessel continues to fish for another species in the DTS complex. When the trip limits are reduced or when the ratios between species do not reflect what is actually harvested very high levels of discarded catch can result. An experimental research project conducted by ODFW in 2003 suggests that discarded catch levels can be reduced by redefining market categories and the associated price structure.

The purpose of the proposed exempted fishing activity is to collect data that can be used to examine the feasibility of using a new discard-reduction strategy as a management tool

for the DTS complex trawl fishery. Written agreements between the vessel, processors and the State of Oregon will be used to redefine existing market categories for the DTS species; to create an EFP price for each redefined category of marketable DTS species; and to require the full retention of all marketable Dover sole and sablefish and all rockfish (*Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus*). Modest economic benefits to the participating vessels and processors are anticipated. If this EFP is successful, these benefits are expected to create an economic incentive that will encourage further development of this discard reduction approach.

Three vessels from three different ports along the Oregon coast will be used to fish under this EFP. The EFP fishing will occur from March to June 2004. Because this EFP applies to vessels using large footrope trawl gear, all depth restrictions and cumulative limits restrictions specific to the use of large footrope trawl gear as announced in the **Federal Register** will apply to the EFP fishing. Vessels will be required to all marketable Dover sole and sablefish and all rockfish (including thornyheads). The proceeds from the sale of DTS species in excess of the EFP limits and non-DTS species that are retained in excess of cumulative trip limits as published in the **Federal Register** will be forfeited to the state of Oregon.

During the effective dates of the EFP, participating vessels must carry a federal fisheries observer whenever they fish under the EFP. Observers will collect data from which the composition of discarded and landed catch can be estimated and they will assure that all rockfish are being retained by the participating vessel.

The total amount (discard plus retained) of Dover sole allowed to be taken under this EFP is not expected to exceed 125 metric tons(mt), the total amount (discard plus retained) of shortspine thornyhead allowed to be taken under this EFP is not expected to exceed 122 mt. The total amount (discard plus retained) of longspine thornyhead allowed to be taken under this EFP is not expected to exceed 63 mt and the total amount (discard plus retained) of sablefish taken under this permit is not expected to exceed 367 mt.

The EFP fishing will be constrained by the following EFP limits for overfished species: yelloweye rockfish 1.2 mt, canary rockfish 0.1 mt, lingcod 0.2 mt, widow rockfish 0 mt, Pacific whiting 145 mt, darkblotch rockfish 6.0 mt, and POP 23 mt. If the total catch of any one of these species reaches the EFP

limits, the EFP will be terminated for the remainder of the 2004 fishing year.

All EFP harvests of overfished species are expected to be within the EFP set-asides within the OYs specified for 2004. The harvests of other groundfish species also are expected to be within the Optimum Yields (OYs) specified for 2004. Therefore, no groundfish OY is expected to be exceeded as a result of this EFP fishing. At the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) November 2003, meeting in Del Mar, CA, the applicants presented their EFP application to the Council. The Council considered the application and recommended that NMFS issue the EFP for the proposed activity. Data collected during this project are expected to have a broad significance to the management of the groundfish fishery by providing information that can be used to examine the feasibility of using this new discard reduction strategy in the trawl fishery for the DTS complex. The information gathered through this EFP may lead to future rulemakings. Copies of the applications are available for review from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: February 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-2631 Filed 2-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010703A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a special one-day Council meeting on February 24, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Wentworth-by-the-Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle NH 03854; telephone 603/422-7322. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2,

Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465-0492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Following introductions, NOAA Fisheries will present information and consult with the Council on a recommendation by the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission to re-open Federal waters to fishing for striped bass. The Council will then consider final approval of Framework Adjustment 16 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP)/ Framework Adjustment 39 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The action would allow scallop vessels to fish in areas previously closed to them for groundfish conservation purposes. Measures include, but are not limited to: boundaries for the access areas; adjustments to the habitat closure definitions in the Scallop FMP to be consistent with those in Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; area rotation order and fishing mortality targets; a mechanism for allocating trips and days-at-sea use in the access areas for part-time and occasional limited access scallop vessels; specifications for minimizing bycatch and bycatch mortality, including recommendations from the Council's Groundfish Committee; groundfish possession limits; observer coverage and an associated funding mechanism; and gear and other restrictions for general category scallop vessels. Following this agenda item, the Council intends to review and approve comments the proposed rule for Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP for submission to NOAA Fisheries. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn after any other outstanding business is addressed.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 2, 2004.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-2632 Filed 2-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of an Import Limit for Certain Cotton Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Nepal

February 2, 2004.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 6, 2004.

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 this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection website at <http://www.cbp.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

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 limit for Category 369-S is being increased for carryover.

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 69 FR 4926, published on February 2, 2004). Also see 68 FR 68598, published on December 9, 2003.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 2, 2004.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 3, 2003, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Nepal and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2004 and extends through December 31, 2004.