

interested parties limit their public, executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the public, executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final determination in this investigation. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the public, executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>14</sup>

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce will inform parties of the time and date for the hearing.

#### Postponement of Final Determination

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination in the **Federal Register** if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner.

On November 1, 2024, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), the petitioner<sup>15</sup> requested that Commerce postpone the final determination.<sup>16</sup> In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(2)(i), because: (1) the preliminary determination is negative; (2) the petitioner has requested the postponement of the final determination; and (3) no compelling reasons for denial exist, Commerce is postponing the final determination.

in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

<sup>14</sup> See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

<sup>15</sup> The petitioner is the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile.

<sup>16</sup> See Petitioners' Letter, "Request for Postponement of {Commerce}'s Final Determinations," dated November 1, 2024.

Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination.

#### U.S. International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) of its preliminary determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine 75 days after the final determination whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

This preliminary determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: November 22, 2024.

**Abdelali Elouaradia,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix I

##### Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is ceramic flooring tile, wall tile, paving tile, hearth tile, porcelain tile, mosaic tile, flags, decorative tile, finishing tile, and the like (hereinafter ceramic tile). Ceramic tiles are articles containing a mixture of minerals including clay (generally hydrous silicates of alumina or magnesium) that are fired so the raw materials are fused to produce a tile that is less than 3.2 cm in thickness, exclusive of decorative features. All ceramic tile is subject to the scope regardless of end use, surface area, and weight, regardless of whether the tile is glazed or unglazed, regardless of the water absorption coefficient by weight, regardless of the extent of vitrification, and regardless of whether or not the tile is on a backing. Subject merchandise includes ceramic tile "slabs" or "panels" (tiles that are larger than 1 meter<sup>2</sup> (11 ft<sup>2</sup>)).

Subject merchandise includes ceramic tile that undergoes minor processing in a third country prior to importation into the United States. Similarly, subject merchandise includes ceramic tile produced that undergoes minor processing after importation into the United States. Such minor processing includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following: beveling, cutting, trimming, staining, painting, polishing, finishing, additional firing, affixing a decorative surface to the tile, or any other processing that would otherwise not remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope product.

Subject merchandise is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the following subheadings of heading 6907: 6907.21.1005, 6907.21.1011, 6907.21.1051, 6907.21.2000,

6907.21.3000, 6907.21.4000, 6907.21.9011, 6907.21.9051, 6907.22.1005, 6907.22.1011, 6907.22.1051, 6907.22.2000, 6907.22.3000, 6907.22.4000, 6907.22.9011, 6907.22.9051, 6907.23.1005, 6907.23.1011, 6907.23.1051, 6907.23.2000, 6907.23.3000, 6907.23.4000, 6907.23.9011, 6907.23.9051, 6907.30.1005, 6907.30.1011, 6907.30.1051, 6907.30.2000, 6907.30.3000, 6907.30.4000, 6907.30.9011, 6907.30.9051, 6907.40.1005, 6907.40.1011, 6907.40.1051, 6907.40.2000, 6907.40.3000, 6907.40.4000, 6907.40.9011, and 6907.40.9051. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings of headings 6913, 6914, and 6905: 6913.90.2000, 6914.10.8000, 6914.90.8000, 6905.10.0000, and 6905.90.0050. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of the investigation is dispositive.

#### Appendix II

##### List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Affiliation and Single Entity Treatment
- V. Discussion of the Methodology
- VI. Currency Conversion
- VII. Recommendation

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE486]

##### Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

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

**ACTION:** Notice of fee rate adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this notice to decrease the fee rate to 2.25 percent for the Pacific Coast Groundfish fee-share fishery to repay the \$28,428,718.88 Groundfish sub-loan of the \$35,662,471 reduction loan that financed the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishing capacity reduction program.

**DATES:** The fee rate decrease for the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery will begin on landings starting on January 1, 2025. The first due date for fee payments with the decreased rate will be February 14, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send questions about this notice to William Fritz, Financial Assistance Specialist, Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3282.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William Fritz, (301) 427-8078.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Sections 312(b) through (e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a (b) through (e)) generally authorizes fishing capacity reduction programs. In particular, section 312(d) authorizes industry fee systems for repaying reduction loans that finance reduction programs. Subpart L of 50 CFR part 600 is the framework rule generally implementing section 312(b) through (e). Sections 1111 and 1112 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 App. U.S.C. 1279f and 1279g) generally authorizes reduction loans.

