

received an application to amend an Export Trade Certificate of Review ("Certificate"). This notice summarizes the proposed amendment and requests comments relevant to whether the Certificate should be issued.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffrey C. Anspacher, Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, (202) 482-5131 (this is not a toll-free number) or by E-mail at oetca@ita.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S.C. 4001-21) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to issue Export Trade Certificates of Review. An Export Trade Certificate of Review protects the holder and the members identified in the Certificate from state and federal government antitrust actions and from private treble damage antitrust actions for the export conduct specified in the Certificate and carried out in compliance with its terms and conditions. Section 302(b)(1) of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 and 15 CFR 325.6(a) require the Secretary to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** identifying the applicant and summarizing its proposed export conduct.

Request for Public Comments

Interested parties may submit written comments relevant to the determination whether an amended Certificate should be issued. If the comments include any privileged or confidential business information, it must be clearly marked and a nonconfidential version of the comments (identified as such) should be included. Any comments not marked privileged or confidential business information will be deemed to be nonconfidential. An original and five (5) copies, plus two (2) copies of the nonconfidential version, should be submitted no later than 20 days after the date of this notice to: Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1104H, Washington, DC 20230, or transmit by E-mail at oetca@ita.doc.gov. Information submitted by any person is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). However, nonconfidential versions of the comments will be made available to the applicant, if necessary, for determining whether or not to issue the Certificate. Comments should refer to this application as "Export Trade Certificate of Review, application number 97-7A003."

The Association for the Administration of Rice Quotas, Inc.'s ("AARQ") original Certificate was issued on January 21, 1998 (63 FR 4220, January 28, 1998) and last amended on November 19, 2002 (68 FR 8739, February 25, 2003). A summary of the application for an amendment follows.

Summary of the Application

Applicant: Association for the Administration of Rice Quotas, Inc. ("AARQ"), c/o David Van Oss of Riviana Foods Inc., 2777 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas 77019.

Contact: M. Jean Anderson, Esq., Counsel to Applicant, Telephone: (202) 682-7217.

Application No.: 97-7A003.

Date Deemed Submitted: December 4, 2003.

Proposed Amendment: AARQ seeks to amend its Certificate to:

1. Add each of the following companies as a new "Member" of the Certificate within the meaning of § 325.2(l) of the Regulations (15 CFR 325.2(l) (2003)): Itochu International Inc., New York, New York (a subsidiary of Itochu Corporation, Tokyo, Japan); and Veetee Rice Inc., Springfield, Virginia (a subsidiary of Veetee Investments, Nassau, Bahamas).
2. Change the listing of the following Members: "California Commodity Traders, LLC, Robbins, California, and its affiliate American Commodity Company, LLC, Robbins, California" should be amended to read "American Commodity Company, LLC, Robbins, California"; "Cargill Americas, Inc., Wayzata, Minnesota" should be amended to read "Cargill Americas, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida"; "ConAgra Foods, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and its subsidiary, Alliance Grain, Inc., Voorhees, New Jersey" should be amended to read "ConAgra Foods, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and its subsidiary, Alliance Grain, Inc., Marlton, New Jersey"; "Gulf Pacific, Inc., and its subsidiaries, Gulf Pacific Rice Co., Inc., and Gulf Rice Milling, Inc., Houston, Texas" should be amended to read "Gulf Pacific Rice Co., Inc., Gulf Rice Milling, Inc., Houston, Texas, and Harvest Rice, Inc., McGehee, Arkansas (each a subsidiary of Gulf Pacific, Inc., Houston, Texas)"; "Rickmers Rice USA, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri" should be amended to read "Rickmers Rice USA, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee"; "Sunshine Rice, Inc., Stockton, California (a subsidiary of Sunshine Business Enterprise, Inc.)" should be amended to read "KD International Trading, Inc., Stockton, California (a subsidiary of Sunshine Business Enterprises, Inc.)"; and "Uncle Ben's Inc., Greenville,

Mississippi" should be amended to read "Masterfoods USA a Mars, Incorporated Company, Greenville, Mississippi."

Dated: December 11, 2003.

Jeffrey C. Anspacher,

Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-31069 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121103A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Management and Oversight of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Doris Grimm at 301-713-3155, ext. 107, or to Doris.Grimm@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System consists of carefully-selected estuarine areas of the U.S. that are designated, preserved, and managed for research and educational purposes. The information to be collected is needed from states to review proposed designations. For sites selected, States must develop management plans and submit an annual report/work plan.

NOAA needs the information to ensure that the sites selected meet national standards.

II. Method of Collection

Much information can be submitted electronically via a Web site. Other information can be submitted in paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0121.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2,000 for a management plan; 2,000 hours for a site nomination; 15 hours for an annual report/work plan; and 2 hours beyond basic application information for an application requiring a categorical exclusion checklist, state historical office comments, a preliminary engineering report for a construction project or restoration, or a Federal Consistency Certification.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 14,180.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$30,794.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-31136 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121103C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7008, or Patsy.Bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Regulations at 50 CFR 679.24 require that all hook-and-line, longline pot, and pot-and-line marker buoys carried on board or used by any vessel regulated under 50 CFR part 679 shall be marked with the vessel name, Federal permit number, or registration number. The regulations also specify the size and color of markings. The marking of gear aids law enforcement and enables other fishermen to report on misplaced gear.

II. Method of Collection

No information is collected; this is a gear-marking requirement.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0353.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,116.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes per buoy.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,750.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$4,332.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-31137 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121203A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Socio-economic Assessment of Marine Protected Areas Management Preferences

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).