

submit information regarding their chartering arrangements. The information collected from chartering permit applications will be used to ensure that vessels entering into chartering agreements comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The NMFS would use information submitted in applications for chartering arrangements, and other applicable notifications (such as termination notifications from the applicant indicating a desire to terminate their chartering agreement), to monitor the activities and durations of such arrangements targeting HMS in the Atlantic Ocean. NMFS would report this information annually to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as a means of demonstrating compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations.

## II. Method of Collection

Information is submitted on forms or other written format, and may be submitted electronically by e-mail.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0495.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business and other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 40 minutes for a Chartering permit application; and 5 minutes for a termination notification.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 8.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$8.

## 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 22, 2006.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-22338 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122106C]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 555-1870

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that James T. Harvey, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct scientific research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*).

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before January 29, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 555-1870.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Dr. Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the

regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to examine the biology and ecology of harbor seals and monitor health and condition of coastal populations of harbor seals in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska over a 5-year period. The primary hypotheses are: (1) actual abundance can be determined using aerial surveys and a correction factor, and distinct stocks exist latitudinally; (2) seals are a major (>5%) source of natural mortality for nearshore fishes and cephalopods; (3) pollutants and anthropogenic inputs are compromising seal health; (4) human disturbance causes increased energetic costs and seals can have significant effects on fisheries; (5) dispersal of juvenile harbor seals increases survival; and (6) male harbor seals establish underwater territories and maintain hierarchies using underwater vocalizations and aggression. To test these hypotheses researchers will capture a maximum of 670 harbor seals annually. An additional 2,910 individuals may be taken annually via Level B harassment by incidental disturbance during capture or scat collection and exposure to playback of vocalizations. Animals captured would have some or all of the following procedures done: mass and morphometrics, blubber depth and biopsy, lavage/enema, flipper tagging and instrument application, blood sample, swabs, and skin and hair sampling. The applicant requests up to two incidental mortalities per year.

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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

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) 427-2521; and

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

Dated: December 20, 2006.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-22332 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Determination under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

December 22, 2006.

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

**ACTION:** Directive to the Commissioner  
of Customs and Border Protection.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements  
(CITA) has determined that certain  
textile and apparel goods from Mali  
shall be treated as "handloomed,  
handmade, folklore articles, or ethnic  
printed fabrics" and qualify for  
preferential treatment under the African  
Growth and Opportunity Act. Imports of  
eligible products from Mali with an  
appropriate visa will qualify for duty-  
free treatment.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 16, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Anna Flaaten, International Trade  
Specialist, Office of Textiles and  
Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce,  
(202) 482-3400.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Sections 112(a) and 112(b)(6) of  
the African Growth and Opportunity Act  
(Title I of the Trade and Development Act of  
2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) ("AGOA"), as  
amended by Section 7(c) of the AGOA  
Acceleration Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-274)  
("AGOA Acceleration Act") (19 U.S.C. §§  
3721(a) and (b)(6)); Sections 2 and 5 of  
Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17,  
2001; Sections 25-27 and Paras. 13-14 of  
Presidential Proclamation 7912 of June 29,  
2005.

AGOA provides preferential tariff  
treatment for imports of certain textile  
and apparel products of beneficiary sub-  
Saharan African countries, including  
hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore  
articles of a beneficiary country that are  
certified as such by the competent  
authority in the beneficiary country.  
The AGOA Acceleration Act further  
expanded AGOA by adding ethnic  
printed fabrics to the list of textile and  
apparel products made in the  
beneficiary sub-Saharan African  
countries that may be eligible for the  
preferential treatment described in

section 112(a) of the AGOA. In  
Executive Order 13191 (January 17,  
2001) and Presidential Proclamation  
7912 (June 29, 2005), the President  
authorized CITA to consult with  
beneficiary sub-Saharan African  
countries and to determine which, if  
any, particular textile and apparel goods  
shall be treated as being hand-loomed,  
handmade, folklore articles, or ethnic  
printed fabrics. (66 FR 7271-72 and 70  
FR 37959, 37961 & 63)

In a letter to the Commissioner of  
Customs dated January 18, 2001, the  
United States Trade Representative  
directed Customs to require that  
importers provide an appropriate export  
visa from a beneficiary sub-Saharan  
African country to obtain preferential  
treatment under section 112(a) of the  
AGOA (66 FR 7837). The first digit of  
the visa number corresponds to one of  
nine groupings of textile and apparel  
products that are eligible for preferential  
tariff treatment. Grouping "9" is  
reserved for handmade, hand-loomed,  
folklore articles, or ethnic printed  
fabrics.

