

authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species, in this case with the West Coast Regional Office.

Two DPSs of humpback whale (Central America/Southern Mexico-CA/OR/WA and Mainland Mexico-CA/OR/WA) occur in the project area and are listed as endangered and threatened, respectively, under the ESA. The NMFS West Coast Regional OPR Division issued a Biological Opinion on September 11, 2025 under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to the ACOE under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Central America/Southern Mexico-CA/OR/WA and Mainland Mexico-CA/OR/WA humpback whales and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must evaluate our proposed action the issuance of an IHA and alternatives with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of this IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the ACOE for the potential harassment of small numbers of eight marine mammal species incidental to the pile dike repair project in Baker Bay, Oregon, that includes the previously explained mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Dated: September 25, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary Sub-Saharan African Countries From Regional and Third- Country Fabric

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

ACTION: Publishing the new 12-month cap on duty- and quota-free benefits.

DATES: The new limitations become applicable October 1, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Newberg, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202)-482-7578.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Title I, section 112(b)(3) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA 2000), Public Law (Pub. L.) 106-200, as amended by Division B, Title XXI, section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002, Public Law 107-210; Section 7(b)(2) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004, Public Law 108-274; Division D, title VI, section 6002 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), Public Law 109-432, and section 1 of The African Growth and Opportunity Amendments (Public Law 112-163), August 10, 2012; Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 (65 FR 59321); Presidential Proclamation 7626 of November 13, 2002 (67 FR 69459); and title I, section 103(b)(2) and (3) of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, Public Law 114-27, June 29, 2015.

Title I of TDA 2000 provides for duty- and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Section 112(b)(3) of TDA 2000 provides duty- and quota-free treatment for apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from yarn originating in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. This preferential treatment is

also available for apparel articles assembled in one or more lesser-developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric used to make such articles, subject to quantitative limitation. Public Law 114-27 extended this special rule for lesser-developed countries through September 30, 2025.

The AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 provides that the quantitative limitation for the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2024 will be an amount not to exceed 7 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. *See* section 112(b)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of TDA 2000, as amended by section 7(b)(2)(B) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004. Of this overall amount, apparel imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries is limited to an amount not to exceed 3.5 percent of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period. *See* section 112(b)(3)(B)(ii)(II) of TDA 2000, as amended by section 6002(a)(3) of TRHCA 2006. The Annex to Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 directed CITA to publish the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each 12-month period in the **Federal Register**.

For the one-year period, beginning on October 1, 2024, and extending through September 30, 2025, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under these provisions is 1,757,888,503 square meters equivalent. Of this amount, 878,944,252 square meters equivalent is available to apparel articles imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries. Apparel articles entered in excess of these quantities will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

These quantities are calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

Tyler Beckelman,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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