

New Jersey

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5th Floor North, Suite 500, 8000 Midlantic Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7700.

New Mexico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE., Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950/TDD (505) 761-4938.

New York

USDA Rural Development State Office, The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 South Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202-2541, (315) 477-6435/TDD (315) 477-6447.

North Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2000/TDD (919) 873-2003.

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office, P.O. Box 1737, Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737, (701) 530-2037/TDD (701) 530-2113.

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418, (614) 255-2500/TDD (614) 255-2554.

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-2654, (405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007.

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office, 101 SW., Main Street, Suite 1410, Portland, OR 97204-3222, (503) 414-3300/TDD (503) 414-3387.

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office, One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2299/TDD (717) 237-2261.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, IBM Building, Suite 601, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-6106, (787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697.

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1100/TDD (605) 352-1147.

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1300.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712.

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4320/TDD (801) 524-3309.

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office, City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6010/TDD (802) 223-6365.

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229-5014, (804) 287-1552/TDD (804) 287-1753.

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512-5715, (360) 704-7715.

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, 75 High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, (304) 284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836.

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345-7615/TDD (715) 345-7614.

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 1005, 100 East B Street, Casper, WY 82601, (307) 233-6700/TDD (307) 233-6733.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The maximum loan and grant awards are determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.28. The maximum loan and grant awards are calculated as 3.0 percent of the projected program levels, rounded to the nearest \$10,000; however, as specified in 7 CFR 1703.28(b), regardless of the projected total amount that will be available, the maximum size may not be lower than \$200,000. The projected program level during FY 2005 for zero-interest loans is \$24,802,640, and the projected program level for grants is \$10,000,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for loans, rounded to the nearest \$10,000, results in the maximum loan award of \$740,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for grants results in an amount higher than \$200,000. Therefore, the maximum grant award for FY 2005 will be \$300,000. This notice will be amended should funding in excess of projected levels be received.

Nondiscrimination Statement

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, STOP 9410, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Dated: February 23, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 05-5124 Filed 3-15-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****A-427-814****Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France: Amended Final Results of Antidumping Administrative Review**

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

SUMMARY: On February 11, 2005, the Department of Commerce (Department) published the final results of its administrative review of the antidumping duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils (SSSS) from France for the period from July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003 in the **Federal Register**. See *Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France: Final Results of Antidumping Administrative Review*, 70 FR 7240 (February 11, 2005) (*Final Results*). We are amending our Final Results to correct ministerial errors alleged by Petitioners¹ pursuant to

¹ Allegheny Ludlum Corporation, AK Steel, Inc., North American Stainless, United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO/CLC, Butler Armco Independent Union, and Zanesville Armco Independent Organization are the Petitioners in this case.

section 751(h) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sebastian Wright or Sean Carey at (202) 482-5254 and (202) 482-3964, respectively; AD/CVD Operations, Office 6, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope of the Antidumping Duty Order

For purposes of this administrative review, the products covered by the order are certain stainless steel sheet and strip in coils. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product in coils that is greater than 9.5 mm in width and less than 4.75 mm in thickness, and that is annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject sheet and strip may also be further processed (e.g., cold-rolled, polished, aluminized, coated, etc.) provided that it maintains the specific dimensions of sheet and strip following such processing.

The merchandise subject to this order is currently classifiable in the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* ("HTS") at subheadings:

7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051,
7219.13.0071, 7219.1300.81²,
7219.14.0030, 7219.14.0065,
7219.14.0090, 7219.32.0005,
7219.32.0020, 7219.32.0025,
7219.32.0035, 7219.32.0036,
7219.32.0038, 7219.32.0042,
7219.32.0044, 7219.33.0005,
7219.33.0020, 7219.33.0025,
7219.33.0035, 7219.33.0036,
7219.33.0038, 7219.33.0042,
7219.33.0044, 7219.34.0005,
7219.34.0020, 7219.34.0025,
7219.34.0030, 7219.34.0035,
7219.35.0005, 7219.35.0015,
7219.35.0030, 7219.35.0035,
7219.90.0010, 7219.90.0020,
7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060,
7219.90.0080, 7220.12.1000,
7220.12.5000, 7220.20.1010,
7220.20.1015, 7220.20.1060,
7220.20.1080, 7220.20.6005,
7220.20.6010, 7220.20.6015,
7220.20.6060, 7220.20.6080,
7220.20.7005, 7220.20.7010,
7220.20.7015, 7220.20.7060,

7220.20.7080, 7220.20.8000,
7220.20.9030, 7220.20.9060,
7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015,
7220.90.0060, and 7220.90.0080.

