

may specify their own testing or adopt other techniques for evaluating conference to these specifications.

Information on the test methods and procedures for conformance testing are available in the Validated Products List (VPL) on the internet Universal Resource Locator (URL) address ftp://speckle.ncsl.nist.gov/vpl/intro.htm. NIST test suites and testing procedures are distributed freely via the World Wide Web (WWW) Universal Resource Locator (URL) http://www.nist.gov/div897/ctg.

DATES: The effective date for terminating validation services for FIPS 127-2, SQL, and FIPS 128-2, CGM (CAL), is July 1, 1997. Comments on terminating validation services for FIPS 21-4, COBOL; FIPS 69-1, Fortran; FIPS 128-2, CGM (ATA); FIPS 151-2, POSIX; and FIPS 160, C, must be received no later than May 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the termination should be sent to: Director, Information Technology Laboratory, Attn: Validation Services, Building 820, Room 562, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Electronic comments should be sent to: fips.comments@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR COMMENTS CONTACT:

Ms. Lynne Rosenthal, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, telephone (301) 975-3283, email lsr@nist.gov.

Authority: Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 5131 of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-106, and the Computer Security Act of 1987.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-8961 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040197C]

Northern Right Whale Protection; Endangered and Threatened Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice of petition and determination.

SUMMARY: On August 26, 1996, NMFS received a petition from Mr. Richard Max Strahan representing GreenWorld, Inc., requesting that NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard undertake a variety of actions to protect and preserve marine wildlife and, in particular, the northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*). The petition was amended on September 18, 1996.

NMFS has denied the petition from GreenWorld, Inc., because it does not contain substantial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert C. Ziobro, Protected Species Management Division, Office of Protected Resources, East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 26, 1996, NMFS received a notice of intent to bring suit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on a petition for proposed regulations from Mr. Strahan. On September 18, 1996, Mr. Strahan amended his original petition to add another provision to his list of requested actions. The notice and petition was addressed both to officials at NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The following is a brief summary of some of the primary elements of the petition and the request for relief in Mr. Strahan's letters that appear to be directed to NMFS, or to NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard: Issue a letter to coastal state government agencies informing them that they are in violation of the ESA and must apply to NMFS for a section 10 permit or face U.S. Coast Guard enforcement action; issue an emergency rule followed by a permanent rule banning fixed fishing gear in right whale critical habitat; promulgate and enforce a rule banning all gillnets and aquaculture projects; promulgate a rule allowing other types of fishing gear in right whale critical habitat areas only pursuant to a section 10 incidental take permit and a small take authorization pursuant to section 101 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and comply with the mandatory and non-discretionary duties imposed under section 7(a) of the ESA and utilize all statutory and regulatory authorities to adopt and implement a conservation plan to enforce the take prohibitions of the ESA and MMPA to stop marine fisheries licensed and regulated by States from incidentally taking northern right whales and other Federally protected whales taken incidentally in State fishery activities

along the Atlantic and Pacific Coastlines of the U.S.

NMFS has evaluated the petition and request for relief and determined that they do not contain substantial information that the requested actions may be warranted. NMFS notes, however, that efforts are underway to reduce incidental takes in commercial fisheries, including State regulated fisheries, under section 118 of the MMPA. For example, a large whale take reduction team was formed and notice thereof published in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 1996 (61 FR 40819) to address incidental takings of certain large whale species that occur or may occur in several fisheries. NMFS filed a proposed Large Whale Take Reduction Plan at the Federal Register on April 1, 1997, and Mr. Strahan and others are invited to comment on that plan.

Dated: April 1, 1997.

Charles Karnella,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-8860 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040297D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of four applications for scientific research permits (P772#71, P639, P640, P641).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Tiburon Laboratory, NMFS at Tiburon, CA (SWFSC); Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service at San Francisco, CA (PR/GG); the Marin Municipal Water District at Corte Madera, CA (MMWD); and the Sonoma County Water Agency at Santa Rosa, CA (SCWA) have applied in due form for permits authorizing takes of a threatened species for scientific research purposes.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications must be received on or before May 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for

review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6066).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Protected Species Division in Santa Rosa, CA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SWFSC, PR/GG, MMWD, and SCWA request permits under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

SWFSC (P772#71) requests a 5-year permit for takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, central California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with fish population and habitat studies throughout the Evolutionarily Significant Unit. The studies consist of five assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) Presence/absence, (2) population estimates, (3) spawner surveys, (4) genetic sampling, and (5) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed juvenile salmon indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

PR/GG (P639) requests a 5-year permit for takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, central California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with fish population and habitat studies in drainages on, and proximate to, National Park Service lands in Marin County. The studies consist of five assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) Presence/absence, (2) population estimates, (3) spawner surveys, (4) genetic sampling, and (5) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed juvenile salmon indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

MMWD (P640) requests a 5-year permit for takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, central California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with fish population and habitat studies in Marin County. The studies consist of five assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) Presence/absence, (2) population estimates, (3) spawner

surveys, (4) genetic sampling, and (5) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. ESA-listed juvenile salmon indirect mortalities associated with the research are also requested.

SCWA (P641) requests a 5-year permit for takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, central California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with fish population and habitat studies in Sonoma County. The studies consist of four assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are proposed to be taken: (1) Population estimates, (2) carcass counts, (3) redd surveys, and (4) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish are proposed to be harassed by SCWA during field observation activities.

Those individuals requesting a hearing on any of these requests for a permit should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see ADDRESSES). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the above permit application summaries are those of the applicants and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

Margaret Lorenz,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-8939 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

April 2, 1997.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 9, 1997.

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 or

call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The current limits for certain categories are being increased for carryover.

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 62 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 61 FR 65375, published on December 12, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

April 2, 1997.

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 6, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the Dominican Republic and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1997 and extends through December 31, 1997.

Effective on April 9, 1997, you are directed to increase the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted limit ¹
339/639	1,047,473 dozen.
340/640	906,149 dozen
342/642	637,677 dozen.
347/348/647/648	2,169,142 dozen of which not more than 1,032,396 dozen shall be in Category 647/648.
352/652	11,177,700 dozen.
442	80,650 dozen.
443	147,550 numbers.
444	80,650 numbers