

1. Status of preparations for the FAO Consultation: Room 5215, Herbert Clark Hoover Building (Department of Commerce), 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

2. Shark regional workshops: Sarasota—Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236, and Monterey—Monterey Bay Aquarium, 886 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dean Swanson at (301) 713-2276; to attend shark workshops as an observer, contact Kathy Kessler at (202) 861-8346. Information on the FAO initiatives is available online at <http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The FAO, with input from the United States and other governments, is preparing for an FAO Consultation in late 1998 to consider action plans on the conservation and management of sharks, reduction of incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, and the management of fishing capacity. All FAO member countries as well as observers will be invited to the FAO Consultation. Preparations include meetings of expert Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to consider draft guidelines and plans of actions well in advance of the FAO Consultation.

On August 8, 1997, NMFS published a notice of U.S. involvement in the planning and preparations for the FAO Consultation (62 FR 42766). Additional background information is presented in that **Federal Register** notice and is not repeated here. NMFS will host a meeting to brief the public on the status of preparations for the FAO Consultation at the time and place provided above.

**Shark Regional Workshops**

To assist development of background documents for the Shark TWG, the United States will sponsor two shark regional workshops. The goal for the upcoming shark regional workshops and the subsequent TWG and FAO Consultation is to contribute to developing a global strategy (action plan) and guidelines for sustainable international and regional management of elasmobranch species by national, regional and highly migratory management groups. The workshop proceedings will be compiled into proposed strategies and used to contribute to the TWG, which will provide background documents for the FAO Consultation.

The shark regional workshops will review—

1. Shark fisheries in the region, including directed fisheries and fisheries in which sharks are a bycatch and

2. Current data collection and management in the region.

Regional workshop participants will also be asked to develop recommendations on action areas, priority issues and time targets for the following categories:

1. Research, data collection, and monitoring;
2. Conservation and management for sustainable shark populations;
3. Building capacity for conservation, research, and management;
4. Regional and international cooperation; and
5. Funding for shark conservation and management.

Regional workshop participants will include fisheries scientists, shark experts, and regional fishery management organization representatives. The workshops are open to interested observers. Anyone planning to attend as an observer should contact Kathy Kessler (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting on the status of preparations for the FAO Consultation will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dean Swanson at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 4, 1997.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

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

[FR Doc. 97-29584 Filed 11-7-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 110397A]

**Marine Mammals; Permit No. 1024 (P77-2#69)**

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of scientific research permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific research permit no. 1024 submitted by

the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92038 [Co- Investigator: Dr. Rennie S. Holt] has been granted to increase the number of Antarctic fur seals to be taken annually.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 29, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 50907) that an amendment of permit no. 1024, issued December 30, 1996 (62 FR 1875), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 3, 1997.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-29583 Filed 11-7-97; 8:45 am]

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**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

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

November 4, 1997.

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 12, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet Heinzen, 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 increased for 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 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 61 FR 64505, published on December 5, 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

November 4, 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 November 29, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Indonesia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1997 and extends through December 31, 1997.

Effective on November 12, 1997, you are directed to increase the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

| Category          | Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------------|--|
| Levels in Group I |  |
| 200 .....         | 786,654 kilograms.                       |
| 300/301 .....     | 3,894,448 kilograms.                     |

| Category  | Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup> |
|---|--|
| 331/631 .....   | 2,128,878 dozen pairs.                   |
| 336/636 .....   | 630,648 dozen.                           |
| 340/640 .....   | 1,616,682 dozen.                         |
| 341 .....   | 1,025,902 dozen.                         |
| 342/642 .....   | 386,921 dozen.                           |
| 350/650 .....   | 136,526 dozen.                           |
| 369-S <sup>2</sup> .....  | 930,324 kilograms.                       |
| 447 .....   | 19,392 dozen.                            |
| Group II  |  |
| 201, 218, 220, 222-<br>224, 226, 227,<br>229, 237, 239,<br>330, 332, 333,<br>349, 352-354,<br>359-O <sup>3</sup> , 362, 363,<br>369-O <sup>4</sup> , 400, 410,<br>414, 431, 432,<br>434, 435, 436,<br>438, 439, 440,<br>442, 444, 459,<br>464, 465, 469,<br>603, 604-O <sup>5</sup> , 606,<br>607, 621, 622,<br>624, 630, 632,<br>633, 649, 652-<br>654, 659-O <sup>6</sup> , 665,<br>666, 669-O <sup>7</sup> ,<br>670-O <sup>8</sup> , 831-836,<br>838, 839, 840,<br>842-846, 850-<br>852, 858 and 859,<br>as a group. | 98,670,420 square<br>meters equivalent.  |

<sup>1</sup> The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

<sup>3</sup> Category 359-O: all HTS numbers except 6103.42.2025, 6103.49.8034, 6104.62.1020, 6104.69.8010, 6114.20.0048, 6114.20.0052, 6203.42.2010, 6203.42.2090, 6204.62.2010, 6211.32.0010, 6211.32.0025 and 6211.42.0010 (Category 359-C); 6112.39.0010, 6112.49.0010, 6211.11.8010, 6211.11.8020, 6211.12.8010 and 6211.12.8020 (Category 359-S).

<sup>4</sup> Category 369-O: all HTS numbers except 6307.10.2005 (Category 369-S).

<sup>5</sup> Category 604-O: all HTS numbers except 5509.32.0000 (Category 604-A).

<sup>6</sup> Category 659-O: all HTS numbers except 6103.23.0055, 6103.43.2020, 6103.43.2025, 6103.49.2000, 6103.49.8038, 6104.63.1020, 6104.63.1030, 6104.69.1000, 6104.69.8014, 6114.30.3044, 6114.30.3054, 6203.43.2010, 6203.43.2090, 6203.49.1010, 6203.49.1090, 6204.63.1510, 6204.69.1010, 6210.10.9010, 6211.33.0010, 6211.33.0017, 6211.43.0010 (Category 659-C); 6112.31.0010, 6112.41.0010, 6112.41.0020, 6112.41.0030, 6112.41.0040, 6211.11.1010, 6211.11.1020, 6211.12.1010 and 6211.12.1020 (Category 659-S).

<sup>7</sup> Category 669-O: all HTS numbers except 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020 and 6305.39.0000 (Category 669-P).

<sup>8</sup> Category 670-O: all HTS numbers except 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3030 and 4202.92.9025 (Category 670-L).

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. 97-29619 Filed 11-7-97; 8:45 am]

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#### COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

##### Adjustment of an Import Limit for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

November 4, 1997.

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 10, 1997.

**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 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).

The current limit for Category 434 is being increased for 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 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 61 FR 48889, published on September 17, 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 bilateral, but are designed to assist only in the