Although the HTS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise under review is dispositive.

Excluded from the review of this order are the following: (1) sheet and strip that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled, (2) sheet and strip that is cut to length, (3) plate (i.e., flat-rolled stainless steel products of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more), (4) flat wire (i.e., cold-rolled sections, with a prepared edge, rectangular in shape, of a width of not more than 9.5 mm), and (5) razor blade steel. Razor blade steel is a flat-rolled product of stainless steel, not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), in coils, of a width of not more than 23 mm and a thickness of 0.266 mm or less, containing, by weight, 12.5 to 14.5 percent chromium, and certified at the time of entry to be used in the manufacture of razor blades. See Chapter 72 of the HTS, "Additional U.S. Note" 1(d).

Flapper valve steel is also excluded from the scope of the order. This product is defined as stainless steel strip in coils containing, by weight, between 0.37 and 0.43 percent carbon, between 1.15 and 1.35 percent molybdenum, and between 0.20 and 0.80 percent manganese. This steel also contains, by weight, phosphorus of 0.025 percent or less, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of 0.020 percent or less. The product is manufactured by means of vacuum arc remelting, with inclusion controls for sulphide of no more than 0.04 percent and for oxide of no more than 0.05 percent. Flapper valve steel has a tensile strength of between 210 and 300 ksi, yield strength of between 170 and 270 ksi, plus or minus 8 ksi, and a hardness (Hv) of between 460 and 590. Flapper valve steel is most commonly used to produce specialty flapper valves in compressors.

Also excluded is a product referred to as suspension foil, a specialty steel product used in the manufacture of suspension assemblies for computer disk drives. Suspension foil is described as 302/304 grade or 202 grade stainless steel of a thickness between 14 and 127 microns, with a thickness tolerance of plus-or-minus 2.01 microns, and surface glossiness of 200 to 700 percent Gs. Suspension foil must be supplied in coil widths of not more than 407 mm, and with a mass of 225 kg or less. Roll marks may only be visible on one side, with no scratches of measurable depth.

The material must exhibit residual stresses of 2 mm maximum deflection, and flatness of 1.6 mm over 685 mm length.

Certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters is also excluded from the scope of this order. This stainless steel strip in coils is a specialty foil with a thickness of between 20 and 110 microns used to produce a metallic substrate with a honeycomb structure for use in automotive catalytic converters. The steel contains, by weight, carbon of no more than 0.030 percent, silicon of no more than 1.0 percent, manganese of no more than 1.0 percent, chromium of between 19 and 22 percent, aluminum of no less than 5.0 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.045 percent, sulfur of no more than 0.03 percent, lanthanum of less than 0.002 or greater than 0.05 percent, and total rare earth elements of more than 0.06 percent, with the balance iron.

Permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip is also excluded from the scope of this order. This ductile stainless steel strip contains, by weight, 26 to 30 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent cobalt, with the remainder of iron, in widths 228.6 mm or less, and a thickness between 0.127 and 1.270 mm. It exhibits magnetic remanence between 9,000 and 12,000 gauss, and a coercivity of between 50 and 300 oersteds. This product is most commonly used in electronic sensors and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Arnokrome III."³

Certain electrical resistance alloy steel is also excluded from the scope of this order. This product is defined as a non-magnetic stainless steel manufactured to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) specification B344 and containing, by weight, 36 percent nickel, 18 percent chromium, and 46 percent iron, and is most notable for its resistance to high temperature corrosion. It has a melting point of 1390 degrees Celsius and displays a creep rupture limit of 4 kilograms per square millimeter at 1000 degrees Celsius. This steel is most commonly used in the production of heating ribbons for circuit breakers and industrial furnaces, and in rheostats for railway locomotives. The product is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Gilphy 36."⁴

Certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel is also excluded from the scope of this order.

² Due to changes to the HTS numbers in 2001, 7219.13.0030, 7219.13.0050, 7219.13.0070, and 7219.13.0080 are now 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, and 7219.13.0081, respectively.

³ "Arnokrome III" is a trademark of the Arnold Engineering Company.

