

amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

Permit No. 1189 authorizes the permit holder to capture 300 shortnose sturgeon annually by gill net or trot lines in the Ogeechee River, Georgia, then measure, tag, weigh, and release them. Twenty of these may be surgically implanted with radio/sonic tags and tracked. Accidental mortalities are not to exceed one shortnose sturgeon per year. The issuance of this modification extends the permit's expiration date to December 31, 2004 and adds trawling as a sampling method for the purpose of capturing shortnose sturgeon less than eight years of age.

Issuance of this modification, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: May 2, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of the Paperless ELVIS (Electronic Visa Information System) Requirement for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Republic of Korea

May 5, 2003.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection eliminating the paper visa requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 19, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shikha Bhatnagar, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

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.

In an exchange of notes on March 6, 2003 and March 20, 2003, the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea agreed to the paperless Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS). This arrangement provides for electronic transmission of visa information to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection by the Government of the Republic of Korea for textiles and textile products exported to the United States which describes the shipment and includes the visa number assigned to the shipment. The transmission certifies the country of origin and authorizes the shipment to be charged against any applicable quota.

Effective on May 19, 2003, for entry into the United States, the paper visa requirement is eliminated for textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Republic of Korea and exported on or after May 19, 2003. The Government of the Republic of Korea must issue an ELVIS transmission for each shipment of textiles and textile products exported on or after May 19, 2003. For exempt product shipments, the paper exempt certification remains unchanged and an ELVIS transmission is not required.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to eliminate the paper visa requirement and to require an ELVIS transmission for shipments of certain textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Republic of Korea and exported to the United States on or after May 19, 2003. 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 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003). See also 61 FR 69082, published on December 31, 1996; and 56 FR 18574, published on April 23, 1991, as amended.

Goods integrated into GATT 1994 in Stages II and III by the United States will not require an ELVIS transmission (see Federal Register notices 63 FR 53881, published on October 7, 1998 and 66 FR 63225, published on December 5, 2001). An ELVIS transmission will continue to be required for non-integrated products.

Interested persons are advised to take all necessary steps to ensure that textile products that enter into the United States for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, will meet the visa requirements set forth in

the letter published below to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

May 5, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: this directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 24, 1996, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, that directed you to prohibit entry of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Republic of Korea for which the Government of the Republic of Korea has not issued an appropriate export visa and Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission, or exempt certification.

Effective on May 19, 2003, the paper visa will no longer be required for the entry of shipments of textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Republic of Korea and exported to the United States on or after May 19, 2003. For exempt product shipments, the paper exempt certification will remain unchanged.

Under the terms of Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and the Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) Arrangement of March 6, 2003 and March 20, 2003 between the Government of the United States and the Republic of Korea; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on May 19, 2003, entry into the Customs territory of the United States (i.e. the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200-239, 300-369, 400-469, 600-670, and 800-899, including part categories and merged categories, produced or manufactured in the Republic of Korea and exported on or after May 19, 2003 for which the Republic of Korea has not issued an Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission fully described below. Exempt product shipments do not require an ELVIS transmission. The list of part categories, merged categories and exempt products remains unchanged.

An ELVIS message must accompany each commercial shipment of the aforementioned textile products.

A. Each ELVIS transmission shall include the following information:

a. The visa number: The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format beginning with one numeric digit for the last