

across a range of depths to test the efficiency of the gear across a range of scup-Loligo densities. Samples would be within close proximity of one another to minimize steam time between stations. Estimated catch for the study period are as follows: Loligo squid, 96,000 lb (43,545 kg); scup, 13,000 lb (6,078 kg); butterfish, 9,600 lb (4,354 kg); Illex squid, 2,800 lb (1,270 kg); summer flounder, 2,600 lb (1,179 kg); monkfish, 1,900 lb (862 kg); smooth dogfish, 1,000 lb (454 kg); spiny dogfish, 700 lb (318 kg); white hake, 600 lb (272 kg); john dory, 200 lb (91 kg); black sea bass, 100 lb (45 kg); silver hake, 100 lb (45 kg); and tilefish, 10 lb (5 kg). Squid and fish caught during the study would be sold by the vessel owners, in accordance with the requirements of the permits issued to them (with the exception of the requested exemption to the scup landing limit). The sale of fish is necessary to offset the costs of chartering the vessels for the study. The participating vessels would be required to comply with applicable state landing laws and report all landings on the Federal Fishing Vessel Trip Report.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 7, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-28547 Filed 11-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Public Meeting Concerning Petition for Rule Declaring Natural Rubber Latex a Strong Sensitizer

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC" or "Commission") will conduct a public meeting on December 10, 2003, to receive comments concerning Petition HP 00-2, which requested that the Commission declare natural rubber latex ("NRL") to be a strong sensitizer under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act ("FHSA"). The CPSC staff's briefing package recommends that the Commission deny the petition. The Commission invites oral presentations from members of the public with information or comments related to the petition or the staff's briefing package. The Commission will consider these presentations as it decides what action to take on the petition.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on December 10, 2003. Requests to make oral presentations, and 10 copies of the text of the presentation, must be received by the CPSC Office of the Secretary no later than December 3, 2003. Persons making presentations at the meeting should provide an additional 25 copies for dissemination on the date of the meeting.

The Commission reserves the right to limit the number of persons who make presentations and the duration of their presentations. To prevent duplicative presentations, groups will be directed to designate a spokesperson.

Written submissions, in addition to, or instead of, an oral presentation may be sent to the address listed below and will be accepted until January 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be in room 420 of the Bethesda Towers Building, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD. Requests to make oral presentations, and texts of oral presentations should be captioned "Latex Petition Briefing" and be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Requests and texts of oral presentations may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the purpose or subject matter of this meeting contact Suzanne Barone, Ph.D., Directorate for Health Sciences, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-7256; e-mail: sbarone@cpsc.gov. For information about the schedule for submission of requests to make oral presentations and submission of texts of oral presentations, contact Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-6833; fax (301) 504-0127; e-mail rhammond@cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Commission received a petition from Debi Adkins, editor of Latex Allergy News, requesting that the Commission issue a rule declaring natural rubber latex ("NRL") to be a strong sensitizer under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act ("FHSA") and that consumer products containing NRL be labeled. The petitioner asserts that a portion of the population has developed an allergy to NRL that can cause serious allergic reactions, even death. NRL may be in such consumer

products as gloves, adhesives, shoes, balloons, pacifiers, and carpet backing, as well as many medical products.

The Commission published a notice in the **Federal Register** on March 21, 2000, requesting comments on the petition. 65 FR 15133. The Commission extended the comment period 30 days. 65 FR 33525. The Commission received a total of 85 comments on the petition.

The staff reviewed the petition, comments and other relevant available information. The staff then forwarded a briefing package to the Commission, which is available on the Commission's Web site www.cpsc.gov or from the Commission's Office of the Secretary. The staff recommends that the Commission deny the petition. The staff concludes that available data do not support that NRL is a strong sensitizer as that term is defined in the FHSA. Current scientific information about the development of NRL allergy from consumer products that contain NRL is limited, and it does not appear that the information will be developed in the near future.

The FHSA defines the term "strong sensitizer" as a "substance which will cause on normal living tissue through an allergic or photodynamic process a hypersensitivity which becomes evident on reapplication of the same substance" and which the Commission declares to be a strong sensitizer. 15 U.S.C. 1261(k). The FHSA definition further states that before making such a declaration, and "upon consideration of the frequency of occurrence and severity of the reaction, [the Commission] shall find that the substance has a significant potential for causing hypersensitivity." *Id.*

B. The Public Meeting

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide a forum for oral presentations on the NRL petition and the CPSC staff briefing package.

Participation in the meeting is open. See the **DATES** section of this notice for information on making requests to give oral presentations at the meeting and on making written submissions.

Dated: November 7, 2003.

Todd A. Stevenson,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 03-28458 Filed 11-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.