experts. Point scores will be given to project ideas up to the maximum value shown below, based on the following evaluation criteria:

(a) Project ideas must restore the injured natural resources and associated activities of the area. The idea will be evaluated on whether it restores, replaces, or acquires the equivalent of natural resources that were injured as a result of the release of hazardous materials, including PCBs, in the New Bedford Harbor environment. (25 points)

(b) Priority will be given to project ideas within the New Bedford Harbor environment, however, project ideas within the affected marine ecosystem that have a direct, positive impact on the harbor environment will be considered. Project ideas that are outside the New Bedford Harbor environment will be considered if they restore injured natural resources within the New Bedford Harbor environment. (15 points)

(c) Priority will be given to project ideas that give the largest ecological and economic benefit to the greatest area or greatest number of people affected by the injury. The Council is seeking project ideas that will provide the greatest good. A project idea will be evaluated on the basis of whether it provides positive benefits to a more comprehensive area or population. Project ideas that benefit a particular individual rather than a group of individuals would be scored lower under this criterion. (15 points)

(d) Ecological or economic effects of the project ideas should be identifiable and measurable so that changes to the New Bedford Harbor environment can be documented. The idea will be evaluated on whether it has discrete quantifiable results so that a determination can be made on its success or failure. (10 points)

(e) Preferred project ideas are those that employ proven technologies that have high probabilities of success. In evaluating a project idea, the reviewers will determine the likelihood of success based on the method being proposed. To assist in this evaluation, the respondent should provide information on whether the technique has been used before and whether it has been successful. (10 points)

(f) Project ideas should be cost effective. The justification and allocation of a project's budget in terms of the work to be performed will be evaluated. Project ideas which would result in high implementation costs will be taken into account. (10 points)

(g) Project ideas should enhance the aesthetic surroundings of the harbor environment to the greatest extent possible, while acknowledging the ongoing industrial uses of the harbor. The extent that a project idea recognizes the multiple number of uses and the project idea's impacts on those uses will be evaluated as well as the project idea's ability to enhance the overall beauty of the harbor environment. (5 points)

(h) Project ideas should ultimately enhance the public's ability to use, enjoy, or benefit from the harbor environment. Besides a project idea's success at restoring natural resources, it will be evaluated on the basis of collateral gains in the public's ability to utilize the harbor environment. (5 points)

(i) Project ideas should provide an opportunity for community involvement that should be allowed to continue even after the Council's actions have ended. Project ideas will be evaluated on whether the public can be involved in various facets after the Council has completed its funding and the project is completed. (5 points)

3. *Project idea ranking*: Utilizing the numerical scores resulting from the technical evaluation described at V.A.2., project ideas will be ranked in order of the highest to the lowest score. Project ideas scoring the highest will be considered as ''preliminary preferred'' alternatives, with the other ideas as alternatives. The ranking is used only to provide guidance to the Trustees, but is not controlling. Project ideas that fail to meet criterion (a) may be excluded from further consideration though respondents may be provided other opportunities through later Council solicitations.

B. Selection Procedures and Project Funding

After project ideas have been evaluated and ranked, the review team will develop recommendations for preferred projects. These recommendations will be submitted to the Council which will review the recommendations, accept or modify the recommendations, and make a preliminary determination on the approximate number of project ideas it expects to undertake.

1. *Public review*: Once a preliminary determination is made on the preferred project ideas and on the number of project ideas to be funded, the Council will initiate a 30-day public comment period and hold a public hearing to receive comment on the Council's recommendations.

2. *Trustee Council determination*: At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period, the Council will consider the comments from the public and its advisors before making its final decisions on funding. Factors the Trustees may consider include, but are not limited to, the total cost of the highest ranked projects, the cost of individual projects, the amount available to be spent, and the potential impact of clean up activities on the project.

3. *Project solicitation*: Upon the Council's final decisions, the Council may solicit restoration projects for the selected ideas. If necessary, the solicitation will be a formal request following the appropriate contract or grant procedures. The projects ultimately selected could be awarded to private entities, commercial firms, educational institutions, or local, state, or Federal agencies.

Classification

This notice contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The collection of this information has been approved by the OMB under OMB control number 0648–0302. No person is required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The public reporting burden for this collection is 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Jack Terrill and OMB (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* and 9601 *et seq.*

Dated: August 9, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Services.

[FR Doc. 99–21096 Filed 8–13–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080999C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 495–1524

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that John L. Bengtson, Ph.D., Polar Ecosystems Program Leader, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115–0070, has applied in due form for a permit to take Antarctic pinnipeds for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713–0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson, 301/713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to take six species of pinnipeds: crabeater seals, Weddell seals, leopard seals, Ross seals, southern elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals. The research is part of several integrated projects studying the ecology of Antarctic pack ice seals to better understand the ecological relationships between distributions of pack ice seals and their environment. Animals will be captured, sampled, and instrumented with satellite-linked transmitters.

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

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: August 9, 1999.

Eugene Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 99–21098 Filed 8–13–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Hong Kong

August 10, 1999.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 17, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927–5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at http://www.customs.ustreas.gov. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for carryforward used.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 63 FR 67048, published on December 4, 1998.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

August 10, 1999.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 30, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Hong Kong and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on August 17, 1999, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit [1]
Sublevels in Group II	
347/348	6,795,766 dozen of which not more than 6,756,378 dozen shall be in Categories 347–W/348–W [2] and not more than 5,120,239 dozen shall be in Category 348–W.
638/639	4,931,644 dozen.
Within Group II Subgroup	
351	1,200,935 dozen.

[1] The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1998.

[2] Category 347–W: only HTS numbers 6203.19.1020, 6203.19.9020, 6203.22.3020, 6203.22.3030, 6203.42.4005, 6203.42.4010, 6203.42.4015, 6203.42.4025, 6203.42.4035, 6203.42.4045, 6203.42.4050, 6203.42.4060, 6203.49.8020, 6210.40.9033, 6211.20.1520, 6211.20.3810 and 6211.32.0040; Category 348–W: only HTS numbers 6204.12.0030, 6204.19.8030, 6204.22.3040, 6204.22.3050, 6204.29.4034, 6204.62.3000, 6204.62.4005, 6204.62.4010, 6204.62.4020, 6204.62.4030, 6204.62.4040, 6204.62.4050, 6204.62.4055, 6204.62.4065, 6204.69.6010, 6204.69.9010, 6210.50.9060, 6211.20.1550, 6211.20.6810, 6211.42.0030 and 6217.90.9050.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.99–21115 Filed 8–13–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F