

such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as “an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.”

Concern for Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

Cook Inlet is a semi-enclosed tidal estuary located in southcentral Alaska and home to the Cook Inlet beluga whale, a small resident population that was designated as depleted under the MMPA and listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2008. The stock has not recovered, despite implementing subsistence hunting regulations in 1999, and cessation of hunting in 2007. In light of this, and in recognition of the increasing industrial activity and development in Cook Inlet, NMFS has taken a number of actions that reflect the high level of concern for the species, including:

(1) On October 14, 2014, NMFS announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the effects on the human environment of issuing authorizations for the incidental take of marine mammals from activities occurring in both the state and Federal waters of Cook Inlet, AK, from Knik Arm in the northern part of the Inlet to the southern edge of Kachemak Bay on the southeastern part of the Inlet and to the southern edge of Cape Douglas on the southwestern part of the Inlet (“Cook Inlet beluga EIS”). NMFS included a 75-day public comment period for the Notice of Intent and conducted a scoping meeting in Anchorage Alaska on November 3, 2014.

(2) On November 3, 2014, NMFS convened a multi-stakeholder meeting in Anchorage Alaska: Conservation and Recovery of Cook Inlet Beluga Whales in the Context of Continued Development. The purpose of the meeting was to engage stakeholders and begin exploring Cook Inlet specific solutions for mitigating and monitoring adverse effects on belugas, while also allowing for sustainable development. The first day of the two-day workshop was devoted to background and updates related to the status, ecology, and stressors of Cook Inlet belugas and the standards set by the MMPA and the ESA. The second day included an exploration of measures and strategies to minimize anthropogenic impacts, promote recovery, and increase understanding of impacts, as well as a discussion of these objectives in the

context of ensuring MMPA and ESA compliance for future activities.

(3) In May 2015, NMFS unveiled its “Species in the Spotlight: Survive to Thrive” initiative. This initiative includes targeted efforts vital for stabilizing eight species—including the Cook Inlet beluga whale—identified among the most at risk for extinction. The approach involves intensive human efforts to stabilize these species, with the goal that they will become candidates for recovery.

(4) On May 15, 2015, NMFS released the Draft Recovery Plan for Cook Inlet Beluga Whale. The population continues to show a negative trend, despite the cessation of subsistence since 2007. Although the exact cause of the continued decline in the absence of subsistence hunting is unknown, the Recovery Plan identifies likely threats, including three threats of high relative concern: Noise, catastrophic events, and the cumulative and synergistic effects of multiple stressors. Threats of medium relative concern include disease, habitat loss or degradation, reduction in prey, and unauthorized take. Due to an incomplete understanding of the threats facing Cook Inlet beluga whales, NMFS is unable to identify with certainty the actions that will most immediately encourage recovery. Until we know which threats are limiting recovery, the strategy of the Recovery Plan is to focus on threats identified as medium or high concern.

Announcements

The actions summarized above are multi-year efforts that are not likely to result in substantial changes in the short-term. NMFS announces here additional steps to help inform agency decision making in the interim.

The preparation of an EIS is a lengthy and intensive process that, in the case of the for Cook Inlet beluga EIS, will likely take two or more years. Accordingly, in recognition of our ongoing concern over Cook Inlet belugas, while the Cook Inlet beluga EIS is being prepared, NMFS will develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of issuing of multiple, concurrent, one-year MMPA authorizations to take Cook Inlet beluga whales. An EA will aid us in more effectively assessing the cumulative effects of multiple activities and to more comprehensively consider a range of mitigation and monitoring measures in the context of the multiple activities.

MMPA Authorization Cycle (Application Deadlines)

To support NMFS’ efforts to prepare an EA that covers multiple MMPA

incidental harassment authorizations, NMFS is continuing an application cycle for incidental harassment authorizations that include Cook Inlet beluga whales for the 2017 open water season. NMFS requests all prospective MMPA incidental harassment authorization applicants for a given open water season to submit their applications by October 15th of the preceding calendar year (unless the activity is scheduled to occur before May, in which case they should be submitted earlier). Further, we refer potential applicants to our new Technical Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics/guidelines.htm>), which should be used in the analysis of auditory effects in an application. Receipt of those MMPA applications by October 15th will aid NMFS in the development of a timely and well-informed EA and related MMPA authorizations.

Dated: September 22, 2016.

Donna S. Wieting,

*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: *Effective Date:* October 1, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Homer Boyer, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-5156.

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, Pub. L. 107-210; Section 7(b)(2) of the AGO Acceleration Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-274; Division D, Title VI, section 6002 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), Pub.L. 109-432, and section 1 of The African Growth and Opportunity Amendments (Pub. L. 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, Pub. L. 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 twelve-month period beginning October 1, 2016 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, 2016, and extending through September 30, 2017, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under these provisions is 1,966,511,796 square meters equivalent. Of this amount, 983,255,898 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.

Felicia Pullam,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 2016–23317 Filed 9–27–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Renewal of the Global Markets Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Commission) is publishing this notice to announce the renewal of the Global Markets Advisory Committee (GMAC). The Commission has determined that the renewal of the GMAC is necessary and in the public's interest, and the Commission has consulted with the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat regarding the GMAC's renewal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ward P. Griffin, GMAC Designated Federal Officer, at 202–418–5425 or wgriffin@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GMAC's objectives and scope of activities are to conduct public meetings, and to submit reports and recommendations on matters of public concern to the exchanges, firms, market users, and the Commission regarding the regulatory challenges of a global marketplace, which reflect the increasing interconnectedness of markets and the multinational nature of business. The GMAC will help the Commission determine how it can avoid unnecessary regulatory or operational impediments to global business while still preserving core protections for customers and other market participants. The GMAC will also make recommendations for appropriate international standards for regulating futures, swaps, options, and derivatives markets, as well as intermediaries.

Additionally, the GMAC will assist the Commission in assessing the impact on U.S. markets and firms of the Commission's international efforts and the initiatives of foreign regulators and market authorities. The GMAC will also assist with identifying methods to improve both domestic and international regulatory structures while continuing to allow U.S. markets and firms to remain competitive in the global market.

The GMAC will operate for two years from the date of renewal unless the Commission directs that the GMAC terminate on an earlier date. A copy of the GMAC renewal charter has been filed with the Commission; the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; the House Committee on Agriculture; the Library of Congress; and the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat. A copy of the renewal charter will be posted on the Commission's Web site at www.cftc.gov.

Dated: September 23, 2016.

Christopher J. Kirkpatrick,
Secretary of the Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID DOD–2016–HA–0032]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by October 28, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Licari, 571–372–0493.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title, Associated Form and OMB Number: Women, Infants, and Children Overseas Program (WIC Overseas) Eligibility Application; OMB Control Number 0720–0030.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 14,550.

Responses per Respondent: 2.

Annual Responses: 29,100.

Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 7,275 hours.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary for