The Petition

On January 13, 2016, the Department of Commerce (“the Department”) received an antidumping duty (“AD”) petition concerning imports of certain biaxial integral geogrid products (“geogrids”) from the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”), filed in proper form on behalf of Tensar Corporation (“Petitioner”).¹ The AD petition was accompanied by a countervailing duty (“CVD”) petition for the PRC.² Petitioner is a domestic producer of geogrids.³

On January 15, 2016, the Department requested additional information and clarification of certain areas of the Petition,⁴ and Petitioner timely filed responses to these requests on January 20, 2016.⁵ On January 26, 2016, the Department requested additional information and clarification on the calculation of AD margins,⁶ and Petitioner timely filed a response to this request on January 28, 2016.⁷

On January 27, 2016, the Department determined to toll all deadlines four business days as a result of the Federal Government closure during snowstorm Jonas, which is applicable to this initiation.

As explained in the memorandum from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, the Department has exercised its discretion to toll all administrative deadlines due to the recent closure of the Federal Government. All deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by four business days. The revised deadline for the initiation of this investigation is now February 8, 2016.⁸

In accordance with section 732(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the “Act”), Petitioner alleges that imports of geogrids from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less-than-fair value within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that such imports are materially injurious, or threatening material injury to, an industry in the United States. Also, consistent with section 732(b)(1) of the Act, the Petition is accompanied by information reasonably available to Petitioner supporting its allegations.

The Department finds that Petitioner filed these Petitions on behalf of the domestic industry because Petitioner is an interested party as defined in section 731(9)(C) of the Act. The Department also finds that Petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the initiation of the AD investigation that Petitioner is requesting.⁹

Period of Investigation

Because the AD Petition was filed on January 13, 2015, the period of investigation (“POI”) is, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1), July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are geogrids from the PRC. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see the “Scope of the Investigation,” in Appendix I of this notice.

Comments on Scope of the Investigation

During our review of the AD and CVD Petitions, the Department issued questions to, and received responses from, Petitioner pertaining to the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition would be an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.¹⁰

As discussed in the preamble to the Department’s regulations,¹¹ we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (i.e., the scope). The Department will consider all comments received from parties and, if necessary, will consult with parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information (see 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21)), all such factual information should be limited to public information. In order to facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, the Department requests all interested parties to submit such comments by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (“ET”) on February 29, 2016, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on March 10, 2016, which is 10 calendar days after the initial comments deadline.

The Department requests that any factual information the parties consider relevant to the scope of the investigations be submitted during this time period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigations may be relevant, the party may contact the Department and request permission to submit the additional information. All such comments must be filed on the records of each of the concurrent AD and CVD investigations.

Filing Requirements

All submissions to the Department must be filed electronically using the Centralized Electronic Service System (Centralized).¹²

¹ See the Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping Duties and Countervailing Duties: Certain Biaxial Integral Geogrid Products from the People’s Republic of China, dated January 13, 2016 (“the Petition”).

² Id.

³ See Volume I of the Petition at 2.


⁵ See Petitioner’s Response to the AD Supplemental Questionnaire, dated January 20, 2016 (“AD Petition Supplement”) and Petitioner’s


⁷ See Petitioner’s Response to the AD Supplemental Questionnaire, dated January 20, 2016 (“AD Petition Supplement”) and Petitioner’s

⁸ Id.


¹¹ See Antidumping Duties: Countervailing Duties, 62 FR 27296, 27323 [May 19, 1997].
In order to consider the suggestions of interested parties in developing and issuing the AD questionnaires, all comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 29, 2016, which is twenty calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on March 4, 2016. All comments and submissions to the Department must be filed electronically using ACCESS.

**Determination of Industry Support for the Petition**

Section 732(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) At least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 732(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, the Department shall: (i) Poll the industry or rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the “industry.”

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the “industry” as the producers as a whole of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs the Department to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The International Trade Commission (“ITC”), which is responsible for determining whether “the domestic industry” has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both the Department and the ITC must apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product, they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, the Department’s determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title.” Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is “the article subject to an investigation” (i.e., the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the Petition). With regard to the domestic like product, Petitioner does not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation. Based on our analysis of the information submitted on the record, we have determined that geogrids, as defined in the scope, constitute a single domestic like product and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.

