

Petitioners have not sufficiently alleged the elements necessary for the imposition of a countervailing duty and did not support the allegation with reasonably available information. Consequently, we do not plan to investigate this program.

5. Preferential tax program for enterprises in Chongqing Municipality

In accordance with the West Revitalization Project, the GOC offers encouraged industries in the Chongqing Municipality a preferred tax rate of 15%. Petitioners allege further that fine chemical companies located in the Chongqing Chemical Industrial Park are eligible for additional benefits. Petitioners have not sufficiently alleged the elements necessary for the imposition of a countervailing duty and did not support the allegation with reasonably available information. Consequently, we do not plan to investigate this program.

6. Preferential tax program for enterprises in Shandong Province

Petitioners allege that municipal governments encourages the development of the chemical industry by granting tax reductions and exemptions for companies located in chemical parks such as Qilu Chemical Industry Park. Petitioners have not sufficiently alleged the elements necessary for the imposition of a countervailing duty and did not support the allegation with reasonably available information. Consequently, we do not plan to investigate this program.

Application of the Countervailing Duty Law to the PRC

The Department has treated the PRC as a non-market economy ("NME") country in all past AD investigations and administrative reviews. In accordance with section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Act, any determination that a country is an NME country shall remain in effect until revoked by the administering authority. *See, e.g., Tapered Roller Bearings and Parts Thereof, Finished and 10 Unfinished, ("TRBs") From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of 2001–2002 Administrative Review and Partial Rescission of Review*, 68 FR 7500, 7500–1 (February 14, 2003), unchanged in *TRBs from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of 2001–2002 Administrative Review*, 68 FR 70488, 70488–89 (December 18, 2003).

In the final affirmative CVD determination on coated free sheet paper from the PRC, the Department determined that the current nature of the PRC economy does not create obstacles to applying the necessary

criteria in the CVD law. *See Coated Free Sheet Paper from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination*, 72 FR 60645 (October 25, 2007), and the accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 1. Therefore, because Petitioners have provided sufficient allegations and support of their allegations to meet the statutory criteria for initiating a CVD investigation of citric acid from the PRC, initiation of a CVD investigation is warranted in this case. For further information, see *CVD Initiation Checklist*.

Respondent Selection

For this investigation, the Department expects to select respondents based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection data for U.S. imports during the POI. We intend to make our decision regarding respondent selection within 20 days of publication of this **Federal Register** notice. The Department invites comments regarding the CBP data and respondent selection within seven calendar days of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the Government of the PRC. As soon as and to the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition, consistent with 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 25 days after the date on which it receives notice of the initiation, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of subsidized citric acid from the PRC are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. See section 703(a)(2) of the Act. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: May 5, 2008.

David M. Spooner,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648–XH73

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public hearing on Aquaculture Amendment.

DATES: The hearing will convene at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 and conclude no later than 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This hearing will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 3820 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Key West, FL 33040.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Swingle, Executive Director; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) is preparing an amendment which will require persons to obtain a permit from NMFS to participate in aquaculture by constructing an aquaculture facility in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico. Each application for a permit must comply with many permit conditions related to record keeping and operation of the facility. These permit conditions will assure the facility has a minimal affect on the environment and on other fishery resources. Compliance with the conditions will be evaluated annually for the duration of the permit as the basis for renewal of the permit for the next year.

Copies of the Amendment can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348–1630.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this hearing. 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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the hearing.

Dated: May 6, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-10383 Filed 5-9-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XH77

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Advisory Panel will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

The Groundfish Advisory Panel will review draft Amendment 16 management measures and will develop recommendations for the consideration of the Groundfish Oversight Committee and the Council.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come

before this group 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

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.

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

Dated: May 6, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-10384 Filed 5-9-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XH79

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.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings, June 4-10, 2008, in Kodiak, AK.

DATES: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4 continuing through Tuesday June 10, 2008. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, June 2 and continue through Saturday June 7. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 2 and continue through Wednesday June 4, 2008. The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, June 3, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Harbor Room. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Best Western Kodiak Inn, 236 Rezanof Drive, Kodiak, AK.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Witherell, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Council Plenary Session:* 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
 - Executive Director's Report
 - NMFS Management Report (including permit fee discussion paper)
 - Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report
 - U.S. Coast Guard Report
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report
 - NMFS Enforcement Report
 - Protected Species Report (including update on the BiOp schedule)
2. Subsistence Halibut: Initial review/final action on subsistence halibut rural definition.
3. Salmon Bycatch: Initial review of BSAI (BSAI) Salmon Bycatch Environmental Impact Statement.
4. BSAI Crab Issues: Initial review/final action on fees for crab loan program; Receive report from Crab Committee; (relative to the Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab underutilization, community Right Of First Refusal (ROFR), crew participation, and emergency relief) and take action as necessary.
5. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (GOA) Issues: Initial review of fixed gear recency; Initial review of the Pacific cod sector split.
6. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) exemption for dinglebar: Final action on VMS exemption for dinglebar gear.
7. Research Priorities: Review and adopt a 5 year research plan.
8. 4E Seabirds: Final action on 4e seabird avoidance measures.
9. Ecosystem Based Management: Receive report from Ecosystem Committee; preliminary review of Arctic FMP. (Council only).
10. GOA Sideboards: Initial review GOA sideboards for BSAI crab vessels; Initial review GOA sideboards regarding GOA rockfish; Initial review GOA sideboards for American Fisheries Act Catcher Vessels.
11. Miscellaneous Groundfish Management: Committee report on other species management; Discussion paper on GOA crab and salmon bycatch (Council only); Receive report on gear modification research; Review discussion paper on Amendment 80 sector cooperative criteria; Report on