

respective deadlines in order to receive consideration for separate-rate status. The quantity and value questionnaire will be available on the Department's Web site at (<http://ia.ita.doc.gov/ia-highlights-and-news.html>) on the date of the publication of this initiation notice in the **Federal Register**.

Use of Combination Rates in an NME Investigation

The Department will calculate combination rates for certain respondents that are eligible for a separate rate in this investigation. The relevant Policy Bulletin states:

While continuing the practice of assigning separate rates only to exporters, all separate rates that the Department will now assign in its NME investigations will be specific to those producers that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation. Note, however, that one rate is calculated for the exporter and all of the producers which supplied subject merchandise to it during the period of investigation. This practice applies both to mandatory respondents receiving an individually calculated separate rate as well as the pool of non-investigated firms receiving the weighted-average of the individually calculated rates. This practice is referred to as the application of "combination rates" because such rates apply to specific combinations of exporters and one or more producers. The cash-deposit rate assigned to an exporter will apply only to merchandise both exported by the firm in question and produced by a firm that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation.³⁴

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), copies of the public versions of the Petition have been provided to the representatives of the Government of the PRC. The Department considers the service of the public version of the Petition to the foreign producers/exporters satisfied by the delivery of the public version to the Government of the PRC, consistent with 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, no later than December 31, 2012, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of silica bricks from the PRC are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation

will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. On January 22, 2008, the Department published *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Documents Submission Procedures; APO Procedures*, 73 FR 3634. Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of these procedures (e.g., the filing of letters of appearance as discussed at 19 CFR 351.103(d)).

Any party submitting factual information in an antidumping duty or countervailing duty proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.³⁵ Parties are hereby reminded that revised certification requirements are in effect for company/government officials as well as their representatives in all segments of any antidumping duty or countervailing duty proceeding initiated on or after March 14, 2011 as supplemented.³⁶ The formats for the revised certifications are provided at the end of the Interim Final Rule. The Department intends to reject factual submissions in any proceeding segments initiated on or after March 14, 2011, if the submitting party does not comply with the revised certification requirements.

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

Dated: December 5, 2012.

Paul Piquado,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by the scope of this investigation are bricks and shapes, regardless of size, containing at least 90 percent silica (also known as silicon dioxide (SiO₂)), regardless of other materials in the bricks and shapes. The products covered by the scope of this investigation are currently classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS") subheadings 6902.20.1020 and 6902.20.5020. Imports of subject merchandise may also be entered under HTSUS subheading 6901.00.0000. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs

³⁵ See section 782(b) of the Act.

³⁶ See *Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration during Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Interim Final Rule*, 76 FR 7491 (February 10, 2011) ("Interim Final Rule") as supplemented 76 FR 54697 (September 2, 2011) (this rulemaking modified 19 CFR 351.303(g)(1) and (2)).

purposes, the written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2012-29976 Filed 12-11-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XC371

Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that individuals and institutions have been issued Letters of Confirmation for activities conducted under the General Authorization for Scientific Research on marine mammals. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for a list of names and address of recipients.

ADDRESSES: The Letters of Confirmation and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division, (301)427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested Letters of Confirmation have been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216). The General Authorization allows for bona fide scientific research that may result only in taking by level B harassment of marine mammals. The following Letters of Confirmation (LOC) were issued in Fiscal Year 2012.

File No. 809-1902: Issued to the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation, Virginia Beach, VA on February 21, 2007, was extended on March 8, 2012. The purpose of the research is to collect and maintain a long-term record of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the coastal waters of Virginia and to test the current stock hypothesis for Atlantic coastal dolphins. The expiration date of the LOC was extended from February 28, 2012 to November 30, 2012.

File No. 13427: Issued to Gregory D. Kaufman, Pacific Whale Foundation,

³⁴ See Policy Bulletin at 6 (emphasis added).

Wailuku, HI on March 26, 2012, authorized an amendment to LOC No. 13427–03 to change the Principal Investigator to Itana Silva. This replaced version 13427–03, issued on July 26, 2011. A subsequent amendment to LOC No. 13427 was issued on July 9, 2012 to change the Principal Investigator to Emmanuelle Martinez. The LOC expires on June 15, 2013.

