

at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

### Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review

This CCR was conducted pursuant to section 771(18)(A) of the Act, which defines the term “non-market economy country” as a foreign country determined by Commerce not to “operate on market principles of cost or pricing structures, so that sales of merchandise in such country do not reflect the fair value of the merchandise.” Section 771(18)(B) of the Act lists six factors Commerce must consider in any inquiry made under section 771(18)(A) of the Act, and under section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Act, a country’s NME status remains in effect until revoked.

Section 771(18)(B) of the Act requires that Commerce take into account: (1) the extent to which the currency of the foreign country is convertible into the currency of other countries; (2) the extent to which wage rates in the foreign country are determined by foreign bargaining between labor and management; (3) the extent to which joint ventures or other investments by firms of other foreign countries are permitted in the foreign country; (4) the extent of government ownership or control of the means of production; (5) the extent of government control over the allocation of resources and over the price and output decisions of enterprises; and (6) such other factors as the administering authority (*i.e.*, Commerce) considers appropriate.

Since Commerce’s Vietnam NME Determination (2002),<sup>7</sup> the GOVN has undertaken notable market-oriented reforms to promote the development of a more market-based economic system. These reforms have helped make its national currency, the dong, more readily convertible, increased Vietnam’s openness to foreign investment, and gradually reduced government ownership over the means of production within the economy.

Despite these market-oriented reforms, the GOVN remains entrenched in many aspects of the Vietnamese economy. The State Bank of Vietnam is still not independent and continues to intervene in the foreign exchange market to influence the value of the dong. Labor unions remain dominated by the state-controlled Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, hindering genuine collective bargaining and

ultimately creating conditions for suppressed wages and labor costs. Although Vietnam has taken steps to make its overall foreign direct investment environment more attractive, market access barriers, regulatory transparency, and restrictions on corporate control and foreign ownership persist.

In addition to the above referenced points, Vietnam’s economy is still characterized by significant state ownership and control over the means of production, most notably over companies and land. The GOVN continues to play a significant role over the pricing and allocation of credit in Vietnam. State-owned enterprises (SOE) command a disproportionate amount of lending credit, among other structural advantages, despite the SOE’s relatively low efficiency levels compared to their private-sector counterparts. The GOVN also uses state-directed planning to communicate its objectives for the economy in terms of business outcomes and resource allocations, and pervasive government price controls continue to influence final prices of goods in Vietnam. Finally, the Communist Party of Vietnam’s influence over the judicial system and persistent challenges with corruption continue to undermine some of Vietnam’s reform initiatives.

In sum, while Vietnam has implemented notable market-oriented reforms, the extent of government involvement in the economy continues to distort market conditions, rendering Vietnamese prices and costs unusable for U.S. antidumping duty calculations. Therefore, based on the totality of the six factors analyzed, Commerce determines that Vietnam remains a non-market economy for purposes of U.S. AD law.

### Notification to Interested Parties

This notice is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(b) and 771(18)(C)(ii) of the Act.

Dated: August 1, 2024.

#### Ryan Majerus,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 2024-17418 Filed 8-6-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE167]

### International Whaling Commission; 69th Meeting; Announcement of Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the date, time, and access information of the public meeting being held, in a virtual format, prior to the 69th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The meeting is open to U.S. citizens only.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held August 26, 2024, at 3 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in a virtual/online format. Attendees must register in advance to attend the public meeting at the following link: <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/weblink/register/r938f01ef8632b12ac92ef60c5ba811f2>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Madison Harris, [Madison.Harris@noaa.gov](mailto:Madison.Harris@noaa.gov) or (301) 427-8371.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for implementing the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The U.S. IWC Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Marine Mammal Commission, and other U.S. Government agencies.

The IWC will hold its 69th meeting in Lima, Peru on September 23-27, 2024. Additional information about the IWC meeting, including a draft agenda for the meeting, is posted on the IWC Secretariat’s website at <https://iwc.int/events-and-workshops/iwc69-2024>.

NOAA will hold a public meeting on August 26, 2024, to discuss the tentative U.S. positions for the September 2024 IWC meeting. Any U.S. citizen with an identifiable interest in U.S. whale conservation and management policy may participate, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interests of any person who appears at the meeting and determine the

<sup>7</sup> See Memorandum, “Antidumping Duty Investigation of Certain Frozen Fish Fillets from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—Determination of Market Economy Status,” dated November 8, 2002 (Commerce Vietnam NME Determination (2002)).

appropriateness of that person's participation. In particular, persons who represent foreign interests may not attend. Persons deemed by NOAA to be ineligible to attend will be asked to leave the meeting. These measures are necessary to limit statements to those conveying U.S. interests.

The August 26 meeting will be held at 3 p.m. EDT in a virtual format. Meeting access and conferencing platform information will be sent to those who register. To participate, interested persons must register in advance via the following link: <https://noaanmfsmeets.webex.com/weblink/register/r938f01ef8632b12ac92ef60c5ba811f>.

### Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Madison Harris, [Madison.Harris@noaa.gov](mailto:Madison.Harris@noaa.gov) or (301) 427-8371, by August 12, 2024.

Dated: August 2, 2024.

Alexa Cole,

Director, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-17427 Filed 8-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE163]

### Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Initiation of a 5-Year Review for the Mediterranean Monk Seal

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

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the initiation of a 5-year review for the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*). NMFS is required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to conduct 5-year reviews to ensure that the listing classifications of species are accurate. The 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. We request submission of any such information on the Mediterranean monk seal, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since the previous review in 2017.

**DATES:** To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than October 7, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit information on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2024-0092, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit electronic information via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NMFS-2024-0092 in the Search box. Click on the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Instructions:** Information sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the specified period, may not be considered by NMFS. All information received is a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous submissions (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristen Koyama (301) 427-8456 or [Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov](mailto:Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces our review of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) listed as endangered under the ESA. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. The species was previously reviewed in 2017. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing species currently under active review. On the basis of such reviews under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether any species should be removed from the list (i.e., delisted) or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(2)(B)). As described by the regulations in 50 CFR 424.11(e), the Secretary shall delist a species if the Secretary determines based on consideration of the factors and standards set forth in paragraph (c) of that section, that the best scientific and commercial data available substantiate that: (1) the species is extinct; (2) the species has recovered to the point at which it no longer meets the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; (3) new information that has

become available since the original listing decision shows the listed entity does not meet the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; or (4) new information that has become available since the original listing decision shows the listed entity does not meet the definition of a species. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process.

Background information on the Mediterranean monk seal is available on the NMFS website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/mediterranean-monk-seal>.

### Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we are soliciting new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of *Monachus monachus*. Categories of requested information include: (1) species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and important features for conservation; (3) status and trends of threats to the species and its habitats; (4) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species, including monitoring data demonstrating effectiveness of such measures; and (5) other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes and improved analytical methods for evaluating extinction risk.

If you wish to provide information for the review, you may submit your information and materials electronically (see **ADDRESSES** section). We request that all information be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: August 1, 2024.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-17401 Filed 8-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P