

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 20, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 51637) that a request for a scientific research permit to take sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of 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 parts 222-226).

Permit No. 1494 is a five-year permit authorizing St. George's School to annually capture 50 loggerhead, 5 green, 5 hawksbill and 5 Kemp's ridley sea turtles by hand or dip net. Animals will be weighed, measured, flipper tagged and released. The applicant will also collect tissue samples from the loggerhead, green and hawksbill species and import the samples to the U.S. The purpose of the research is to study habitat utilization and migratory behavior of these species.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered and threatened species which are the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,
Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Designations under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provisions of the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

December 21, 2004.

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

ACTION: Designation

SUMMARY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) has determined that certain woven, 100 percent cotton, napped fabrics, of the specifications detailed

below, classified in the indicated subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), for use in products covered by textile categories 340, 341, 347, 348, 350, 351, and woven underwear in category 352, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The CITA hereby designates such apparel articles, that are both cut and sewn or otherwise assembled in an eligible CBTPA beneficiary country, from these fabrics as eligible for quota-free and duty-free treatment under the textile and apparel commercial availability provisions of the CBTPA and eligible under HTSUS subheadings 9820.11.27, to enter free of quota and duties, provided that all other fabrics are wholly formed in the United States from yarns wholly formed in the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 27, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 211 of the CBTPA, amending Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(II) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA); Presidential Proclamation 7351 of October 2, 2000; Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

BACKGROUND:

The commercial availability provision of the CBTPA provides for duty-free and quota-free treatment for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary CBTPA country from fabric or yarn that is not formed in the United States if it has been determined that such yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and certain procedural requirements have been met. In Presidential Proclamation 7351, the President proclaimed that this treatment would apply to apparel articles from fabrics or yarn designated by the appropriate U.S. government authority in the **Federal Register**. In Executive Order 13191, the President authorized CITA to determine whether yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

On August 12, 2004, the Chairman of CITA received a petition from Sandler, Travis, and Rosenberg, P.A., on behalf of Picacho, S.A., alleging that certain woven, 100 percent cotton, napped fabrics, of detailed specifications, classified in indicated HTSUS subheadings, for use in shirts, trousers,

nightwear, robes, dressing gowns, and woven underwear, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting quota- and duty-free treatment under the CBTPA for such apparel articles that are both cut and sewn in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from such fabrics. On August 18, 2004, CITA requested public comment on the petition. See Request for Public Comment on Commercial Availability Petition under the United States - Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) (69 FR 51269). On September 3, 2004, CITA and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) sought the advice of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee for Textiles and Clothing and the Industry Trade Advisory Committee for Distribution Services. On September 3, CITA and USTR offered to hold consultations with the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate (collectively, the Congressional Committees). On August 25, 2004, the U.S. International Trade Commission provided advice on the petitions.

Based on the information and advice received and its understanding of the industry, CITA determined that the fabrics set forth in the petition cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. On October 5, 2004, CITA and USTR submitted a report to the Congressional Committees that set forth the action proposed, the reasons for such action, and advice obtained. A period of 60 calendar days since this report was submitted has expired.

CITA hereby designates as eligible for preferential treatment under HTSUS subheading 9820.11.27, products covered by textile categories 340, 341, 347, 348, 350, 351, and woven underwear in category 352, that are both cut and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more eligible CBTPA beneficiary countries, from certain woven, 100 percent cotton, napped fabrics, of the specifications detailed below, classified in the indicated HTSUS subheadings, not formed in the United States, provided that all other fabrics are wholly formed in the United States from yarns wholly formed in the United States, subject to the special rules for findings and trimmings, certain interlinings and de minimis fibers and yarns under section 112(d) of the CBTPA, and that such articles are imported directly into the customs territory of the United States from an eligible CBTPA beneficiary country.

Specifications:**Fabric 1:**

Petitioner Style No: 62BU1600240A
 HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 291.5 g/m2
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.41 warp ends per centimeter; 16.53 filling picks per centimeter; total: 40.94 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 25.4 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 14.04 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 2:

Petitioner Style No: 62BU1600240B
 HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 305 g/m2
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.41 warp ends per centimeter; 18.11 filling picks per centimeter; total: 42.52 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 25.4 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 13.95 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

An "eligible CBTPA beneficiary country" means a country which the President has designated as a CBTPA beneficiary country under section 213(b)(5)(B) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(5)(B)) and which has been the subject of a finding, published in the **Federal Register**, that the country has satisfied the requirements of section 213(b)(4)(A)(ii) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(4)(A)(ii)) and resulting in the enumeration of such country in U.S. note 1 to subchapter XX of Chapter 98 of the HTSUS.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports From China

December 16, 2004.

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

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of

dressing gowns and robes (Category 350/650).

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a request from the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, SEAMS, and UNITE HERE! (Requestors) asking the Committee to reapply the limit on imports from China of dressing gowns and robes in accordance with the textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement). On December 24, 2003 the Committee established an Accession Agreement limit on imports from China of dressing gowns and robes, which will expire on December 23, 2004. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Dowling, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agriculture Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order 11651, as amended.

Background

The textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Accession Agreement provides for the United States and other members of the World Trade Organization that believe imports of Chinese origin textile and apparel products are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products to request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding the disruption. Pursuant to this provision, if the United States requests consultations with China, it must, at the time of the request, provide China with a detailed factual statement showing "(1) the existence or threat of market disruption; and (2) the role of products of Chinese origin in that disruption." Beginning on the date that it receives such a request, China must restrict its shipments to the United States to a level no greater than 7.5 percent (6 percent for wool product categories) above the amount entered during the first 12 months of the most recent 14 months preceding the request. If exports from China exceed that amount, the United States may enforce the restriction.

The Committee has published procedures (the Procedures) it follows in considering requests for Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard actions (68 FR 27787, May 21, 2003; 68 FR 49440, August 18, 2003), including the information that must be included

in such requests in order for the Committee to consider them.

On November 24, 2004, the Requestors asked the Committee to reapply an Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard action on imports from China of dressing gowns and robes (Category 350/650) on the ground that an anticipated increase in imports of dressing gowns and robes after December 23, 2004, threatens to disrupt the U.S. market for dressing gowns and robes. The request is available at http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/Safeguard_intro.htm. In light of the considerations set forth in the Procedures, the Committee has determined that the Requestors have provided the information necessary for the Committee to consider the request.

The Committee is soliciting public comments on the request, in particular with regard to whether there is a threat of disruption to the U.S. market for dressing gowns and robes and, if so, the role of Chinese-origin dressing gowns and robes in that disruption. To this end, the Committee seeks relevant information addressing factors such as the following, which may be relevant in the particular circumstances of this case, involving a product under a quota that will expire on December 23, 2004: (1) Whether imports of dressing gowns and robes from China are entering, or are expected to enter, the United States at prices that are substantially below prices of the like or directly competitive U.S. product, and whether those imports are likely to have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices of the like or directly competitive U.S. product or are likely to increase demand for further imports from China; (2) whether exports of Chinese-origin dressing gowns and robes to the United States are likely to increase substantially and imminently (due to existing unused production capacity, to capacity that can easily be shifted from the production of other products to the production of dressing gowns and robes, or to an imminent and substantial increase in production capacity or investment in production capacity), taking into account the availability of other markets to absorb any additional exports; (3) whether Chinese-origin dressing gowns and robes that are presently sold in the Chinese market or in third-country markets will be diverted to the U.S. market in the imminent future (for example, due to more favorable pricing in the U.S. market or to existing or imminent import restraints into third country markets); (4) the level and the extent of any recent change in inventories of dressing gowns and robes in China or in U.S. bonded warehouses;