

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222.23).

The purpose of the proposed research is to continue the long-term study on humpback whales (begun in 1975) for an additional 5-year period to: (1) identify and determine the sex, relative age-class, and reproductive condition of individual whales through photo identification techniques; (2) describe and photo document social behavior; (3) record social sounds and individual whale songs; and (4) collect and export free-floating samples of sloughed skin and mucous secretions for genetic analyses. Observations may be made of the following species on an opportunistic basis, during conduct of the research on humpback whales: Pacific bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), spotted dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), Hawaiian spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*), and short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: November 30, 1998.

Ann D. TerBush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-32336 Filed 12-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Limits and Transshipment Charges for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

November 30, 1998.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing 1999 limits and charging transshipments to the 1999 limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1999.

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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 Bilateral Textile Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China establishes limits for textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the period beginning on January 1, 1999 and extending through December 31, 1999.

A notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 7, 1998 (63 FR 25202) announced that transshipment charges would be made to the 1999 quota year for Categories 331, 341, 347/348, 351, 352, 631, 636, 641, 647, 649 and 652, pursuant to the February 1, 1997 MOU and in accordance with a letter to the Government of the People's Republic of China dated May 4, 1998.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the limits for 1999 and to charge transshipments to the aforementioned categories for 1999.

The 1999 limits may be revised if China becomes a member of the World

Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to China.

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 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Information regarding the 1999 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

November 30, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and a Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 1999, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1999 and extending through December 31, 1999, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month limit
Group I 200, 218, 219, 226, 237, 239, 300/301, 313-315, 317/326, 331, 333-336, 338/339, 340-342, 345, 347/348, 350-352, 359-C ¹ , 359-V ² , 360-363, 369-D ³ , 369-H ⁴ , 369-L ⁵ , 410, 433- 436, 438, 440, 442-444, 445/446, 447, 448, 607, 611, 613-615, 617, 631, 633- 636, 638/639, 640-643, 644/844, 645/646, 647-652, 659-C ⁶ , 659-H ⁷ , 659-S ⁸ , 666, 669-P ⁹ , 670-L ¹⁰ , 831, 833, 835, 836, 840, 842 and 845-847, as a group.	1,474,997,500 square meters equivalent.

Category	Twelve-month limit	Category	Twelve-month limit	Category	Twelve-month limit
Sublevels in Group I		434	13,332 dozen.	Group II	
200	738,030 kilograms.	435	24,487 dozen.	330, 332, 349, 353,	124,802,482 square
218	11,375,249 square meters.	436	15,086 dozen.	354, 359—O ²⁰ ,	meters equivalent.
219	2,428,588 square meters.	438	26,399 dozen.	431, 432, 439,	
226	11,027,555 square meters.	440	37,715 dozen of which not more than 21,551 dozen shall be in Category 440—M ¹⁷ .	459, 630, 632, 653, 654 and 659—O ²¹ , as a group.	
237	2,021,092 dozen.			Group III	
239	3,078,460 kilograms.	442	39,924 dozen.	201, 220, 222, 223,	258,883,627 square
300/301	2,287,697 kilograms.	443	128,982 numbers.	224—V ²² , 224—O ²³ , 225, 227,	meters equivalent.
313	42,178,479 square meters.	444	206,916 numbers.	229, 369—O ²⁴ ,	
314	49,663,934 square meters.	445/446	288,045 dozen.	400, 414, 464,	
315	133,759,386 square meters.	447	70,617 dozen.	465, 469, 600,	
317/326	21,574,143 square meters of which not more than 4,127,558 square meters shall be in Category 326.	448	22,277 dozen.	603, 604—O ²⁵ ,	
331	5,236,526 dozen pairs.	607	3,272,155 kilograms.	606, 618—622,	
333	99,130 dozen.	611	5,425,251 square meters.	624—629, 665,	
334	325,800 dozen.	613	7,676,725 square meters.	669—O ²⁶ and 670—O ²⁷ , as a group.	
335	388,299 dozen.	614	12,063,423 square meters.	Sublevel in Group III	
336	173,920 dozen.	615	25,113,855 square meters.	224—V	3,653,945 square meters.
338/339	2,333,946 dozen of which not more than 1,771,721 dozen shall be in Categories 338—S/339—S ¹¹ .	617	17,546,797 square meters.	225	6,303,750 square meters.
340	793,325 dozen of which not more than 396,662 dozen shall be in Category 340—Z ¹² .	631	1,313,751 dozen pairs.	Group IV	
341	687,410 dozen of which not more than 412,447 dozen shall be in Category 341—Y ¹³ .	633	57,906 dozen.	832, 834, 838, 839,	11,705,740 square
342	269,265 dozen.	634	629,976 dozen.	843, 850—852, 858 and 859, as a group.	meters equivalent.
345	129,032 dozen.	635	664,515 dozen.	Levels not in a Group	
347/348	2,346,533 dozen.	636	552,517 dozen.	369—S ²⁸	613,826 kilograms.
350	168,670 dozen.	638/639	2,436,841 dozen.	863—S ²⁹	8,661,622 numbers.
351	563,860 dozen.	640	1,386,568 dozen.	870	33,265,202 kilograms.
352	1,645,485 dozen.	641	1,313,487 dozen.		
359—C	611,569 kilograms.	642	339,479 dozen.		
359—V	890,996 kilograms.	643	517,491 numbers.		
360	7,841,685 numbers of which not more than 5,348,786 numbers shall be in Category 360—P ¹⁴ .	644/844	3,686,959 numbers.		
361	4,321,525 numbers.	645/646	825,078 dozen.		
362	7,248,200 numbers.	647	1,570,813 dozen.		
363	21,618,724 numbers.	648	1,122,336 dozen.		
369—D	4,755,168 kilograms.	649	957,686 dozen.		
369—H	5,032,562 kilograms.	650	117,506 dozen.		
369—L	3,355,586 kilograms.	651	781,504 dozen of which not more than 137,589 dozen shall be in Category 651—B ¹⁸ .		
410	999,047 square meters of which not more than 800,845 square meters shall be in Category 410—A ¹⁵ and not more than 800,845 square meters shall be in Category 410—B ¹⁶ .	652	2,801,039 dozen.		
433	20,850 dozen.	659—C	413,736 kilograms.		
		659—H	2,868,694 kilograms.		
		659—S	624,909 kilograms.		
		666	3,583,233 kilograms of which not more than 1,287,016 kilograms shall be in Category 666—C ¹⁹ .		
		669—P	2,039,720 kilograms.		
		670—L	16,233,984 kilograms.		
		831	567,873 dozen pair.		
		833	29,199 dozen.		
		835	123,582 dozen.		
		836	284,329 dozen.		
		840	480,737 dozen.		
		842	271,439 dozen.		
		845	2,459,489 dozen.		
		846	179,107 dozen.		
		847	1,259,660 dozen.		