File No. 17263: Issued to the Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward, AK (Responsible Party: Tara Reimer Jones, Ph.D.), on June 1, 2012, for research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in Alaska. Activities include (1) remote video monitoring of seals (installation, removal, repair, and maintenance of remote video cameras that require vessel and helicopter access), (2) aerial surveys and photo-ID of seals on land and ice haulouts, and (3) oceanographic surveys in ice habitats. Surveys may be conducted along the coastline on the southern Kenai Peninsula and western Prince William Sound, Alaska. Other marine mammals that may be harassed during surveys include: Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*); harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*); killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), excluding the endangered Southern resident distinct population segment; minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*); and gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), excluding the endangered Western North Pacific population. The LOC expires on May 31, 2017.

File No. 17245: Issued to John H. Schacke, Ph.D., Georgia Dolphin Ecology Program, Commerce, GA on June 4, 2012, to construct and supplement catalogs of individually identifiable bottlenose dolphins in the southeastern United States; to record behavioral observations of individual animals; and to document how bottlenose dolphins use the estuarine and near-shore waters of the Georgia coast. Research will occur within the coastal waters of Georgia, primarily between St. Catherine's and Altamaha Sounds, including embayments, rivers, and estuaries. Bottlenose dolphins of the Western North Atlantic South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock, Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System Stock, and Southern Georgia Estuarine System Stock will be taken. The LOC expires on June 30, 2017.

File No. 17259: Issued to Paul Webb, Department of Biology, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI on June 5, 2012, for level B harassment of Western North Atlantic stocks of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*), gray seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), and harp seals (*Pagophilus groenlandica*) resulting

from close approach, behavioral observations, and scat collection. The purpose of the research is to examine the demographic structure of the local populations and factors affecting the haul-out behavior of harbor seals at sites in Narragansett Bay. The LOC expires on June 15, 2017.

File No. 17260: Issued to Kayla Causey, Ph.D., California State University, Fullerton, CA, on June 11, 2012, to conduct photo-identification, observations, passive acoustic recordings, underwater videography, and focal follows during vessel surveys of the California coastal stock of bottlenose dolphins within Newport Harbor and the surrounding Orange County coastline of California. The purpose of the research is to (1) develop an activity budget of dolphins in Newport Harbor for comparison to dolphins in surrounding coastal zones; (2) provide a better understanding of the temporal scale of site fidelity in Newport Harbor and the Orange County region for a population of dolphins known to engage in long-shore reversals; (3) gain insight into dolphin social dynamics, structure, information transfer, and cognition using underwater observation; and (4) determine how dolphins respond to vessels and people in the region. Other marine mammals that may be harassed during surveys include: California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals, common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis* and *D. capensis*), and Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*). The LOC expires on June 15, 2017.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: December 7, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–29971 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC390

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of reports; public meetings, and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) has begun its annual preseason management process for the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries. This document announces the availability of Pacific Council documents as well as the dates and locations of Pacific Council meetings and public hearings comprising the Pacific Council's complete schedule of events for determining the annual proposed and final modifications to ocean salmon fishery management measures. The agendas for the March and April 2013 Pacific Council meetings will be published in subsequent **Federal Register** documents prior to the actual meetings.

DATES: Written comments on the salmon management alternatives must be received by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Documents will be available from, and written comments should be sent to, Mr. Dan Wolford, Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384, telephone: 503–820–2280 (voice) or 503–820–2299 (fax). Comments can also be submitted via email at PFMC.comments@noaa.gov, or through the internet at the Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments, and include the RIN number in the subject line of the message. For specific meeting and hearing locations, see supplementary information.

Council Address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Burner, telephone: 503–820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Schedule for Document Completion and Availability

February 15, 2013: “Review of 2012 Ocean Salmon Fisheries, Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan” will be mailed to the public and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

March 1, 2013: “Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations” will be mailed to the