

Extension of Preliminary Results of Review

In this administrative review, we are currently reviewing new subsidy allegations; including: debt forgiveness, debt restructuring, suspension of interest payments, and debt-to-equity conversions. In addition, we are reviewing numerous programs found countervailable during the original investigation. In order to complete our analysis, we not only require additional information, but also additional time. See July 24, 2003, Memorandum to Holly A. Kuga, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, RE: Extension of Preliminary Results: Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from India. As a result, it is not practicable to complete the preliminary results of this review within the original time limit. Therefore, the Department is extending the time limits for completion of the preliminary results until no later than December 31, 2003.

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

Dated: July 24, 2003.

Holly A. Kuga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071703A]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Mr. Jody Symons on behalf of Florida Offshore Aquaculture, Inc. of Madeira Beach, FL. If granted, the EFP would authorize a feasibility study for 24 months of net cage culture of cobia, mahi-mahi, greater amberjack, Florida pompano, red snapper and cubera snapper at a site approximately 33 statute miles (53 km) WSW. of John's Pass, FL. According to

the applicant, the purpose of the proposed study is to determine the feasibility to grow commercial quantities of native fish species in the offshore environment of the eastern Gulf of Mexico using mariculture techniques. The applicant proposes to place hatchery-raised juvenile fish in net cages, feed them, allow them to grow for approximately 4 months, harvest each cage three times annually, land them in Florida, and sell them. No wild-caught fish will be involved in this study.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on August 29, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application must be mailed to Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments also may be sent via fax to 727-570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Eldridge, 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: peter.eldridge@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b), concerning scientific research activity, exempted fishing permits, and exempted educational activity.

Florida Offshore Aquaculture, Inc., of Madeira Beach, FL intends to conduct a feasibility study for 24 months to determine if it is practical to raise commercial quantities of cobia, mahi-mahi, greater amberjack, red snapper and cubera snapper in nets at a site approximately 33 statute miles (53 km) WSW. of John's Pass, FL (27°34.79' N. lat., 83°16.11' W. long.; depth 109 ft (33.2 m)). An important objective of the project is to determine environmentally responsible procedures that should be employed to ensure minimal environmental impacts on native species as well as the habitat surrounding the project, which will be approximately 1 square mile in area. The proposed site is over sandy bottom and is not in a traditional fishing area for recreational and commercial fisheries. Thus, there should be minimal interaction between the mariculture site and fishermen.

Four to eight Sea Station TM cages will be deployed. These cages have a central steel support spar within a steel tubular ring with spoke lines radiating

from the top and bottom of the spar to the ring and a net stretched over the outside of this spar and cable frame. This design is self-supporting and provides total encasement of the fish; each cage is 53 ft (16 m) tall and 83 ft (25 m) in diameter and will contain a maximum fish biomass of 165,000 lb (75,000 kg). The cages utilize a net made out of spectra fiber and are stretched tightly over the entire structure, which greatly reduces the possibility of entanglement by sea turtles and marine mammals. The cages will be submerged except during harvesting and should pose no foreseeable threat to sea birds. Each cage will be attached to four 2,000-kg Danforth anchors to prevent movement from the site.

The stocking schedule is as follows: Cobia will be the first species stocked. There will be four 6-month stocking phases. During the first phase, four cages will be deployed, stocked and harvested; during the second phase stocking and harvesting of the initial four cages will continue; during the third phase four additional cages will be deployed with cobia, mahi-mahi, greater amberjack, Florida pompano, red snapper and cubera snapper. During the fourth phase stocking and harvesting of all species will occur.

Disease-free fingerlings will be obtained from the Aquaculture Center of the Florida Keys (59300 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL, phone 305-743-6135) and the Marine Science Institute of the University of Texas (750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX, phone 361-749-6795). In the event that the fish in the cages develop diseases or parasites from wild sources and treatments are indicated, they will be treated with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved vaccines, drugs or antibiotics only. This will be done in their feed or, in the extreme case, the cage(s) will be enclosed with material and will be treated with U.S. FDA-approved vaccines, drugs or antibiotics in solution. If any fish are found to have commutable virus, the entire population of the affected cage will be immediately removed and destroyed. The brood stock and their spawn will be genetically tagged using the satellite DNA method. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) facility at Port Manatee, FL, will conduct this phase of the research.

Feeds for this project will be commercially manufactured diets formulated for the species being fed from established aquaculture feed companies. The pelletized feeds will contain essential feed ingredients only and will minimize introduction of