

amended ("the Act"), are to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA"). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to 19 CFR Part 351 (2001).

### Background

On August 20, 2001, the Department published a notice of initiation of this antidumping duty administrative review for the period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 (66 FR 43570). We extended the preliminary results of review by 120 days on March 6, 2002. See *Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Korea: Extension of Time Limits for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 67 FR 10134 (March 6, 2002). We issued our preliminary results of review on August 7, 2002. See *Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils From the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Intent to Rescind in Part*, 67 FR 51216 (August 7, 2002). The final results of review are currently due on December 5, 2002.

### Extension of Time Limit for Final Results

Section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act states that if it is not practicable to complete the review within the time specified, the administering authority may extend the 120-day period, following the date of publication of the preliminary results, to issue its final results by an additional 60 days. Completion of the final results within the 120-day period is not practicable for the following reasons:

- This review involves certain cross-cutting complex issues which were raised in the respondents' case briefs.
- The review involves a large number of transactions and complex adjustments.

Therefore, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department is extending the time period for issuing the final results of review by 60 days until February 3, 2003.

Dated: December 2, 2002.

**Joseph A. Spetrini,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, Group III.*

[FR Doc. 02-31034 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[C-122-846, C-122-848]

### Certain Durum Wheat and Hard Red Spring Wheat: Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Determinations in Countervailing Duty Investigations

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of time limit for preliminary determinations in countervailing duty investigations.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is extending the time limit of the preliminary determinations in the countervailing duty ("CVD") investigations of certain durum wheat and hard red spring wheat from December 27, 2002 until no later than March 3, 2003. This extension is made pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("The Act").

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 9, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Craig Matney, Stephen Cho, or Audrey Twyman, at (202) 482-1778, (202) 482-3798, (202) 482-3534, respectively, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Extension of Due Date for Preliminary Determinations

On October 23, 2002, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated the CVD investigations of certain durum wheat and hard red spring wheat from Canada. See *Notice of Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations: Certain Durum Wheat and Hard Red Spring Wheat*, 67 FR 65951 (October 29, 2002). Currently, the preliminary determinations are due no later than December 27, 2002. However, pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(B) of the Act, we have determined that these investigations are "extraordinarily complicated" and are, therefore, extending the due date for the preliminary determinations by 65 days to no later than March 3, 2003.

Under section 703(c)(1)(B), the Department can extend the period for reaching a preliminary determination until not later than the 130th day after the date on which the administering authority initiates an investigation if:

(B) the administering authority concludes that the parties concerned are cooperating and determines that

(i) the case is extraordinarily complicated by reason of

(I) the number and complexity of the alleged countervailable subsidy practices;

(II) the novelty of the issues presented;

(III) the need to determine the extent to which particular countervailable subsidies are used by individual manufacturers, producers, and exporters; or

(IV) the number of firms whose activities must be investigated; and

(ii) additional time is necessary to make the preliminary determination.

Regarding the first requirement, we find that in both investigations all concerned parties are cooperating. Regarding the second requirement that the investigations be extraordinarily complicated, it is the Department's position that the appropriate criterion for analysis is not the number of programs in question, but rather, the specific transactions, applied under those programs, which are numerous and appropriately categorized as "practices." With respect to the issue of the complexity of the practice, these practices are complex in nature as reflected in the extensive analysis required to address these subsidies. Furthermore, the practices present novel issues. Finally, additional time is necessary to make the preliminary determinations.

For a number of the programs in both investigations, the Department will be required to examine complicated circumstances and documents from a number of private-sector and government parties to determine whether the Government of Canada ("GOC") or provincial governments entrusted or directed private parties to provide subsidies to the Canadian Wheat Board ("CWB"). For example, the Department must analyze complicated systems used to determine whether the revenue cap system imposed by the GOC on the railroads for transporting grain provides a benefit to the CWB. In addition, the Department will be required to examine in detail the financial records of the CWB and the GOC to determine whether or not the CWB received a countervailable subsidy by virtue of a GOC guarantee on its lending and borrowing. Lastly, the respondents have requested an extension of time to respond to the Department's questionnaire because the subsidies alleged "focus on extraordinarily complicated transportation systems. Information pertaining to these systems is held by many different private sector parties, governments, and government agencies, with no one entity possessing full knowledge of all aspects of the system." See November 22, 2002, submission from the GOC at page 2. The responses

to the questionnaire will require complicated analysis and will be necessary for the Department to make its preliminary determinations.