In determining whether Petitioner has standing under section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry support data contained in the Petition with reference to the domestic like product as defined in the “Scope of the Investigation,” in Appendix I of this notice. To establish industry support, Petitioner provided its own production of the domestic like product in 2015. On February 1, 2016, we received a letter from the only other known U.S. producer of geogrids, Tenax Corporation (“Tenax”), stating that the company supports the Petition. Tenax also provided its own production of the domestic like product in 2015. Petitioner states that, based on reasonably available information regarding the U.S. geogrids industry, there are no other known producers of geogrids.

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13 See section 771(10) of the Act.
geogrids in the United States; therefore, the Petition is supported by 100 percent of the U.S. industry.\textsuperscript{19}

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, General Issues Supplement, letters from Tenax, and other information readily available to the Department indicates that Petitioner has established industry support.\textsuperscript{20} First, the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, the Department is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (e.g., polling).\textsuperscript{21} Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.\textsuperscript{22} Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.\textsuperscript{23} Accordingly, the Department determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 732(b)(1) of the Act.

The Department finds that Petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry because it is an interested party as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act and it has demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the AD investigation that it is requesting the Department initiate.\textsuperscript{24}

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

Petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than normal value ("NV"). In addition, Petitioner alleges that subject imports exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.\textsuperscript{25}

Petitioner contends that the industry's injured condition is illustrated by reduced market share; underselling and price suppression or depression; negative impact on the domestic industry's performance, including capacity utilization, shipments, and operating income; and lost sales and revenues.\textsuperscript{26} We have assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, and causation, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.\textsuperscript{27}

Allegation of Sales at Less-Than-Fair Value

The following is a description of the allegation of sales at less-than-fair value upon which the Department based its decision to initiate the investigation of geogrids from the PRC. The sources of data for the deductions and adjustments relating to U.S. price and NV are discussed in greater detail in the initiation checklist.

Export Price

Petitioner based U.S. prices on geogrids produced in and exported from the PRC by one producer, Feicheng Lianyi Engineering Plastics Co., Ltd. ("Feicheng"), and offered for sale to customers in the United States.\textsuperscript{28} Petitioner made deductions from U.S. price for movement expenses consistent with the delivery terms.

Normal Value

Petitioner stated that the Department's calculations of the PRC's normal value ("NV") is based on a representative price for the product produced in the country for initiation purposes.\textsuperscript{29} Our review of the data provided in the Petition indicates that Petitioner has met the statutory requirements for initiation.\textsuperscript{30} Accordingly, the Department determines that the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, the Department is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (e.g., polling).\textsuperscript{31} Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.\textsuperscript{32} Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.\textsuperscript{33} Accordingly, the Department determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 732(b)(1) of the Act.\textsuperscript{34}

The Department finds that Petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry because it is an interested party as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act and it has demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the AD investigation that it is requesting the Department initiate.\textsuperscript{35}

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

Petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than normal value ("NV"). In addition, Petitioner alleges that subject imports exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.\textsuperscript{36}

Petitioner contends that the industry's injured condition is illustrated by reduced market share; underselling and price suppression or depression; negative impact on the domestic industry's performance, including capacity utilization, shipments, and operating income; and lost sales and revenues.\textsuperscript{37} We have assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, and causation, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.\textsuperscript{38}
accordance with the Department’s practice, the average import value excludes imports that were labeled as originating from an unidentified country. The Department determines that the surrogate values used by Petitioner are reasonably available, and thus, are acceptable for purposes of initiation.

Valuation of Labor

Petitioner valued labor using 2012 data for South Africa from the International Labor Organization for “Manufacturing.” Specifically, Petitioner relied on data pertaining to wages earned by South African workers engaged in the manufacturing sector of the economy. Petitioner inflated the wage rate using data for the South African Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) published by the South African Regulator of South Africa for natural gas and electricity. The price was converted to USD using the average exchange rate for the POL.

Valuation of Packing Materials

Petitioner valued the packing materials used by PRC producers based on South African import data obtained from GTA.

Valuation of Energy

Petitioner valued electricity using data published by the South African electricity producer Eksom. The Eksom price information was reported in South African ZAR/kilowatt hour. Petitioner converted the price to USD using the average exchange rate during the POL. Petitioner valued natural gas using data from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa for natural gas provider ROMPCO. Petitioner converted ZAR/Gigajoule (“GJ”) to USD/therm.

