

For permit 782-1446: Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018; and,

For permit 605-1607: Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508)281-9250; fax (508)281-9371.

All documents may also be requested from the Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit and amendment is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-227).

Species Covered in This Notice

The following endangered and threatened marine mammal species are covered in this notice:

Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*),
Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*),
Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*),
and
North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

New Applications Received

File No. 605-1607

Mason T. Weinrich, Whale Center of New England, proposes to assess the health, status and trends of endangered populations of humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), and North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) off the U.S. Atlantic coast from southern Maine to northern Florida. The applicant proposes to annually take, by close approach, a maximum of 400 humpback whales, 250 fin whales, 50 sei whales, and 50 North Atlantic right whales over a 5-year period. These takes will be used to collect photographs for identifying individuals from all species (minimum approach of 100 feet (30 meters)), for collecting information on the prey densities around humpback, fin and sei whales (minimum approach of

50-100 ft (15-30 m)), for collecting biopsy dart samples from humpback and fin whales (minimum approach of 30-70 ft (9-21 m)), and for attaching suction-cup time-depth recorder and VHF tags to humpback and fin whales (minimum approach of 15-20 ft (5-6 m)). For biopsy sampling, no more than three attempts will be made per whale and for suction-cup tag attachment, no more than two attempts will be made per whale.

Amendment Requests Received

Permit No. 782-1446

The National Marine Mammal Laboratory has requested an amendment (no. 3) to scientific research permit no. 782-1446, issued on May 18, 1998 (63 FR 27265). Permit no. 782-1446 authorizes the permit holder to conduct aerial, ground, and vessel surveys annually for stock assessment of harbor seals, California sea lions, Steller sea lions and northern elephant seals. The permit holder requests authorization to increase the number of California sea lions captured, local or gas anesthetized, instrumented and sampled for a multi-disciplinary study of the role of persistent organochlorine pollutants (OPR) and herpes virus in the development of cancer in California sea lions. California sea lions of both sexes and ages 0 through 5 years are proposed to be taken. Additionally, branded and un-branded 6-month old California sea lions of both sexes are proposed to be captured, sampled and photographed as part of a study to evaluate the condition of branded pups.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application and amendment request to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation 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.

Dated: December 20, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-33002 Filed 12-26-00; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh

December 20, 2000.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, 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 U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 Categories 334 and 635 are being increased for swing, reducing the limit for Category 237 to account for the swing being applied.

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 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Also see 64 FR 68333, published on December 7, 1999.

Richard B. Steinkamp,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 20, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC
20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 1, 1999, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2000 and extends through December 31, 2000.

Effective on December 27, 2000, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
237	312,446 dozen.
334	203,009 dozen.
635	453,128 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1999.

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

Sincerely,
Richard B. Steinkamp,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.00-32986 Filed 12-26-00; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

December 20, 2000.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing the 2001 limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, 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 U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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 Bilateral Textile Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China, as amended on October 31, 2000, establishes limits for textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the period beginning on January 1, 2001 and extending through December 31, 2001.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the 2001 limits.

The 2001 limits may be revised if China becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to China.

As a result of a modification to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) that will be effective January 1, 2001, the HTS headings included in Category 666-C are being changed from only heading 6303.92.2000 to both heading 6303.92.2010 and heading 6303.92.2020; this change will not affect the products included in Category 666-C.

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 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Information regarding the 2001 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Richard B. Steinkamp,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 20, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and a Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China, as amended on October 31, 2000, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2001, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend

and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2001 and extending through December 31, 2001, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month limit
Group I 200, 218, 219, 226, 237, 239, 300/301, 313-315, 317/326, 331, 333-336, 338/339, 340-342, 345, 347/348, 350-352, 359-C ¹ , 359-V ² , 360-363, 369-D ³ , 369-H ⁴ , 369-L ⁵ , 410, 433- 436, 438, 440, 442-444, 445/446, 447, 448, 607, 611, 613-615, 617, 631, 633- 636, 638/639, 640-643, 644/844, 645/646, 647-652, 659-C ⁶ , 659-H ⁷ , 659-S ⁸ , 666, 669-P ⁹ , 670-L ¹⁰ , 831, 833, 835, 836, 840, 842 and 845-847, as a group.	1,504,644,950 square meters equivalent.
Sublevels in Group I 200	782,976 kilograms.
218	11,719,066 square meters.
219	2,551,536 square me- ters.
226	11,585,825 square meters.
237	2,144,176 dozen.
239	3,202,831 kilograms.
300/301	2,356,842 kilograms.
313	43,710,571 square meters.
314	52,178,170 square meters.
315	137,802,263 square meters.
317/326	22,888,008 square meters of which not more than 4,378,926 square meters shall be in Category 326.
331	5,394,800 dozen pairs.
333	105,167 dozen.
334	335,647 dozen.
335	392,192 dozen.
336	182,725 dozen.
338/339	2,357,344 dozen of which not more than 1,789,482 dozen shall be in Cat- egories 338-S/339- S ¹¹ .
340	805,270 dozen of which not more than 402,634 dozen shall be in Category 340- Z ¹² .