

and attachment of biotelemetry instrumentation. The permit also provides for transfer to and import from approved North American facilities up to two male and four female Steller sea lions, not to exceed 11 animals held at ASLC for use in research. The permit allows for research-related mortality of captive Steller sea lions.

File No. 14335: The permit issued to the ASLC, (Principal Investigator: JoAnn Mellish, Ph.D.), authorizes them to investigate the decline of the western stock of Steller sea lions and its failure to recover, and to assist recovery efforts. Data may be obtained on juvenile survival, epidemiology, endocrinology, immunology, virology, physiology, ontogenetic and annual body condition cycles, foraging behavior and habitat selection. Pups and juveniles of both sexes in the Gulf of Alaska will be captured each year, with a subset of juveniles selected for temporary quarantine captivity at the ASLC. Research activities involve capture, drug administration, anesthesia, fecal and urine collection, external and internal instruments, marking, morphometrics, behavioral observations, photogrammetry, tissue sampling, ultrasound, and x-ray. The permit also authorizes research related mortality of Steller sea lions from the western DPS.

File No. 14336: The permit issued to Markus Horning, Ph.D., Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, Newport, OR authorizes him to continue studies related to validation of surgically implanted scientific instruments called Life History Transmitters (LHX tags), for determining survival rates, emigration, causes of mortality, predation, and collecting long-term forage effort data in juvenile Steller sea lions. LHX tags will be opportunistically deployed in carcasses of dead Steller sea lions in AK, OR, and CA, and in California sea lions in OR and CA to assess uplink failure rates. Remote monitoring (using still, video, and infrared cameras) for censusing, brand re-sighting, attendance patterns, and estimating body mass, condition and health trends will be conducted at Long Island, AK and Sea Lion Caves and Cascade Head, OR. The permit also authorizes research-related mortalities of eastern DPS Steller sea lions.

File No. 14337: The permit issued to the NPUMMRC, (Principal Investigator: Andrew Trites, Ph.D.), authorizes them to conduct studies of Steller sea lion diets, distributions, life history traits, physiology and the timing of weaning in AK. NPUMMRC will also permit activities to evaluate pain experienced by Steller sea lions during hot-iron branding conducted by researchers

operating under separate permits. Research activities include: disturbance associated with capture, observational studies, and scat collection; and capture, restraint, tissue sampling, and marking. The permit also authorizes research-related mortality of eastern DPS and western DPS sea lions. The permit authorizes harassment of northern fur seals, California sea lions, northern elephant seals, harbor seals, and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in AK incidental to the research on Steller sea lions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NMFS completed a Final PEIS for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research to provide decision-makers, and the public, with an evaluation of the environmental effects of funding and permitting a research program for Steller sea lions and northern fur seals for the next five to ten years. In a ROD signed on August 10, 2009, NMFS identified the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4: Research Program with Full Implementation of Conservation Goals) as its preferred strategy for issuance of grants and permits for scientific research on these species. This alternative allows the agency to fully implement the recommendations in the species' conservation and recovery plans. Subsequent to completion of the PEIS, and prior to the ROD, NMFS developed additional policy and guidance to improve the implementation of the Steller sea lion and Northern fur seal research permit program. For additional information about the PEIS, please see the project webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/steller.htm>. NMFS has determined that the activities in the above permits are consistent with the Preferred Alternative, and that issuance of the permits would not have a significant adverse impact on the human environment.

Issuance of the permits, as required by the ESA, were based on a finding that such permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: August 25, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Department of Commerce: Industry Outreach in San Francisco, CA, for Climate Change Negotiations Under the UNFCCC

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) will host a half-day roundtable for industry participants on September 10, 2009, in San Francisco, California, during which senior U.S. government officials will outline the draft negotiation text of a new agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), provide updates on recent developments, and solicit individual input from participants. The purpose of the industry roundtable is to allow private sector stakeholders, particularly industry and trade associations, to advise U.S. officials on the impact a new UNFCCC agreement could have on their respective operations and on associated commercial opportunities. The DOC anticipates additional outreach events will be held throughout the United States.

DATES: September 10, 2009.

ADDRESSES: To participate in the roundtable, please contact Stephan Crawford, Director, U.S. Commercial Service (U.S. Department of Commerce)—San Francisco, 250 Montgomery St., 14th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104; 415-705-2301; Stephan.Crawford@mail.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Participation

Any private sector participant may register to attend; space is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants who are unable to attend the event can call into a conference line to participate. Please contact Stephan Crawford, Director, Commercial Service (U.S. Department of Commerce)—San Francisco, at 415-705-2301 or Stephan.Crawford@mail.doc.gov to request the conference call-in information.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—The UNFCCC was signed in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and entered into force on March 21, 1994. Currently, 192 states have ratified the Convention, including the United States. The treaty requires

national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions from developed countries, and encourages national action to stem greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change. Developed nations also pledge to share technology and resources with developing nations.

Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997, entered into force on February 16, 2005, and has been ratified by 184 countries and the European Community. While the United States signed the document, the U.S. Senate has never ratified the treaty. The Kyoto Protocol sets binding emissions targets for 37 industrialized countries, includes mechanisms for measuring and reporting emissions, and provides for financing and technology assistance to developing countries. The Protocol will expire at the end of 2012.

Current UNFCCC Negotiations—Negotiations under the UNFCCC are underway to formulate a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol. The discussions have the goal of concluding an agreement in Copenhagen this December. Potential impacts on U.S. industrial competitiveness will be discussed during the upcoming roundtable including technology transfer, intellectual property, financing, and related commercial opportunities.

Cheryl McQueen,

Acting Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-549-502]

Circular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Thailand: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) is conducting a semiannual new shipper review of the antidumping duty order on circular welded carbon steel pipes and tubes (Pipes and Tubes) from Thailand in response to a request from Pacific Pipe Public Company, Limited (Pacific Pipe). The period of review (POR) is March 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008. The domestic interested parties for this proceeding are Allied Tube & Conduit

Corporation and Wheatland Tube Company (petitioners).

We preliminarily determine that the U.S. sale of subject merchandise made by Pacific Pipe is below normal value (NV). If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results, we will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess antidumping duties based on the difference between the export price (EP) and the NV. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. See the “Preliminary Results of Review” section of this notice. The final results will be issued 90 days after the date of issuance of these preliminary results, unless extended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 31, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Myrna Lobo, AD/CVD Operations, Office 6, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2371.

Background

The Department published the antidumping duty order on Pipes and Tubes from Thailand on March 11, 1986. See *Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Circular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Thailand*, 51 FR 8341 (March 11, 1986) (*Antidumping Duty Order*). On September 30, 2008, the Department received a timely request from Pacific Pipe, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.214(c), to conduct a semiannual new shipper review of the antidumping duty order on Pipes and Tubes from Thailand. The Department found the request for review met all of the requirements set forth in 19 CFR 351.214(b) and initiated the review on October 28, 2008. See *Circular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Thailand: Initiation of New Shipper Antidumping Duty Review*, 73 FR 65290 (November 3, 2008) (NSR Initiation).¹

On November 7, 2008, the Department issued the initial questionnaire to Pacific Pipe.² On December 9, 2008, the

¹ Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.214(f)(2)(ii), we extended the POR of this new shipper review through September 30, 2008 to include Pacific Pipe's entry. (See NSR Initiation).

² Section A of the questionnaire requests general information concerning a company's corporate structure and business practices, the merchandise under investigation that it sells, and the manner in which it sells that merchandise in all of its markets. Section B requests a complete listing of all home market sales, or, if the home market is not viable, of sales in the most appropriate third-country market (this section is not applicable to respondents in non-market economy cases). Section C requests a complete listing of U.S. sales. Section D requests information on the cost of production of the foreign

Department received Pacific Pipe's section A response, the public version of which was revised due to bracketing deficiencies and resubmitted on December 15, 2008. On December 15, 2008, the Department also preliminarily granted Pacific Pipe's request to limit its reporting of home market sales data to the specific grades sold in the United States. See Letter to Pacific Pipe from Barbara E. Tillman, Director, AD/CVD Operations, Office 6, Import Administration, dated December 15, 2008. On January 6, 2009, the Department received Pacific Pipe's sections B and C questionnaire response. On March 10 and July 24, 2009, the Department issued supplemental questionnaires, and Pacific Pipe responded to the questionnaires on April 14 and August 3, 2009, respectively.

On May 8, 2009, petitioners urged the Department to rescind the new shipper review in favor of examining Pacific Pipe's sale in the concurrent administrative review, because the entry occurred outside the normal six-month new shipper review period (March 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008). Petitioners also questioned the *bona fide* nature of Pacific Pipe's sale. We note that at the time of initiation, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.214(f)(2)(ii), the Department extended the POR through September 30, 2008, to cover Pacific Pipe's entry. We have also analyzed all aspects of Pacific Pipe's U.S. sale and preliminarily found it to be *bona fide*. See “Bona Fides Analysis of U.S. Sale” section below.

On March 27, 2009, the Department published a notice extending the deadline for the preliminary results to August 24, 2009. See *Circular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Thailand: Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of New Shipper Antidumping Duty Review*, 74 FR 13414 (March 27, 2009).

Verification

The Department intends to conduct a sales verification of Pacific Pipe's responses following the preliminary results of this review.

Scope of the Order

The products covered by this antidumping order are certain welded carbon steel pipes and tubes from Thailand. The subject merchandise has an outside diameter of 0.375 inches or more, but not exceeding 16 inches.

like product and the constructed value of the merchandise under investigation. Section E requests information on further manufacturing.