

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by October 14, 1999.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-26391 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100499F]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will hold a working meeting which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSAS working meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 1999 and will continue until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Southwest Regional Office, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA; telephone: (562) 980-4000.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Six, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the meeting is to review public comments from scoping sessions and make recommendations to the Council regarding issues to be addressed in the fishery management plan for highly migratory species of the West Coast.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to

take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 5, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-26389 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100599E]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting via conference call of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP).

DATES: This meeting will be via conference call on October 22, 1999, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for locations of listening stations.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-6815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The listening stations are as follows:

1. NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Contact: Georgia Cranmore; telephone: 727-570-5305.

2. NMFS Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408

Contact: Herb Kumpf; telephone: 850-234-6541.

The RFSAP will evaluate new information on gag biology that was presented to the Council during its

development of the revised Regulatory Amendment to Set 1999 Gag/Black Grouper Management Measures. This new information includes reports prepared by Dr. Chris Koenig (Florida State University, Dr. Robert Chapman (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources), and other academic and state scientists; plus an evaluation and response to the analyses prepared for Southeastern Fisheries Association by Dr. Trevor Kenchington (Gadus Associates) and other independent scientists retained by Dr. Kenchington. A review of these materials was originally scheduled to be conducted during a September 20-24, 1999 meeting of the RFSAP, but was deferred due to time constraints. The RFSAP is composed of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics. A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Council (see ADDRESSES).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the RFSAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the RFSAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The listening stations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by October 15, 1999.

Dated: October 5, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-26409 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080599C]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocket Launches

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a modification to a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: NMFS has amended the Letter of Authorization (LOA) issued on April 2, 1999, to the 30th Space Wing, U.S. Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California (Vandenberg), to include an additional rocket type to its list of launch vehicles authorized to harass seals and sea lions incidental to launch activities.

DATES: Effective from October 14, 1999, through April 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the request for modification, the LOA and the supporting documentation are available for review during regular business hours in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055, or Christina Fahy, NMFS, (562) 980-4023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; the MMPA) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of seals and sea

lions incidental to missile and rocket launches, aircraft flight test operations, and helicopter operations at Vandenberg were published on March 1, 1999 (64 FR 9925), and remain in effect until December 31, 2003.

In accordance with the MMPA, as amended, and implementing regulations, a 1-year LOA to take small numbers of seals and sea lions was issued on April 2, 1999, to the 30th Space Wing (64 FR 17145, April 8, 1999). On August 3, 1999, the 30th Space Wing requested NMFS to amend the LOA to include a new rocket, the Minotaur, to the list of rockets authorized to take harbor seals and California sea lions incidental to activities at Vandenberg. The U.S. Air Force did not request NMFS to increase the number of annual launches from Vandenberg that are authorized to take marine mammals under the LOA.

Comments and Responses

On August 18, 1999 (64 FR 44893), NMFS published a notice of receipt of, and requested public comment on, the request. During the 15-day public comment period, one letter was received. The U.S. Marine Mammal Commission noted that it had no objection to NMFS' issuance of the requested modification.

Discussion and Analysis

Spaceport Systems International (SSI) wants to begin launching the OSP Space Launch Vehicle, the Minotaur rocket, from the California Commercial Spaceport (CCS) on Vandenberg. The Minotaur contains 2 segments of Minuteman II solid-fuel motors and 2 Orion upperstage motors. According to SSI, the sound emitted during the launch should be no more than what a Minuteman II would emit.

Because this is a new launch vehicle, it was not included in the LOA issued to Vandenberg on April 2, 1999. Therefore, in order for NMFS to authorize the takings by harassment incidental to this new rocket, NMFS must be assured that the takings will not exceed the level of incidental harassment considered when it made its negligible impact finding on March 1, 1999 (64 FR 9925). First, Vandenberg is authorized to harass pinnipeds incidental to 10 missile launches from North Vandenberg and 20 rocket launches annually from South Vandenberg. This authorized level of launches for incidental takes of marine mammals will not be modified by NMFS to add this additional rocket to the LOA. Second, as mentioned previously, the Minotaur rocket consists of the first two segments of Minuteman

II solid-fuel motors and two Orion upperstage motors. For incidental takes of pinnipeds on the Vandenberg coastline, only the first one or two motors are important for assessing impacts along the California coast. The Minotaur, like the Minuteman II missiles launched from North Vandenberg, use Thiokol first-stage rocket motor with 202,600 pounds (lbs) of thrust and a second-stage motor made by Aerojet with 60,000 lbs of thrust. As a result, launch noises would be similar to those expected at North Vandenberg during a Minuteman II launch.

Third, Vandenberg has requested a small take of harbor seals (and possibly a few California sea lions) by incidental harassment for this rocket launched from the CCS, an area close to Space Launch Complex (SLC)-6. While the CCS was identified in the 30th Space Wing's July 11, 1997, application for a small take authorization and in the U.S. Air Force's Programmatic Operations Environmental Assessment for small takes of marine mammals, because the CCS was under construction at the time, no rocket types were identified for launching at that time of the application to NMFS. As a result, an incidental take assessment could not be made for this location by either NMFS or the 30th Space Wing during the rulemaking. However, impacts to pinnipeds from launches at nearby SLC-6 by Lockheed Martin's family of Athena rockets was analyzed on July 21, 1998 (63 FR 39055) and previously (see 60 FR 24840, May 10, 1995).

Finally, because the Minotaur rocket's first stage solid-fuel booster is half the size of the first-stage booster of the Athena 1 launched from SLC-6, it can be expected to impact the nearby harbor seal haulouts to a lesser, but unknown, level than the Athena. NMFS estimated that the Athena rocket would, under typical conditions, result in a sound pressure level of 127 dB (107 dBA) re 20 μ Pa at the harbor seal haulouts at Rocky

Point, which are about 1.5 mi (2.4 km) to the south and southwest of SLC-6. This level is sufficient to cause harbor seals to leave the beach at Point Arguello, Rocky Point, and Boathouse Flats. However, because the CCS is only 1 mile (1.6 km) from the closest haulout at Rocky Point whereas SLC-6 is approximately 2.5 mi (4.0 km) away from the nearest haulout, NMFS expects that SPLs from the launch of the Minotaur will be similar to levels expected from the Athena rocket at the Rocky Point haulout.

Because the addition of the Minotaur rocket to the launch list at Vandenberg will not result in an increase in the

number of launches authorized to take pinnipeds under the LOA, NMFS does not expect additional cumulative impacts to occur and therefore, NMFS has determined that the takes will remain small and not have more than a negligible impact on seals and sea lions at Vandenberg.

Monitoring and Reporting

Because this is a new launch vehicle, the 30th Space Wing is required under the LOA to measure the noise profiles from the rocket at the time of its first launch and to monitor impacts on marine mammals at nearby active, pinniped haulouts.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

Art Jeffers,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-26390 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Czech Republic

October 4, 1999.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

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, 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 the Czech Republic and exported during the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round

Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the 2000 limits.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Information regarding the 2000 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

October 4, 1999.

*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 the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2000, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of wool and man-made fiber textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in the Czech Republic and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000, in excess of the following limits:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
410	1,641,811 square meters.
433	6,448 dozen.
435	4,242 dozen.
443	78,604 numbers.
624	2,533,942 square meters.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the provisions of the ATC and administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

Products in the above categories exported during 1999 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated October 1, 1998) 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.

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 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. 99-26376 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits and Guaranteed Access Levels for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Guatemala

October 4, 1999.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing import limits and guaranteed access levels.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

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, 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 and guaranteed access levels for textile products, produced or manufactured in Guatemala and exported during the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish limits and guaranteed access levels for 2000.

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