

review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The modifications to a permit were issued under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Notice was published on March 27, 1997 (62 FR 14672) that an application had been filed by IDFG for modification 3 to incidental take permit 844 (P503I). Modification 3 to permit 844 was issued to IDFG on May 21, 1997. Permit 844 authorizes IDFG an incidental take of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and adult, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with the State of Idaho's sport-fishing activities. For modification 3, IDFG is authorized an increase in the incidental take of adult, threatened, unmarked, naturally-produced, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with the sport fisheries on the Little Salmon River and the Clearwater River in Idaho. The fisheries in these watersheds target adult, non-listed, fin-clipped, hatchery-produced, spring and summer chinook salmon. As stated in its amended Conservation Plan, IDFG will maintain efforts to minimize the impacts to ESA-listed fish, including public information efforts, biological monitoring, and enforcement. Modification 3 is valid in 1997 only.

Notice was published on May 5, 1997 (62 FR 24421) that an application had been filed by IDFG for modification 4 to incidental take permit 844 (P503I). Modification 4 to permit 844 was issued to IDFG on June 17, 1997. For modification 4, IDFG is authorized an incidental take of unmarked residual, ESA-listed, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with a kokanee fishery in Redfish Lake in Idaho from the date of issuance until August 7, 1997. The purpose of the fishery is to reduce the kokanee population in Redfish Lake because kokanee are a direct competitor for captive-brood sockeye salmon for habitat and food. IDFG have amended the Conservation Plan for this permit by outlining a monitoring strategy of the

potential take of ESA-listed species resulting from the Redfish Lake kokanee fishery. The amended Conservation Plan includes the scheme that anglers will be directed to avoid harvesting fish marked with external hatchery indications. Modification 4 is valid in 1997 only. Permit 844 expires on April 30, 1998.

Issuance of the modifications to a permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such actions: (1) Were requested/proposed in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the ESA-listed species that are the subject of the permit, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed species permits.

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-18116 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062597C]

Red Drum Fishery and Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Mr. Joe Hendrix on behalf of SeaFish Mariculture, L.L.C., San Antonio, Texas (applicant). If granted, the EFP would authorize a feasibility study of net cage culture of finfish associated with offshore oil and gas platforms in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 11, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Georgia Cranmore, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745, concerning "Scientific research activity, exempted fishing permits, and exempted educational activity."

According to the applicant, the purpose of the proposed study is to determine whether it is feasible to grow commercial quantities of native fish species in the offshore environment of the Gulf of Mexico using aquaculture techniques. The applicant proposes to place hatchery-raised juvenile fish in net cages attached to offshore platforms, feed them, allow them to grow for approximately 12 months, harvest them from the cages, land them in Texas, and sell them. No wild-caught fish will be involved in this study.

The proposed study involves activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plans for the Red Drum Fishery and the Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMPs). The applicant requires authorization to harvest, possess, and sell red drum (*Sciaenops ocellata*), greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerilii*), and red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) taken from Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, authorization is required to possess or sell greater amberjack or red snapper below the minimum size limit, and to harvest or possess red snapper in excess of established trip limits and/or during a closed season.

The applicant also intends to use dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Florida pompano (*Trachinotus carolinus*), and southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) in offshore aquaculture operations. Florida pompano and southern flounder are not subject to Federal fishery management in the Gulf of Mexico. Dolphin are included under a Federal fishery management plan for coastal migratory pelagic resources, but no plan management measures restrict possession, harvest, or sale of dolphin in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The applicant is also applying to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for authorization to land and sell these species in Texas.

The applicant proposes to place hatchery-raised juvenile fish (fingerlings) in 3 cages attached to oil and gas platforms operated by Shell Offshore Services, Inc., and located approximately 48 nautical miles (nm) south-southwest of Freeport, TX. The cages measure 76-129 feet (23-39 m) in diameter and will contain a maximum fish biomass of 852,000 lb (386,461 kg).

The site is about 40 nm offshore and the depth of the water at the site is 132 ft (40 m).

The fish will be monitored and fed commercially available fish pellets by a crew of technicians living on the platforms. Observations will be made of resident fish and invertebrate populations in the vicinity of the cages to assess the impact of the project. Additionally, the applicant intends to monitor disease occurrences, water and substrate quality, and possible endangered species interactions. Details of the applicant's monitoring plans are available in the application and associated correspondence (See ADDRESSES).

Based on a preliminary review, NMFS finds that this application warrants further consideration and intends to issue an EFP. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on a NMFS review of public comments received on the application, conclusions of environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and consultations with Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Public comments are specifically requested on: The scope of potential environmental impacts of the proposal on cultured species, such as genetic dilution, habitat alteration, or disease introductions; protected species interactions; sediment quality; and water quality, including possible accumulations of chemotherapeutants such as antibiotics. Enforcement of existing prohibitions on taking of red drum, greater amberjack, and red snapper may also be affected by the proposal. The EFP may contain conditions needed to mitigate potential impacts on the cultured species and the habitats of the northern Gulf of Mexico and measures to facilitate enforcement.

The applicant requests a 26-month effective period for the EFP to accommodate two complete growout cycles (i.e., growouts from fingerlings to marketable products). Once preliminary results of the study are available, the applicant intends to ask the Council to amend the FMPs to accommodate longterm or permanent uses of red drum and reef fish in commercial offshore aquaculture operations.

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

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-18115 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits and Guaranteed Access Levels for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Dominican Republic

July 7, 1997.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the
Commissioner of Customs increasing
import limits and Guaranteed Access
Levels.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 10, 1997.

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 the
quota status of these limits, refer to the
Quota Status Reports posted on the
bulletin boards of each Customs port or
call (202) 927-5850. For information on
embargoes and quota re-openings, call
(202) 482-3715.

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); Uruguay Round Agreements
Act.

The current limits for certain
categories are being adjusted, variously,
for special shift and swing.

Upon the request of the Government
of the Dominican Republic, the U.S.
Government has agreed to increase the
current Guaranteed Access Levels
(GALs) for certain textile products.

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 66263,
published on December 17, 1996). Also
see 61 FR 65375, published on
December 12, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of
Customs and the actions taken pursuant
to it are not designed to implement all

of the provisions of the Uruguay Round
Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but
are designed to assist only in the
implementation of certain of their
provisions.

Troy H. Cribb,

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

July 7, 1997.

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 6, 1996, 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 the Dominican Republic
and exported during the twelve-month
period which began on January 1, 1997 and
extends through December 31, 1997.

Effective on July 10, 1997, you are directed
to increase the limits for the following
categories, as provided for under the Uruguay
Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted limit ¹
338/638	872,300 dozen.
339/639	965,642 dozen.
342/642	491,793 dozen
351/651	1,027,597 dozen.
433	22,898 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to ac-
count for any imports exported after December
31, 1996.

The Guaranteed Access Levels (GALs) for
Categories 342/642, 351/651 and 433 remain
unchanged. You are directed to increase the
current GALs for the following categories:

Category	Guaranteed Access Level
338/638	3,150,000 dozen.
339/639	3,150,000 dozen.
347/348/647/648	8,550,000 dozen.
444	70,000 numbers.
633	160,000 dozen.

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. 97-18208 Filed 7-8-97; 11:27 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F