Enacted on February 20, 2003, section 212 of division B, title II, of Public Law 108-7 (section 212) specifically authorizes a fishing capacity reduction program for that portion of the limited entry trawl fishery under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan whose permits, excluding those registered to whiting catcher-processors, are endorsed for trawl gear operation (reduction fishery).

The reduction program's objective was to reduce the number of vessels and permits endorsed for the operation of groundfish trawl gear. The program also involved corollary fishing capacity reduction in the California, Oregon, and Washington fisheries for Dungeness crab and pink shrimp and the sub-loans for these State fisheries have all been repaid.

NMFS proposed the implementing notice on May 28, 2003 (68 FR 31653) and published the final notice on July 18, 2003 (68 FR 42613). NMFS allocated a \$28,428,719 reduction loan to the groundfish fishery. The allocation became a reduction loan repayable by fees from the groundfish fishery.

NMFS published in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2005 (70 FR 40225), the final rule to implement the industry fee system for repaying the program's reduction loan. The regulations implementing the program are located at 50 CFR part 600 subpart M. On August 8, 2005, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 45695) a notice of the fee effective date and established September 8, 2005 as the effective date when fee collection and loan repayment began.

**II. Purpose**

The purpose of this notice is to adjust, in accordance with the framework rule's § 600.1013(b), the fee rate for the groundfish fishery. Section 600.1013(b) directs NMFS to recalculate the fee rate

that will be reasonably necessary to ensure reduction loan repayment within the specified 30-year term. NMFS has determined that the current fee rate of 3.5 percent for the groundfish fishery is projected to collect more than the annual amortization amount needed for 2025. Therefore, NMFS is decreasing the fee rate to 2.25 percent for all landings beginning January 1, 2025.

Fish buyers may continue to disburse collected fee deposits to NMFS by using <https://www.pay.gov> or by mailing payments to our lockbox. Our lockbox's address is: "NMFS Pacific Coast Groundfish Buyback Loan, P.O. Box 979008, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Fish buyers must include the fee collection report with the fee payment. Fish buyers using <https://www.pay.gov> will find an electronic fee collection report form. Fish buyers not using <https://www.pay.gov> may also access the NMFS website for a copy of the fee collection report at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/pacific-coast-groundfish-buyback>.

**III. Notice**

The new 2.25 percent fee rate for the groundfish fishery will begin for all landings starting January 1, 2025. From and after this date, all groundfish program fish sellers paying fees shall begin paying groundfish program fees at the revised rate. The first due date for fee payments with the decreased rate will be February 14, 2025.

Fee collection and submission shall follow previously established methods in § 600.1013 of the framework rule and in the final fee rule published in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2005 (70 FR 40225).

*Authority:* The authority for this action is Pub. L. 107 206, Pub. L. 108 7, 16 U.S.C. 1861a (b) through (e), and 50 CFR 600.1000 *et seq.*

Dated: November 22, 2024.

**Brian T. Pawlak,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Director, Office of Management and Budget, NOAA Fisheries.*

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

[RTID 0648-XE485]

**Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Longline Catcher Processor Subsector of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Non-Pollock Groundfish Fishery**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of fee rate adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this notice to inform the public that there will be a decrease of the fee rate required to repay the reduction loan financing the non-pollock groundfish fishing capacity reduction program. Effective January 1, 2025, NMFS is decreasing the Loan A fee rate to \$0.016 per pound to ensure timely repayment of the loan. The fee rate for Loan B will remain unchanged at \$0.001 per pound. The decreased fee rate is due to a recalculation based on the required amortization target and projected non-pollock groundfish Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2025, as well as a temporary adjustment related to 2024 Season B.

**DATES:** The non-pollock groundfish program fee rate decrease will begin with landings on January 1, 2025. The first due date for fee payments with the decreased rate will be February 15, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send questions about this notice to William Fritz, Financial Assistance Specialist, Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Fritz, (301) 427-8078.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 312(b)-(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*) generally authorizes fishing capacity reduction programs. In particular, section 312(d) authorizes industry fee systems for repaying reduction loans which finance reduction program costs. Subpart L of 50 CFR part 600 is the framework rule generally implementing section 312(b)-(e). Sections 1111 and 1112 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 App. U.S.C. 1279f and 1279g) generally authorize reduction loans.

Enacted on December 8, 2004, section 219, Title II, of FY 2005 Appropriations