¹ Category 359—C: only HTS numbers 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.

² Category 359—V: only HTS numbers 6103.19.2030, 6103.19.9030, 6104.12.0040, 6104.19.8040, 6110.20.1022, 6110.20.1024, 6110.20.2030, 6110.20.2035, 6110.90.9044, 6110.90.9046, 6201.92.2010, 6202.92.2020, 6203.19.1030, 6203.19.9030, 6204.12.0040, 6204.19.8040, 6211.32.0070 and 6211.42.0070.

³ Category 369—D: only HTS numbers 6302.60.0010, 6302.91.0005 and 6302.91.0045.

⁴ Category 369—H: only HTS numbers 4202.22.4020, 4202.22.4500 and 4202.22.8030.

⁵ Category 369—L: only HTS numbers 4202.12.4000, 4202.12.8020, 4202.12.8060, 4202.92.1500, 4202.92.3016, 4202.92.6091 and 6307.90.9905.

⁶ Category 659—C: only HTS numbers 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 and 6211.43.0010.

⁷ Category 659—H: only HTS numbers 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090 and 6505.90.8090.

⁸ Category 659—S: only HTS numbers 6112.31.0010, 6112.31.0020, 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.

⁹ Category 669—P: only HTS numbers 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020 and 6305.39.0000.

¹⁰ Category 670—L: only HTS numbers 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3031, 4202.92.9026 and 6307.90.9907.

¹¹ Category 338—S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0012, 6109.10.0014, 6109.10.0018 and 6109.10.0023; Category 339—S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0040, 6109.10.0045, 6109.10.0060 and 6109.10.0065.

¹² Category 340-Z: only HTS numbers 6205.20.2015, 6205.20.2020, 6205.20.2050 and 6205.20.2060.

¹³ Category 341-Y: only HTS numbers 6204.22.3060, 6206.30.3010, 6206.30.3030 and 6211.42.0054.

¹⁴ Category 360-P: only HTS numbers 6302.21.3010, 6302.21.5010, 6302.21.7010, 6302.21.9010, 6302.31.3010, 6302.31.5010, 6302.31.7010 and 6302.31.9010.

¹⁵ Category 410-A: only HTS numbers 5111.11.3000, 5111.11.7030, 5111.11.7060, 5111.19.2000, 5111.19.6020, 5111.19.6040, 5111.19.6060, 5111.19.6080, 5111.20.9000, 5111.30.9000, 5111.90.3000, 5111.90.9000, 5212.11.1010, 5212.12.1010, 5212.13.1010, 5212.14.1010, 5212.15.1010, 5212.21.1010, 5212.22.1010, 5212.23.1010, 5212.24.1010, 5212.25.1010, 5311.00.2000, 5407.91.0510, 5407.92.0510, 5407.93.0510, 5407.94.0510, 5408.31.0510, 5408.32.0510, 5408.33.0510, 5408.34.0510, 5515.13.0510, 5515.22.0510, 5515.92.0510, 5516.31.0510, 5516.32.0510, 5516.33.0510, 5516.34.0510 and 6301.20.0020.