CITA has consulted with Malian  
authorities and has determined that  
hand-loomed fabrics, hand-loomed  
articles (e.g., hand-loomed rugs, scarves,  
place mats, and tablecloths), handmade  
articles made from hand-loomed fabrics,  
the folklore articles described in Annex  
A, and ethnic printed fabrics described  
in Annex B to this notice, if produced  
in and exported from Mali, are eligible  
for preferential tariff treatment under  
section 112(a) of the AGOA, as  
amended. After further consultations  
with Malian authorities, CITA may  
determine that additional textile and  
apparel goods shall be treated as  
folklore articles or ethnic printed  
fabrics. In the letter published below,  
CITA directs the Commissioner of  
Customs and Border Protection to allow  
duty-free entry of such products under  
U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule  
subheading 9819.11.27 if accompanied  
by an appropriate AGOA visa in  
grouping "9".

**Philip J. Martello,**

*Acting Chairman, Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

#### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 22, 2006.

Commissioner,  
*Bureau of Customs and Border Protection,  
Washington, DC 20229.*

Dear Commissioner: The Committee for the  
Implementation of Textiles Agreements  
("CITA"), pursuant to Sections 112(a) and  
(b)(6) of the African Growth and Opportunity  
Act (Title I of the Trade and Development  
Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) ("AGOA"),

as amended by Section 7(c) of the AGOA  
Acceleration Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-274)  
("AGOA Acceleration Act") (19 U.S.C. §§  
3721(a) and (b)(6)), Executive Order No.  
13191 of January 17, 2001, and Presidential  
Proclamation 7912 of June 29, 2005, has  
determined, effective on January 16, 2007,  
that the following articles shall be treated as  
"handloomed, handmade, folklore articles,  
and ethnic printed fabrics" under the AGOA:  
(a) handloomed fabrics, handloomed articles  
(e.g., handloomed rugs, scarves, placemats,  
and tablecloths), and hand-made articles  
made from handloomed fabrics, if made in  
Mali from fabric handloomed in Mali; (b) the  
folklore articles described in Annex A; and  
(c) ethnic printed fabrics described in Annex  
B, if made in Mali. Such articles are eligible  
for duty-free treatment only if entered under  
subheading 9819.11.27 and accompanied by  
a properly completed visa for product  
grouping "9", in accordance with the  
provisions of the Visa Arrangement between  
the Government of Mali and the Government  
of the United States Concerning Textile and  
Apparel Articles Claiming Preferential Tariff  
Treatment under Section 112 of the Trade  
and Development Act of 2000. After further  
consultations with Malian authorities, CITA  
may determine that additional textile and  
apparel goods shall be treated as folklore  
articles or ethnic printed fabrics.

Sincerely,  
Philip J. Martello,  
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

#### ANNEX A: Malian Folklore Products

CITA has determined that the following  
textile and apparel goods shall be treated as  
folklore articles for purposes of the AGOA if  
made in Mali. Articles must be ornamented  
in characteristic Malian or regional folk style.  
An article may not include modern features  
such as zippers, elastic, elasticized fabrics,  
snaps, or hook-and-pile fasteners (such as  
velcro or similar holding fabric). An article  
may not incorporate patterns that are not  
traditional or historical to Mali, such as  
airplanes, buses, cowboys, or cartoon  
characters and may not incorporate designs  
referencing holidays or festivals not common  
to traditional Malian culture, such as  
Halloween and Thanksgiving.

#### Eligible folklore articles:

- (a) **Hand-woven Blanket/Tapestry:** Strips of  
handloomed cotton or wool or wool-  
cotton blend fabric, 3-10 inches wide,  
hand or machine sewn together to make  
a larger piece of fabric. Dimensions and  
designs depend on use. Uses include  
scarves, body wrap, blankets,  
bedspreads, and interior room decoration  
accessory. Designs are woven into the  
fabric using dyed yarns or painted,  
stenciled or printed after assembly.
- (b) **Women's Boubou:** A loose-fitting garment  
with large open armholes made of bright  
solid colored machine-made African  
brocade (also called basin) or hand-  
woven fabric. It is accompanied by a  
matching wrap skirt and head wrap. The  
garment is decorated with hand or  
machine-sewn embroidery around a  
round or U-shaped neckline.