⁴ "Gilphy 36" is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

This high-strength, ductile stainless steel product is designated under the Unified Numbering System (UNS) as S45500—grade steel, and contains, by weight, 11 to 13 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent nickel. Carbon, manganese, silicon and molybdenum each comprise, by weight, 0.05 percent or less, with phosphorus and sulfur each comprising, by weight, 0.03 percent or less. This steel has copper, niobium, and titanium added to achieve aging, and will exhibit yield strengths as high as 1700 Mpa and ultimate tensile strengths as high as 1750 Mpa after aging, with elongation percentages of 3 percent or less in 50 mm. It is generally provided in thicknesses between 0.635 and 0.787 mm, and in widths of 25.4 mm. This product is most commonly used in the manufacture of television tubes and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as “Durphynox 17.”⁵

Finally, three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and medical instruments are also excluded from the scope of this order. These include stainless steel strip in coils used in the production of textile cutting tools (e.g., carpet knives).⁶ This steel is similar to AISI grade 420 but containing, by weight, 0.5 to 0.7 percent of molybdenum. The steel also contains, by weight, carbon of between 1.0 and 1.1 percent, sulfur of 0.020 percent or less, and includes between 0.20 and 0.30 percent copper and between 0.20 and 0.50 percent cobalt. This steel is sold under proprietary names such as “GIN4 Mo.” The second excluded stainless steel strip in coils is similar to AISI 420—J2 and contains, by weight, carbon of between 0.62 and 0.70 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, manganese of between 0.45 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This steel has a carbide density on average of 100 carbide particles per 100 square microns. An example of this product is “GIN5” steel. The third specialty steel has a chemical composition similar to AISI 420 F, with carbon of between 0.37 and 0.43 percent, molybdenum of between 1.15 and 1.35 percent, but lower manganese of between 0.20 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This product is supplied with a hardness of more than Hv 500 guaranteed after customer

processing, and is supplied as, for example, “GIN6”.⁷

Amendment of Final Results

On February 11, 2005, the Department published the final results for its review of the antidumping duty order on SSSS from France. *See Final Results*. On February 11, 2005, in accordance with section 751(h) of the Act and 19 C.F.R. 351.224(c)(2), Petitioners timely filed an allegation that the Department erred in its calculation of the antidumping margin by failing to convert the variable for U.S. further manufacturing costs (FURMANU) from U.S. dollars per pound to U.S. dollars per kilogram in its margin calculation program. Ugine & ALZ France, S.A. (UA France) did not allege any ministerial errors, nor did it rebut Petitioners’ allegations.

Petitioners allege that the Department failed to convert the variable FURMANU from U.S. dollars per pound to U.S. dollars per kilogram. Petitioners note that the Department used UA France’s U.S. sales file, which included FURMANU. Petitioners state that after merging the U.S. exchange rates with the U.S. sales file, the Department converted the U.S. sales expenses from a value per pound to a value per kilogram for all the expenses except FURMANU. This conversion from per-pound amounts to per-kilogram amounts was necessary because UA France submitted its home-market sales and costs files on a per-kilogram basis.

According to Petitioners, the failure to convert FURMANU from U.S. dollars per pound to U.S. dollars per kilogram resulted in an overstatement of the net U.S. price and an understatement of the antidumping duty margin. In order to correct this ministerial error, Petitioners suggested that the Department revise the margin calculation program at Line 2670 to account for the conversion to per-kilogram values.

The Act, as well as the Department’s regulations, define a ministerial error as one involving “addition, subtraction, or other arithmetic function, clerical errors resulting from inaccurate copying, duplication, or the like, and any other type of unintentional error which the Secretary considers ministerial.” *See* section 751(h) of the Act and 19 C.F.R. 351.224(f).

After reviewing Petitioners’ allegation, we have determined that the alleged error is a ministerial error pursuant to section 751(h) of the Act and 19 C.F.R. 351.224(f). Therefore, we are amending the *Final Results* to correct the above-described ministerial

error. We agree with Petitioners that FURMANU should be converted from U.S. dollars per pound to U.S. dollars per kilogram. The Department agrees that to correct the Department’s ministerial error line 2670 should be amended to: FURMANU = FURMANU/0.4536.