Accordingly, we conclude that the concerned parties are cooperating, we deem these investigations to be extraordinarily complicated, and we determine that additional time is necessary to make the preliminary determinations. Therefore, pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(B) of the Act, we are postponing the preliminary determinations in these investigations to March 3, 2003.

This notice is published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: December 3, 2002.

**Faryar Shirzad,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-31033 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112102A]

#### Marine Mammals: Draft Environmental Assessment of Issuing a Bowhead Whale Subsistence Quota to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission for the Years 2003 through 2007

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment(EA); request for written comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of a Draft EA, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act(NEPA), to assess the impacts of issuing a subsistence quota for bowhead whales to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) for the years 2003 through 2007. The Draft EA considers four alternatives regarding the issuance of a quota to the AEWC, and NMFS has identified a preferred alternative. NMFS is soliciting comments and information to facilitate this analysis.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be postmarked by January 8, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Chief, Marine Mammal Division (F/PR2), Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 13th Floor, 1315 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope with "Comments on Bowhead Whale

Analysis." Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. Copies of the EA may be obtained over the internet at the Office of Protected Resources Marine Mammal website under "Quick Information Links" at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/overview/mm.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/overview/mm.html). The link is titled "Bowhead Whale Draft Environmental Assessment".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Yates or Winnie Chan, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 301-713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) held in October, 2002 the Commission approved a 5-year aboriginal subsistence quota for the take of Western arctic bowhead whales. The quota allows for a combined total of up to 280 whales to be landed in the years 2003 through 2007 by Alaskan Eskimos and Russian natives. For each of these years, the number of bowhead whales struck shall not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from any year shall be carried forward and added to the strike quota of any subsequent year, provided that no more than 15 strikes shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.

The basis for the quota was a joint request by the Russian Federation and the United States, showing that the needs of both countries' Native groups could be met with an annual average of 56 landed bowhead whales (or a total of 255 for the Alaska Eskimos and 25 for the Chukotka people over the 5-year period). The annual strike limits and quotas for whales are determined at the beginning of each year after consultation with the Russian government.

At the 54th annual meeting of the IWC, held in May, 2002 the Scientific Committee reiterated its previous advice for the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales, i.e., that it is very likely that a catch limit of 102 whales or less would be consistent with the requirements of the Schedule.

The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, under which the IWC operates, is implemented domestically through the Whaling Convention Act (WCA). Under the WCA, NMFS proposes to issue a share of the IWC bowhead quota to the AEWC.

Alaska Eskimos have been taking bowhead whales for at least 2,000 years. Alaska Native subsistence hunters take less than one percent of the population of bowhead whales per year. Since 1977, the number of takes has ranged between 14 and 75 per year, depending in part on changes in management

strategy and in part on higher estimates of bowhead whale abundance in recent years (NMFS Alaska Marine Mammal Stock Assessments, 2001).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies conduct an environmental analysis of the effect of their proposed actions on the environment. While quotas under the WCA are issued on an annual basis, NMFS is evaluating the effects of issuing them over a 5-year period. Accordingly, NMFS prepared a draft EA that evaluated the following four alternatives:

Alternative 1 - Grant the AEWC a quota of 255 landed bowhead whales over 5 years (2003 through 2007), with an annual strike quota of 67 bowhead whales per year, where no unused strikes are added to the strike quota for any one year.

Alternative 2 - Grant the AEWC a quota of 255 landed bowhead whales over 5 years (2003 through 2007), with an annual strike quota of 67 bowhead whales per year, where no more than 15 unused strikes are added to the strike quota for any one year.

Alternative 3 - Grant the AEWC a quota of 255 landed bowhead whales over 5 years (2003 through 2007), with an annual strike quota of 67 bowhead whales per year, where, for unused strikes, up to 50 percent of the annual strike limit is added to the strike quota for any one year.

Alternative 4 (No Action) - Do not grant the AEWC a quota.

NMFS has selected Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

The Draft EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA and implementing regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 and NOAA guidelines concerning implementation of NEPA found in NOAA Administrative Order 216-6.

#### Information Solicited

To ensure that NMFS' review is comprehensive and based on the best available information, NMFS is soliciting information and comments from any interested party concerning issuing a bowhead whale quota to the AEWC of 255 landed whales over 5 years (2003 through 2007). NMFS is particularly interested in information on the affected environment or environmental consequences of issuing a quota. NMFS requests that data, information, and comments be accompanied by (1) supporting documentation, and (2) the name, address, and affiliation of person submitting data. Written comments should be sent to Chief of the Marine