¹⁶ Category 410-B: only HTS numbers 5007.10.6030, 5007.90.6030, 5112.11.2030, 5112.11.2060, 5112.19.9010, 5112.19.9030, 5112.19.9040, 5112.19.9050, 5112.19.9060, 5112.20.3000, 5112.30.3000, 5112.90.3000, 5112.90.9010, 5112.90.9090, 5212.11.1020, 5212.12.1020, 5212.13.1020, 5212.14.1020, 5212.15.1020, 5212.21.1020, 5212.22.1020, 5212.23.1020, 5212.24.1020, 5212.25.1020, 5309.21.2000, 5309.29.2000, 5407.91.0520, 5407.92.0520, 5407.93.0520, 5407.94.0520, 5408.31.0520, 5408.32.0520, 5408.33.0520, 5408.34.0520, 5515.13.0520, 5515.22.0520, 5515.92.0520, 5516.31.0520, 5516.32.0520, 5516.33.0520 and 5516.34.0520.

¹⁷ Category 440-M: Only HTS numbers 6203.21.0030, 6203.23.0030, 6205.10.1000, 6205.10.2010, 6205.10.2020, 6205.30.1510, 6205.30.1520, 6205.90.3020, 6205.90.4020 and 6211.31.0030.

¹⁸ Category 651-B: only HTS numbers 6107.22.0015 and 6108.32.0015.

¹⁹ Category 666-C: only HTS number 6303.92.2000.

²⁰ 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, 6211.42.0010 (Category 359-C); 6103.19.2030, 6103.19.9030, 6104.12.0040, 6104.19.8040, 6110.20.1022, 6110.20.1024, 6110.20.2030, 6110.20.2035, 6110.90.9044, 6110.90.9046, 6201.92.2010, 6202.92.2020, 6203.19.1030, 6203.19.9030, 6204.12.0040, 6204.19.8040, 6211.32.0070 and 6211.42.0070 (Category 359-V).

²¹ 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); 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090, 6505.90.8090 (Category 659-H); 6112.31.0010, 6112.31.0020, 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).

²² Category 224-V: only HTS numbers 5801.21.0000, 5801.23.0000, 5801.24.0000, 5801.25.0010, 5801.25.0020, 5801.26.0010, 5801.26.0020, 5801.31.0000, 5801.33.0000, 5801.34.0000, 5801.35.0010, 5801.35.0020, 5801.36.0010 and 5801.36.0020.

²³ Category 224-O: all HTS numbers except 5801.21.0000, 5801.23.0000, 5801.24.0000, 5801.25.0010, 5801.25.0020, 5801.26.0010, 5801.26.0020, 5801.31.0000, 5801.33.0000, 5801.34.0000, 5801.35.0010, 5801.35.0020, 5801.36.0010 and 5801.36.0020 (Category 224-V).

²⁴ Category 369-O: all HTS numbers except 6302.60.0010, 6302.91.0005 and 6302.91.0045 (Category 369-D); 4202.22.4020, 4202.22.4500, 4202.22.8030 (Category 369-H); 4202.12.4000, 4202.12.8020, 4202.12.8060, 4202.92.1500, 4202.92.3016, 4202.92.6091 and 6307.90.9905 (Category 369-L); and 6307.10.2005 (Category 369-S).

²⁵ Category 604-O: all HTS numbers except 5509.32.0000 (Category 604-A).

²⁶ 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).

²⁷ Category 670-O: only HTS numbers 4202.22.4030, 4202.22.8050 and 4202.32.9550.

²⁸ Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

²⁹ Category 863-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2015.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the current bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Products in the above categories exported during 1998 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated December 22, 1997) to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such products shall be charged to the limits set forth in this directive.

These limits may be revised if China becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to China.

The conversion factor for merged Categories 638/639 is 12.96 (square meters equivalent/category unit).

Pursuant to the February 1, 1997 MOU and in accordance with a letter to the Government of the People's Republic of China dated May 4, 1998, you are directed to charge the following amounts to the 1999 limits for categories listed below:

Category	Amount to be charged
331	82,122 dozen pairs.
341	80 dozen.
347/348	518 dozen.
351	62 dozen.
352	7,692 dozen.
631	30,700 dozen pairs.
636	101 dozen.
641	1,309 dozen.
647	25 dozen.
649	3,061 dozen.
652	6,372 dozen.

In carrying out the above directions, the Commissioner of Customs should construe entry into the United States for consumption to include entry for consumption into the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to 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. 98-32355 Filed 12-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Hong Kong

November 30, 1998.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1999.

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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in Hong Kong and exported during the period January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

Effective on January 1, 1999, a visa will no longer be required for products integrated in the second stage of the integration of textiles and clothing into GATT 1994 from WTO member countries (see 63 FR 53881, published on October 7, 1998). A visa will continue to be required for non-integrated products. For quota purposes only, products remaining in categories partially integrated will continue to be designated by the designator "pt."

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the 1999 limits. These limits have been increased, variously, for adjustments permitted under the flexibility provisions of the ATC.

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 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Information regarding the 1999