

Present-day Economy,” (March 29, 2007) (“*Georgetown Steel Memorandum*”). Petitioners argue that the conditions of the CWP sector of the PRC economy are substantially the same as the Department found them to be in the *CFS Investigation*. Consequently, the countervailing duty law should be applied to the PRC in this investigation.

The Department has treated the PRC as an NME country in all past antidumping duty investigations and administrative reviews. In accordance with section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Act, any determination that a country is an NME country shall remain in effect until revoked by the administering authority. See *Tapered Roller Bearings and Parts Thereof, Finished and Unfinished, (“TRBs”) From the People’s Republic of China: Preliminary Results of 2001–2002 Administrative Review and Partial Rescission of Review*, 68 FR 7500, 7500–1 (February 14, 2003), unchanged in *TRBs from the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of 2001–2002 Administrative Review*, 68 FR 70488, 70488–89 (December 18, 2003). In the *CFS Investigation*, the Department preliminarily determined that the current nature of China’s economy does not create obstacles to applying the necessary criteria in the CVD law. As such, the Department determined that the policy that gave rise to the *Georgetown Steel* litigation does not prevent us from concluding that the PRC government has bestowed a countervailable subsidy upon a Chinese producer. See *Georgetown Steel Memorandum*. Therefore, because petitioners have provided sufficient allegations and support of their allegations to meet the statutory criteria for initiating a countervailing duty investigation of CWP paper from the PRC, we continue to find that *Georgetown Steel* does not preclude us from initiating this investigation. For further information, see *CVD Initiation Checklist*.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the Government of the PRC. As soon as and to the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition, consistent with 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 25 days after the date on which it receives notice of the initiation, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of subsidized CWP from the PRC are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. See section 703(a)(2) of the Act. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: June 27, 2007.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XB19

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened or Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on June 12, 2007, NMFS issued Permit 1613 for incidental take of threatened and endangered species, to the Green Diamond Resource Company, of northern California, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Copies of Incidental Take Permit 1613 and associated decision documents are available upon request.

ADDRESSES: If you would like copies of any of the above documents, please contact the Protected Resources Division of NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521 (ph: 707–825–5163, fax: 707–825B–840).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Clancy at the above Arcata, California, address, telephone number (707–825–5175), or e-mail, john.p.clancy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and Federal regulations prohibit take of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Under the Act, the term “take” means to harass,

harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS has further defined “harm” as an act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, and emphasizes that such acts may include “significant habitat modification or degradation which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering.” NMFS may, under limited circumstances, issue permits to authorize take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for the incidental taking of threatened and endangered species are found in 50 CFR 222.307.

On June 12, 2007, NMFS issued Permit 1613 to the Green Diamond Resource Company for the incidental take of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. Permit 1613 was issued after the following determinations were made: the permit application was submitted in good faith; all permit issuance criteria were met, including the requirement that granting the permit will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species; and the permit was consistent with the Act and applicable regulations, including a thorough review of the environmental effects of the action and alternatives, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Permit 1613 authorizes incidental take of fish in two Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) and one Distinct Population Segment (DPS) listed under the Act: California Coastal Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) ESU, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) ESU, and Northern California steelhead (*O. mykiss*) DPS. Permit 1613 also authorizes incidental take of fish in three unlisted ESUs (Klamath Mountains Province steelhead ESU, Upper Klamath/Trinity Rivers Chinook salmon ESU, and Southern Oregon and Northern California Coastal Chinook salmon ESU) should these species be listed during the 50-year term of the permit.

Copies of Permit 1613 and associated documents are available upon request. Decision documents for Permit 1613 include Findings and Recommendations; a Biological Opinion; and a Record of Decision.

Dated: June 28, 2007.

Marta Nammack,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, NOAA's
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA97

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1890

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 881-1890 for conduct of research on Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska, held by The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), Seward, AK, has been amended.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/review.htm>; and

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 15, 2007, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 7420) that a request for a scientific research permit to take Steller sea lions had been submitted by the ASLC. The requested permit was issued on June 18, 2007 (72 FR 35427). An amendment to the subject permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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 parts 222-226).

The permit issued to ASLC authorized activities to conduct population

monitoring and studies on health, nutrition, and foraging behavior of free ranging Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands (west of 144o West), and on temporarily captive female Steller sea lions at the ASLC. The permit has been amended to allow population monitoring and studies on health, nutrition, and foraging behavior of free ranging Steller sea lions east of 144o West, and on temporarily captive male Steller sea lions at the ASLC.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of awarding grants and issuing permits to facilitate research on these species. Information about the PEIS is available at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/steller.htm>.

Issuance of the 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 such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: June 29, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[XRIN: 0648-XB21]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting via conference call.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its SSC via conference call to discuss planning of an amendment.

DATES: The conference call will be held on July 26, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via conference call and listening stations will be available. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council is preparing an amendment which will require reductions in the harvest of some grouper based on a recent assessment of gag grouper (SEDAR 10 Assessment and supplemental reviews). The SSC and the Special SSC will review certain aspects of that assessment and provide recommendations to the Council on the appropriate benchmark assessment to use to develop the regulations.

The Council is preparing an amendment which will require persons to obtain a permit from NMFS to participate in aquaculture by constructing an aquaculture facility in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico. Each application for a permit must comply with many permit conditions related to record keeping and operation of the facility. These permit conditions will assure the facility has a minimal affect on the environment and on other fishery resources. Compliance with the conditions will be evaluated annually for the duration of the permit as the basis for renewal of the permit for the next year.

The conference call will begin at 10 a.m. EDT and conclude no later than 12:30 p.m. EDT.

Listening stations are available at the following locations:

The Gulf Council office (see **ADDRESSES**), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices as follows:

Galveston, TX

4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551, Contact: Rhonda O'Toole, (409) 766-3500;

St. Petersburg, FL

263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, Contact: Joyce Mochrie, (727) 824-5301; and

Miami, FL

75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149, Contact: Alex Chester, (305) 361-4259.

Copies of any related meeting materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language