Amended Final Results of Review

In the *Final Results*, the Department determined the antidumping margin for UA France to be 9.65 percent. As a result of correcting the ministerial error, the Department is amending the antidumping margin for UA France as follows:

Manufacturer/Exporter	Margin (percent)
Ugine & ALZ France, S.A.	11.12

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following antidumping duty deposit rates will be required on all shipments of SSSS from France entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of these final results, as provided for by section 751(a)(1) of the Act: (1) for UA France, the cash deposit rate will be the amended rate indicated above; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies other than UA France, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific rate established for the most recent period; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, a prior review, or the less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent period for the manufacturer of the subject merchandise; and (4) if neither the exporter nor the manufacturer is a firm covered by this review, a prior review, or the LTFV investigation, the cash deposit rate shall be the “all others” rate established in the LTFV investigation, which is 9.38 percent *ad valorem*. *See Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France*, 64 FR 30820 (June 8, 1999). These deposit rates, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

Accordingly, the Department will determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Production (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. The Department will issue appropriate assessment instructions directly to CBP within 15 days of publication of these amended final results of review.

⁵ “Durphynox 17” is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

⁶ This list of uses is illustrative and provided for descriptive purposes only.

⁷ “GIN4 Mo,” “GIN5” and “GIN6” are the proprietary grades of Hitachi Metals America, Ltd.

We are issuing and publishing this determination and notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1), 751(h), and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 C.F.R. 351.224(f).

Dated: March 9, 2005.

Barbara E. Tillman,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E5-1160 Filed 3-15-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for research, education, and application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support the NOAA mission.

Time and Date: The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 22, 2005, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Wednesday, March 23, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below may be subject to change. Refer to the Web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

Place: The meeting will be held both days in the Staff Auditorium at the National Geographic Society Headquarters, 1145 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 30-minute time period set aside on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, for direct oral statements or questions from the public. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. 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) Status of NOAA Responses to SAB Actions and Recommendations Overview of NOAA Response to SAB/ Research Review Team Report; (2) Review NOAA's Draft Policy to Formalize the Transition of Research to Operations and Information Services; (3) Progress Reports: External Ecosystem Task Team and the Physical and Social Science Task Team; (4) Draft NOAA Cooperative Institute Policy; (5) Report on the Review of the National Sea Grant College Extension Program and a Call for Greater National Commitment to Engagement; (6) Administration Response to Ocean Commission Report; (7) NOAA's plans for the International Polar Year (IPY); (8) Briefing on the Integrated Surface Observing System (ISOS) Working Group; (9) Transitioning from the Integrated Ocean Observing System, NPOESS, GOES-R, NEXRAD, etc. to Integrated Earth Observing System (IEOS); (10) NOAA Role in Implementing the President's Executive Order on the Great Lakes; (11) Overview of Predictions/Monitoring of 2004 Hurricanes (12) Tsunamis—Research and Observations; (13) Global Earth Observing Systems of Systems (GEOS) Update; (14) 2006–2011 Strategic planning; (15) 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: 301-713-3515, e-mail: Michael.Uhart@noaa.gov); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: March 10, 2005.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 05-5118 Filed 3-15-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031105D]

Endangered Fish and Wildlife; Marine Mammal Protection Act, Draft Conservation Plan for the Cook Inlet Stock of Beluga Whales

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended, requires the Secretary of Commerce to prepare a conservation plan for any species or stock designated as depleted under that Act. The Cook Inlet stock of beluga whales was designated as depleted on May 31, 2000, and this Conservation Plan is being written to promote the conservation and recovery of these whales. The goal of this Conservation Plan (Plan) will be met when the Cook Inlet stock of beluga whales are no longer considered depleted under the MMPA.

DATES: Comments and information must be received by May 16, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft Conservation Plan may be reviewed and/or copied at the NMFS, Protected Resources Division, 222 W. 7th Ave., 143, Anchorage, AK, 99513; or at the Alaska Regional Office, Protected Resources Division, 709 W. 9th St., P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802. The draft Conservation Plan is available on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/whales/beluga.htm>. Comments on the Draft Conservation Plan should be sent to the above addresses, or can be electronically forwarded to the following e-mail address:

Records.Fakr@noaa.gov. Please identify electronic comments with the header: Beluga Whale Conservation Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaja Brix, NOAA/NMFS, Alaska Region, (907) 586 7235, or Brad Smith, NOAA/NMFS, Alaska Region, Anchorage Field Office, (907) 271 5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cook Inlet beluga whale stock declined by greater than 50 percent during the last decade. In response to this significant decline, NMFS designated the Cook Inlet stock of beluga whales as depleted under the MMPA on May 31, 2000 (65 FR 34590). Subsequent surveys conducted between 1999 and 2004 have