

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 21, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

All actions available in the Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

File 774-1649 - Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018;

File 1010-1641 - Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426; and

File 1010-641 - Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permits are 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 222-226).

File 774-1679 - The United States Antarctic Marine Living Resources (U.S.-AMLR) Program, administered by the SWFSC, requests permission to take pinniped species in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica, as part of a long-term ecosystem monitoring program established in 1986. Permission is requested to take Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*), Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*), and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) by harassment associated with life history studies and census surveys for abundance and distribution of pinnipeds. The targeted species for census surveys is the Antarctic fur seal, however, due to overlap of their breeding range with southern elephant and ice seals, a relatively small number of other Antarctic pinniped could be

taken incidentally during these surveys. Studies will be conducted annually during austral summers over the next five years (2001/02-2005/06) and primarily restricted to Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica. The AMLR Program also proposes to conduct a regional census survey for estimates of abundance and distribution of pinniped in the South Shetlands.

File 1010-1641 - The applicant proposes to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by harassment during aerial surveys, vessel-based behavioral observations, and scat collection. The purpose of the research is to provide additional information on seasonal prey consumption by Steller sea lions through scat collection at rookeries and haulouts along the Alaska Peninsula and Eastern Aleutian Islands and to improve the accuracy and precision of population indices through expanded aerial and vessel surveys in the western Gulf of Alaska.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications 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 a particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

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

Dated: August 16, 2001.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-21206 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081501D]

#### Draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triennially, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent years. Any written comments on the draft plan will be considered by NMFS in the development of the final Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001).

**DATES:** Comments on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) will be accepted on or before September 21, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on and requests for copies of the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) should be directed to John T. Everett, Chief, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. PHONE: (301) 713-2363. FAX: (301) 713-1875.

The NMFS draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) may be reviewed in its entirety on the World Wide Web at <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st2/index.html>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Everett or Mark Chandler at 301-713-2363 ext. 152.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 404 of the MSFCMA requires the Secretary of Commerce to publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the five years immediately following the its publication. The MSFCMA requires that the plan address four major areas of research: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. The MSFCMA specifies that the plan shall contain a limited number of priority objectives for each of these research

areas; indicate goals and timetables; provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research; provide for collection and dissemination of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities; and be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected states.

In 1997, the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan (FSP) was published. The FSP was developed in a comprehensive manner, with extraordinary public involvement, including 16 public meetings. The following year, NMFS released the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (1998). Both the original (1998) and the updated (2001) Strategic Plans for Fisheries Research are based upon and entirely consistent with the FSP. Many of the objectives found under the "Major Fishery Research Objectives and Goals" section of the subject document can be matched with those in the FSP.

The scope of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) is solely fisheries research to support the MSFCMA. It does not include the regulatory and enforcement components of the NMFS mission. NMFS currently conducts a comprehensive program of fisheries research and involves industry and others interested in fisheries in planning and implementing its objectives.

NMFS intends that the final version of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions on this draft NMFS Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research are hereby solicited from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person.

Dated: August 15, 2001.  
**William Fox, Jr.,**  
*Director Office of Science and Technology,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 01-21093 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE  
AGREEMENTS**

**Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain  
Wool Textile Products Produced or  
Manufactured in the Dominican  
Republic**

August 16, 2001.  
**AGENCY:** Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements  
(CITA).

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 24, 2001.  
**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 U.S.  
Customs website at <http://www.customs.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 limit for Category 448 is  
being increased for swing, reducing the  
limit for Category 444 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 65 FR 82328,  
published on December 28, 2000). Also  
see 65 FR 75671, published on  
December 4, 2000.

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

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile  
Agreements**  
August 16, 2001.  
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 November 28, 2000, 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, 2001 and  
extends through December 31, 2001.

Effective on August 24, 2001, you are  
directed to adjust the current limits for the  
following categories, as provided for under  
the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles  
and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
444 .....	64,854 numbers.

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
448 .....	47,039 dozen.

<sup>1</sup>The limits have not been adjusted to ac-  
count for any imports exported after December  
31, 2000.

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,  
D. Michael Hutchinson,  
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*  
[FR Doc. 01-21155 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S**

**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE**  
**Notice of Transmittal of Sequestration  
Update Report for Fiscal Year 2002 to  
the Congress and the Office of  
Management and Budget**

Pursuant to Section 254(b) of the  
Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit  
Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(b)),  
the Congressional Budget Office hereby  
reports that it has submitted its  
Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal  
Year 2002 to the House of  
Representatives, the Senate, and the  
Office of Management and Budget.

**William J. Gainer,**  
*Associate Director, Management,  
Congressional Budget Office.*  
[FR Doc. 01-21097 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 1450-01-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**  
**[OMB Control No. 9000-0113]**

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;  
Submission for OMB Review;  
Acquisition of Helium**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD),  
General Services Administration (GSA),  
and National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments  
regarding an extension to an existing  
OMB clearance (9000-0113).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the  
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44  
U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal  
Acquisition Regulation (FAR)  
Secretariat has submitted to the Office