

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has scheduled a series of scoping hearings to solicit public comment on two draft scoping documents. The first, Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp 14 proposes actions that deal with adjustments to the total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper, size limits, bag limits, recreational season dates, and the certification of new shrimp bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). The amendment will also look at directed fishery gear restrictions and depth restrictions on the commercial fishery.

The second document, Joint Reef Fish Amendment 28/Shrimp 15, will consider such issues as shrimp trawl gear limits, limitations of shrimp vessel permit transferability, further reducing bycatch, shrimp fishery bycatch quota and quota monitoring, vessel monitoring systems (VMS), possible area closures for shrimp, and other management alternatives.

The scoping hearings will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 10 p.m. at each of the following locations:

Monday, January 23, 2006, Four Points by Sheraton, 3777 North Expressway, Brownsville, TX 78520, telephone: (956) 547-1500;

Monday, January 23, 2006, Holiday Inn Mobile I-10 Bellingrath Gardens, 5465 Highway 90 West, Mobile, AL 36619, telephone: (251) 666-5600;

Tuesday, January 24, 2006, University of Texas Marine Science Institute Auditorium, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX 78373, telephone: (361) 749-6711;

Tuesday, January 24, 2006, LaFont Inn, 2703 Denny Avenue, Pascagoula, MS 39567, telephone: (228) 762-7111;

Wednesday, January 25, 2006, Holiday Inn Galveston, 5002 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77550, telephone: (409) 740-3581

Wednesday, January 25, 2006, Hilton Garden Inn Orange Beach, 23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561, telephone: (251) 974-1600;

Thursday, January 26, 2006, Larose Regional Park Gym, 307 East 5th Street, Larose, LA 70373, telephone: (985) 693-7355;

Thursday, January 26, 2006, National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408, telephone: (850) 234-6541;

Monday, January 30, 2006, Tampa Marriott Westshore, 1001 North Westshore Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607, (813) 287-2555; and

Tuesday, January 31, 2006, DoubleTree Grand Key Resort, 3990 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, FL 33040, telephone: (305) 293-1818.

Copies of the scoping documents and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 5, 2006.

Emily Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010406A]

International Whaling Commission; Intersessional Revised Management Scheme Working Group Meeting; Nominations

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

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice is a call for nominees for one non-federal position to the U.S. Delegation to the February 28 - March 2, 2006, International Whaling Commission (IWC) intersessional Revised Management Scheme (RMS) Working Group meeting.

DATES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC intersessional RMS Working Group meeting must be received by January 31, 2006.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC intersessional RMS Working Group meeting should be addressed to Dr. Bill Hogarth, Acting U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Cheri McCarty, National

Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 12603, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Prospective Congressional advisors to the delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090, Ext. 183.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative selected as a result of this nomination process is responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations.

The intersessional RMS Working Group meeting will be held February 28 - March 2, 2006, in Cambridge, UK, at the University Arms Hotel.

Dated: January 5, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-162 Filed 1-10-06; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comment on Short Supply Petition under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

January 5, 2006.

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

ACTION: Request for Public Comments concerning a request for modification of the NAFTA rules of origin for nonwoven wipes made from viscose rayon staple fiber.

SUMMARY: On December 19, 2005 the Chairman of CITA received a request from Meeks & Sheppard, on behalf of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products Company, alleging that rayon viscose

staple fiber, classified in subheading 5504.10 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that CITA consider whether the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rule of origin for sanitary towels or tampons classified under HTSUS subheading 5601.10 should be modified to allow the use of non-North American viscose rayon staple fiber.

The President may proclaim a modification to the NAFTA rules of origin only after reaching an agreement with the other NAFTA countries on the modification. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether woven fabrics of the type described below can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be submitted by February 10, 2006 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martin J. Walsh, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-2818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 USC 1854); Section 202(q) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 USC 3332(q)); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

Background

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), NAFTA countries are required to eliminate customs duties on textile and apparel goods that qualify as originating goods under the NAFTA rules of origin, which are set out in Annex 401 to the NAFTA. The NAFTA provides that the rules of origin for textile and apparel products may be amended through a subsequent agreement by the NAFTA countries. See Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act. In consultations regarding such a change, the NAFTA countries are to consider issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns, or fabrics in the free trade area and whether domestic producers are capable of supplying commercial quantities of the good in a timely manner. The Statement of Administrative Action (SAA) that accompanied the NAFTA Implementation Act stated that any interested person may submit to CITA a request for a modification to a particular rule of origin based on a change in the

availability in North America of a particular fiber, yarn or fabric and that the requesting party would bear the burden of demonstrating that a change is warranted. NAFTA Implementation Act, SAA, H. Doc. 103-159, Vol. 1, at 491 (1993). The SAA provides that CITA may make a recommendation to the President regarding a change to a rule of origin for a textile or apparel good. SAA at 491. The NAFTA Implementation Act provides the President with the authority to proclaim modifications to the NAFTA rules of origin as are necessary to implement an agreement with one or more NAFTA country on such a modification. See section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act.

On December 19, 2005 the Chairman of CITA received a request from Meeks & Sheppard, on behalf of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products Company, alleging that rayon viscose staple fiber, classified in subheading 5504.10 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that CITA consider whether the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rule of origin for sanitary towels or tampons classified under HTSUS subheading 5601.10 should be modified to allow the use of non-North American viscose rayon staple fiber. The petitioner requested that the modification be effective for entries made on or after October 1, 2005, the date they alleged all rayon production ended in the United States.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with respect to whether viscose rayon staple fiber can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be received no later than February 10, 2006. 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 viscose rayon staple fiber 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 stating that it produces fiber that is 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, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Persons submitting comments on a request are encouraged to include a non-confidential version and a non-confidential summary.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E6-160 Filed 1-10-06; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comment on Short Supply Petition under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

January 5, 2006.

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

ACTION: Request for Public Comments concerning a request for modification of the NAFTA rules of origin for textile flock made from various man-made staple fiber and tow.

SUMMARY: On December 21, 2005 the Chairman of CITA received a request from Cellusuede Products, Inc. (Cellusuede), alleging that certain man-made staple fiber and tow, of the specifications detailed below, classified in the indicated subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that CITA consider whether the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rule of origin for textile flock classified under HTSUS subheading 5601.30 should be modified to allow the use of non-North American man-made staple fiber and tow, of the specifications detailed below.

The President may proclaim a modification to the NAFTA rules of origin only after reaching an agreement with the other NAFTA countries on the modification. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether woven fabrics of the type described below can