

for completion of the final results until Monday, March 6, 2000. See Memorandum from Joseph A. Spetrini to Robert S. LaRussa, September 30, 1999, on file in Room B-099 of the main Commerce building.

This extension is in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act, as amended.

Dated: October 22, 1999.

Richard Weible,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Enforcement Group III.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904; NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of completion of panel review of the final remand determination made by the U.S. International Trade Administration, in the matter of certain corrosion-resistant carbon steel flat products from Canada, Secretariat File No. USA-97-1904-03.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Order of the Binational Panel dated September 13, 1999, affirming the final remand determination described above was completed on October 25, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 13, 1999, the Binational Panel issued an order which affirmed the final remand determination of the United States International Trade Administration ("ITA") concerning Certain Corrosion-Resistant Carbon Steel Flat Products from Canada. The Secretariat was instructed to issue a Notice of Completion of Panel Review on the 31st day following the issuance of the Notice of Final Panel Action, if no request for an Extraordinary Challenge was filed. No such request was filed. Therefore, on the basis of the Panel Order and Rule 80 of the *Article 1904 Panel Rules*, the Panel Review was completed and the panelists discharged from their duties effective October 25, 1999.

Dated: October 25, 1999.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071698B]

RIN 0648-AJ67

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries; Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Intent

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

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) document.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to prepare an SEIS to assess the impact on the natural and human environment of management strategies designed to reduce bycatch from pelagic longlines. The SEIS will examine time/area management alternatives available to NMFS to reduce the incidence of bycatch of undersized swordfish, Atlantic billfish, and other overfished HMS, as well as protected species (including sea turtles) by pelagic longlines fished along the Atlantic coastal waters of the United States. The purpose of this notice is to inform the interested public of the intent to prepare the SEIS document, and to announce the availability of a draft Technical Memorandum that provides background information on the materials and analytical methods used by NMFS in developing potential time/area closure fishery management alternatives to reduce bycatch from the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline fishery.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (HMS FMP), Amendment 1 of the Atlantic Billfish FMP, the final rule, supporting documents, and the HMS Time/Area draft Technical Memorandum can be obtained from Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Buck Sutter, NMFS, (727) 570-5447, or Jill Stevenson, NMFS, (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In a September 1997 Report to Congress, NMFS identified north Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin as overfished; west Atlantic sailfish were included in the 1998 report. The HMS FMP and Amendment 1 of the Atlantic billfish FMP amendment, including final environmental impact statements (revised final SEIS for the Atlantic billfish amendment), were published in April, 1999, to comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) for fisheries identified as overfished. The final rule implementing actions included in these FMPs was published on May 28, 1999 (64 FR 29090). Among the fishery conservation and management measures contained within the HMS FMP and Atlantic billfish FMP amendment are actions specifically addressing bycatch concerns associated with HMS fisheries, as required under national standard 9. NMFS is also subject to other national and international requirements to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality, most notably under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, which provides authority to implement International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations.

Complicating bycatch management of swordfish and Atlantic billfish is the highly migratory nature of these species, resulting in movement outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where they are available for capture by other countries. The United States accounts for 29 percent of the north Atlantic swordfish quota (1997-1999) while Atlantic billfish mortality levels from all U.S. sources (commercial dead discards and recreational landings) during the 1990s averaged only 5.2 percent for Atlantic blue marlin, 5.8 percent for white marlin, and 6.6 percent of west Atlantic sailfish, relative to the total mortality as reported to ICCAT. It is important to note, however, that despite the highly migratory nature of these species, changes in fishing patterns or management measures that impact fishing mortality levels in a portion of their range may result in localized increases or decreases in abundance.

Time/area closures have been utilized as a fishery management tool to reduce bycatch for several U.S. marine fisheries, including North Pacific fisheries (herring, crab and groundfish fisheries), the northeast groundfish gillnet fishery (through the Northeast