

Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and Amendment 74 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). If approved, the amendments would implement a new management policy by revising the goals and objectives of the management of the groundfish fisheries. The goals and objectives would provide for a new ecosystem-based management framework that would serve as the management policy for the groundfish fisheries into the future. This action will promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the FMPs, and other applicable laws. Comments from the public are welcome.

DATES: Comments on Amendments 81 and 74 must be submitted by August 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, Attn: Lori Durall. Comments may be submitted by:

- Mail to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802;
- Hand delivery to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Room 420A, Juneau, AK;
- Fax to 907-586-7557; or
- E-mail to 8174-0648-

AS14@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comments the following document identifier: 81-74 NOA. E-mail comments, with or without attachments, are limited to 5 megabytes.

Copies of Amendments 81 and 74 and the Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) for the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries may be obtained from the NMFS Alaska Region at the address above or from the Alaska Region website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/seis/default.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melanie Brown, 907-586-7228 or melanie.brown@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any FMP amendment it prepares to the Secretary for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving an FMP amendment, immediately publish a notice in the **Federal Register** that the amendment is available for public review and comment.

The Council prepared and the Secretary approved the FMP for Groundfish of the GOA in 1978 and the

FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the BSAI in 1981. Both FMPs have been amended numerous times, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental documents have been prepared for each amendment.

In December 1998, NMFS issued an SEIS for the groundfish fisheries authorized by the FMPs. The U. S. District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle (NO. C98-0492Z) ruled in *Greenpeace v. NMFS* that the 1998 SEIS was legally inadequate, and remanded the document to NMFS for further action consistent with the requirements of NEPA. After an extensive development and public review process, NMFS has completed a new PSEIS for the groundfish fisheries (see **ADDRESSES**). Amendments 81 and 74 are based on the preferred alternative in the PSEIS.

Amendments 81 and 74 were unanimously recommended by the Council in April 2004. If approved by the Secretary, these amendments would revise the goals and objectives of the FMPs to implement a new management policy for the groundfish fisheries. The new management policy would include consideration of community-based or rights-based management and ecosystem-based management principles that protect managed species from overfishing, and where appropriate and practicable, increase habitat protection and bycatch constraints. All management measures would be based on the best scientific information available. The fishery management goals are: (1) sound conservation of the living marine resources, (2) socially and economically viable fisheries and fishing communities, (3) minimal human-caused threats to protected species, (4) healthy marine resource habitat, and (5) ecosystem-based considerations in management decisions. To meet these goals and to focus the Council's consideration of potential management measures, Amendments 81 and 74 identify 45 objectives that are grouped under the following nine subjects: prevent overfishing; promote sustainable fisheries and communities; preserve the food web; manage incidental catch and reduce bycatch and waste; avoid impacts to seabirds and marine mammals; reduce and avoid impacts to habitat; promote equitable and efficient use of fishery resources; increase Alaska native consultation; and improve data quality, monitoring, and enforcement. The new management policy would begin to be implemented immediately upon Secretarial approval and would be applied to ongoing and future groundfish fisheries management. The

new management policy also would include adaptive management with regular and periodic reviews, including annual review of the objectives.

Public comments are being solicited on proposed Amendments 81 and 74 through the end of the comment period stated (see **DATES**). All comments received by the end of the comment period on the amendments will be considered in the approval/partial approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/partial approval/disapproval decision on the amendments. To be considered, comments must be received not just postmarked or otherwise transmitted by the close of business on the last day of the comment period.

Dated: May 26, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-12437 Filed 6-1-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

May 27, 2004.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection website at <http://www.cbp.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 69 FR 4926, published on February 2, 2004). Also see 68 FR 69673, published on December 15, 2003.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

May 27, 2004.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 10, 2003, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Vietnam and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2004 and extends through December 31, 2004.

Effective on June 2, 2004, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the current bilateral textile agreement between the Governments of the United States and Vietnam:

Category	Restraint limit ¹
200	154,494 kilograms.
301	545,895 kilograms.
332	160,906 dozen pairs.
333	22,595 dozen.
334/335	705,958 dozen.
338/339	14,472,350 dozen.
341/641	833,323 dozen.
342/642	591,089 dozen.
345	245,125 dozen.
347/348	7,345,721 dozen.
351/651	438,685 dozen.
359-C/659-C ²	277,955 kilograms.
434	11,048 dozen.
620	3,175,109 square meters.
632	114,249 dozen pairs.
638/639	1,306,089 dozen.
645/646	150,510 dozen.
647/648	2,123,858 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after April 30, 2004.

² Category 359-C: only HTS numbers 6103.42.2025, 6103.49.8034, 6104.62.1020, 6104.69.8010, 6114.20.0048, 6114.20.0052, 6203.42.2010, 6203.42.2090, 6204.62.2010, 6211.32.0010, 6211.32.0025 and 6211.42.0010; Category 659-C: only HTS numbers 6103.23.0055, 6103.43.2020, 6103.43.2025, 6103.49.2000, 6103.49.8038, 6104.63.1020, 6104.63.1030, 6104.69.1000, 6104.69.8014, 6114.30.3044, 6114.30.3054, 6203.43.2010, 6203.43.2090, 6203.49.1010, 6203.49.1090, 6204.63.1510, 6204.69.1010, 6210.10.9010, 6211.33.0010, 6211.33.0017 and 6211.43.0010.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 04-12426 Filed 6-1-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comment on Commercial Availability Request under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

May 27, 2004.

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 piece-dyed acrylic pile fabrics containing dry-spun acrylic staple fibers.

SUMMARY: On November 12, 2003, the Government of the United States received a request from the Government of Canada alleging that dry-spun acrylic staple fibers, classified under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 5503.30, cannot be supplied by the Canadian industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that the governments of Mexico and the United States consult to consider whether the NAFTA rule of origin for woven-warp pile fabric, cut, which has been dyed in the piece to a single uniform color, classified under HTSUS 5801.35 should be modified to allow the use of non-North American dry-spun acrylic staple fiber.

The President may proclaim a modification to the NAFTA rules of origin only after, inter alia, 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 the dry-spun acrylic staple fiber described above can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

Comments must be submitted by July 2, 2004 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 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. 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 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.

On November 12, 2003, the Government of the United States received a request from the Government of Canada alleging that dry-spun acrylic staple fiber classified under HTSUS subheading 5503.30, cannot be supplied by Canadian producers in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that the Governments of Mexico and the United States consult on whether the NAFTA rule of origin for woven-warp pile fabric, cut, which has been dyed in the piece to a single uniform color, classified under HTSUS 5801.35, should be modified to allow the use of non-North American staple fiber of the type described above.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with respect to whether dry-spun acrylic