

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Portland service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Portland WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Portland service area from the Portland RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future Portland WFO after consolidation is included as attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO Portland Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area"), and the future WFO Portland Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the RWSO Portland service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Oregon is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Portland service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

A. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; and spare parts and maintenance personnel are available on site. Coordination was completed with one national work-around remaining in effect.

B. The Partial and Final User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents that two negative comments were received. Both negative comments addressed the same concern which was a valid problem. This problem has since been corrected to the satisfaction of each individual, as stated in the service Confirmation Report.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Portland service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Committee) (attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (attachment J). On _____

the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been

addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Thomas D. Potter

Date _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.

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[I.D. 040996C]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for an experimental fishing permit.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application from Mr. David Fraser (applicant) for an experimental fishing permit (EFP). If granted, the EFP would authorize an investigation about the viability of using pelagic trawl gear to conduct directed fisheries on rockfish species in the Gulf of Alaska. It is intended to promote the objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP application are available by writing to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald J. Berg, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 672 authorizes issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. The procedures for issuing EFPs are contained in the regulations at § 675.6. NMFS received a request from the applicant on December 26, 1995, that, if approved would provide specified amounts of groundfish species for purposes of being harvested with pelagic trawl gear to demonstrate the feasibility of catching certain rockfish which otherwise are harvested with bottom trawl gear. The requested amounts are as follows:

Pacific ocean perch - 75 metric tons (mt),

Yellowtail rockfish - 75 mt,

Widow rockfish - 150 mt, and

Other rockfish - 75 mt.

In accordance with regulations, NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to it. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 17-22, 1996, meeting and has invited the applicant to appear in support of the application if the applicant desires. The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska under agenda item D-1(d).

A copy of the application is available for review from the NMFS Regional Director (see ADDRESSES).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 12, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of the Ukraine on Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products

April 15, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice.

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 categories for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

On March 29, 1996, in accordance with Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended, the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of the Ukraine with respect to cotton and man-made fiber woven shirts in Categories 340/640, produced or manufactured in the Ukraine.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of the Ukraine, the