

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration**

[C-533-878, C-570-065]

**Stainless Steel Flanges From India and the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Countervailing Duty Investigations**

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**DATES:** Applicable October 27, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ryan Mullen at 202-482-5260 (India); Justin Neuman and Jerry Huang at 202-482-0486 and 202-482-4047 (China), AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

On September 5, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Department) initiated countervailing duty investigations (CVD) on stainless steel flanges from India and the People's Republic of China (PRC).<sup>1</sup> Currently, the preliminary determinations of these investigations are due no later than November 9, 2017.

**Postponement of Preliminary Determination**

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires the Department to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which the Department initiated the investigation. However, if the petitioner makes a timely request for a postponement, section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act allows the Department to postpone making the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which the Department initiated the investigation.

On October 4, 2017, the Coalition of American Flange Producers (the petitioners), petitioners in the underlying investigation, submitted timely requests pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(e) to postpone the preliminary determinations.<sup>2</sup> For the reasons stated

<sup>1</sup> See *Stainless Steel Flanges from India and the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 82 FR 42654 (September 11, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> See the petitioners' letter re: Stainless Steel Flanges from India: Request to Postpone Determination, dated October 4, 2017; see also petitioners' letter re: Stainless Steel Flanges from

above and because there are no compelling reasons to deny the requests, the Department, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determinations to no later than 130 days after the day on which the investigations were initiated. Accordingly, the Department will issue the preliminary determinations no later than January 16, 2018.<sup>3</sup> In accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determinations of these investigations will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determinations, unless postponed at a later date.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: October 19, 2017.

**Gary Taverman,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XF791

**Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination that an exempted fishing permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This permit would allow Coonamessett Farm Foundation to test the selectivity of alternate gillnet configurations for targeting haddock on Georges Bank while reducing catch of other groundfish species. Up to five

the People's Republic of China: Request to Postpone Determination, dated October 4, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> See 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1) and (2). January 13, 2018, 130 days after the scheduled preliminary determination, is a Saturday; in addition, January 15, 2018, Monday, is a federal holiday.

commercial fishing vessels would target haddock using alternate gillnet gears on Georges Bank, including Closed Area I, and temporarily retain undersized catch for measurement and data collection.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed exempted fishing permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 13, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line "Comments on Testing Selectivity and Raised Webbing Gillnets on Target and Non-Target Species in the Northeast Haddock Fishery."

- *Mail:* John K. Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Testing Selectivity of Alternative Gillnet Configurations in the Northeast Haddock Fishery."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kyle Molton, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9236, [Kyle.Molton@noaa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Molton@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted a complete application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) on August 16, 2017, to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize five vessels to use test alternate gillnet configurations in Closed Area I and to temporarily retain undersized catch for measurement and data collection. The exemptions are necessary because vessels on commercial groundfish trips are prohibited from fishing in Closed Area I, using gillnets with mesh size less than 6.5 inches (16.51 cm), and from retaining undersized groundfish. The applicant is requesting access to Closed Area I in order to access high densities of haddock, which would result in a greater likelihood of achieving statistically significant results.

The project, titled "Testing Selectivity and Raised Webbing Gillnets on Target and Non-Target Species in the Northeast Haddock Fishery" would be conducted by CFF in cooperation with five commercial fishing vessels. The study would take place on Georges Bank, including in Closed Area I, from December 2017 through January 2019, with five vessels planning to fish no more than 24 trips total. Vessels would