

will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Approximately thirty (30) seats will be available for the public including five (5) seats reserved for the media. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include the following topics: (1) The final report of the SAB Review Panel regarding NOAA Social Science Research, (2) the NOAA Climate Change Science Plan, (3) the NOAA Earth Observing Summit, (4) FY 2004 budget requests, (5) the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, (6) Pew Oceans Commission reports, (7) SONAR and marine mammals, (8) Stellar sea lions, (9) National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite Systems, and (10) public statements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael Uhart, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11142, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-9121, Fax: 301-713-0163, E-mail: Michael.Uhart@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: February 25, 2003.

Louisa Koch,

Acting Assistant Administrator, OAR.

[FR Doc. 03-4823 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012803B]

Endangered Species; Permits 1316

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit modification

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Jeff Schmid, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, 1450 Merrihue Drive, Naples, FL 34102, has been issued a modification to scientific research permit No. 1316.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 28, 2002, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 55201) that an amendment of Permit No. 1316 issued January 8, 2002 (67 FR 38648), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Modification no. 2 to permit no. 1316 allows the Holder to take up to 30 Kemp's ridley sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 24, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-4820 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Commercial Availability Request under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

February 26, 2003.

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

ACTION: Request for public comments concerning a request for a determination that lastol elastic yarn cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the AGOA and the CBTPA.

SUMMARY: On February 21, 2003, the Chairman of CITA received a petition from the Dow Chemical Company alleging that lastol elastic yarn cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The petition requests that

apparel from such yarns or from U.S.-formed fabrics containing such yarns be eligible for preferential treatment under the AGOA and the CBTPA. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether such yarns can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

Comments must be submitted by March 18, 2003 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3100, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 112(b)(5)(B) of the AGOA; Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(II) of the CBTPA, as added by Section 211(a) of the CBTPA; Sections 1 and 6 of Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

Background

The AGOA and the CBTPA provide for quota- and duty-free treatment for qualifying textile and apparel products. Such treatment is generally limited to products manufactured from yarns and fabrics formed in the United States or a beneficiary country. The AGOA and the CBTPA also provide for quota- and duty-free treatment for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more AGOA or CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabric or yarn that is not formed in the United States or a beneficiary country, if it has been determined that such fabric or yarn cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. In Executive Order No. 13191, the President delegated to CITA the authority to determine whether yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the AGOA or the CBTPA and directed CITA to establish procedures to ensure appropriate public participation in any such determination. On March 6, 2001, CITA published procedures that it will follow in considering requests. (66 FR 13502).

On February 21, 2003, the Chairman of CITA received a petition from the Dow Chemical Company alleging that lastol elastic yarn, which is a crosslinked, heat resistant elastic yarn having elevated temperature elasticity comprising a cured, irradiated or crosslinked ethylene polymer, classified

under items 5402.49.9005 and 5404.10.8005 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), for use in apparel articles, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. It requests quota- and duty-free treatment under the AGOA and the CBTPA for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn in one or more AGOA or CBTPA beneficiary countries from such yarns or from U.S.-formed fabrics containing such yarns.

Essential characteristics of the yarn in question are:

1. Created from a synthetic polymer, with low but significant crystallinity, composed of at least 99 percent by weight of ethylene and at least one other olefin unit.
2. Heat resistance to temperatures up to and greater than 220 degrees Celsius.
3. Exhibits substantial elasticity.
4. Chemical resistance to the most stringent chemicals used in textile processing today.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with respect to whether these yarns can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Also relevant is whether other yarns that are supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner are substitutable for these yarns for purposes of the intended use. Comments must be received no later than March 18, 2003. Interested persons are invited to submit six copies of such comments or information to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, room 3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

If a comment alleges that these yarns can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner, CITA will closely review any supporting documentation, such as a signed statement by a manufacturer of the yarns stating that it produces the yarns that are the subject of the request, including the quantities that can be supplied and the time necessary to fill an order, as well as any relevant information regarding past production.

CITA will protect any business confidential information that is marked business confidential from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. CITA will make available to the public non-confidential versions of the request and non-confidential versions of any public comments received with respect to a request in room 3100 in the Herbert Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230. Persons submitting comments on a request are encouraged to include a non-

confidential version and a non-confidential summary.

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 03-4957 Filed 2-26-03; 4:39 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Purchasing Land and Establishing a Naval Special Warfare Riverine and Jungle Training Range in the Easement Buffer of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration's John C. Stennis Space Center, Hancock County, MS, and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of purchasing 5,200 acres of privately owned property located within the northwestern acoustic buffer zone at the National Aeronautical and Space Administration's John C. Stennis Space Center (Stennis Space Center) in Hancock County, Mississippi, and using the acquired acreage as a Naval Special Warfare Riverine and Jungle Training Range. Live-fire training on the range would use small arms Short Range Training Ammunition (SRTA) that has a plastic, non-lead, non-explosive projectile, and a limited flight profile.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Public scoping meetings will be held in Hancock County, MS and St. Tammany Parish, LA to receive oral and written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS. Public scoping open houses will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Hancock High School, 7084 Stennis Airport Dr., Kiln, MS and Thursday, March 20, 2003, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 2nd St., Slidell, LA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Davis, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, PO

Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419-9010, telephone (843) 820-5589, facsimile (843) 820-7472.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action will provide Special Operations Forces with reliable and priority access to a training range characterized by a permanent riverine and jungle environment and where live-fire exercises using SRTA can be conducted adjacent to the Stennis Space Center. Establishment of this range would meet the need of Special Operations Forces to train under realistic combat scenarios, thereby increasing their readiness to support national defense objectives and reducing combat casualties. It would also provide a range where Special Operations Forces could deploy the maritime unmanned aerial vehicle and conduct exercises using helicopters, boats, and vehicles.

Alternatives to be considered in the EIS address the type and tempo of training to be conducted on the range. The basic range alternative includes small arms training with SRTA along the reaches of the Pearl and Mikes River. Enhanced training alternatives will also be analyzed, which will also provide for the additional use of maritime unmanned aerial vehicles and helicopter insertions and extractions at variable tempos (tentatively either 36 or 60 events annually). A discussion of preliminary range locations will be included and the alternative of no action will also be addressed. In addition, the EIS may also consider other alternatives should they be defined during the public scoping process and meet established training criteria.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects associated with identified alternatives. Issues to be addressed will include, but not be limited to: Geology; biotic communities, including threatened and endangered species; water resources; noise; air quality; non-military land uses and access; cultural resources; transportation and waterway navigation; and water and land contaminants. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to implement any alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS. Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of