Valuation of Factory Overhead, Selling, General and Administrative (SG&A) Expenses, and Profit

Petitioner relied on surrogate financial ratios (i.e., factory overhead, SG&A expenses, and profit) it calculated using the 2015 audited financial statement of Bowler Metcalf, a South African producer of comparable merchandise (i.e., rigid plastic packaging for consumer products).

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by Petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of geogrids from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less-than-fair value. Based on comparisons of EP to NV, in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act, the estimated dumping margin for geogrids from the PRC range from 289.23 to 372.81 percent.

Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation

Based upon the examination of the AD Petition on geogrids from the PRC, we find that the Petition meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating an AD investigation to determine whether imports of geogrids from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less-than-fair value. In accordance with section 733(b)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

On June 29, 2015, the President of the United States signed into law the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, which made numerous amendments to the AD and CVD law. The 2015 law does not specify dates of application for those amendments. On August 6, 2015, the Department published an interpretative rule, in which it announced the applicability dates for each amendment to the Act, except for amendments contained in section 771(7) of the Act, which relate to determinations of material injury by the ITC. The amendments to sections 771(15), 773, 776, and 782 of the Act are applicable to all determinations of material injury by the ITC.

Respondent Selection

Petitioner named 78 companies from the PRC as producers/exporters of geogrids. Following standard practice for respondent selection in cases involving NME countries, we intend to issue quantity and value (“Q&V”) questionnaires to each potential respondent, for which the Petitioner has provided a complete address, and base respondent selection on the responses received. In addition, the Department will post the Q&V questionnaire along with filing instructions on the Enforcement and Compliance Web site at http://www.trade.gov/enforcement/news.asp.

Exporters/producers of geogrids from the PRC that do not receive Q&V questionnaires by mail may still submit a response to the Q&V questionnaire and can obtain a copy from the Enforcement and Compliance Web site. The Q&V response must be submitted by all PRC exporters/producers no later than February 22, 2016, which is two weeks from the signature date of this notice. All Q&V responses must be filed electronically via ACCESS.

Separate Rates

In order to obtain separate-rate status in an NME investigation, exporters and producers must submit a separate-rate application. The specific requirements for submitting a separate-rate application are outlined in detail in the application itself, which is available on the Department’s Web site at http://enforcement.trade.gov/nme/nme-separate.html. The separate-rate application will be due 30 days after publication of this initiation notice. Exporters and producers who submit a separate-rate application and have been selected as mandatory respondents will be eligible for consideration for separate-rate status only if they respond to all parts of the Department’s AD questionnaire as mandatory respondents. The Department requires that respondents submit a response to both the Q&V questionnaire and the separate-rate application by their respective deadlines in order to receive consideration for separate-rate status.
Use of Combination Rates

The Department will calculate combination rates for certain respondents that are eligible for a separate rate in an NME investigation. The Separate Rates and Combination Rates Bulletin states:

[w]hile continuing the practice of assigning separate rates only to exporters, all separate rates that the Department will now assign in its NME Investigation will be specific to those producers that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation. Note, however, that one rate is calculated for the exporter and all of the producers which supplied subject merchandise to it during the period of investigation. This practice applies both to mandatory respondents receiving an individually calculated separate rate as well as the pool of non-investigated firms receiving the weighted-average of the individually calculated rates. This practice is referred to as the application of “combination rates” because such rates apply to specific combinations of exporters and one or more producers. The cash-deposit rate assigned to an exporter will apply only to merchandise supplied by a firm that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(b), a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to the PETC. During the period of investigation. Note, however, that one rate is calculated for the exporter and all of the producers which supplied subject merchandise to it during the period of investigation. This practice applies both to mandatory respondents receiving an individually calculated separate rate as well as the pool of non-investigated firms receiving the weighted-average of the individually calculated rates. This practice is referred to as the application of “combination rates” because such rates apply to specific combinations of exporters and one or more producers. The cash-deposit rate assigned to an exporter will apply only to merchandise supplied by a firm that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation.

ITC Notification

We will notify the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petition was filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of geogrids from the PRC are materially injuring or threatening material injury to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) Evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.111(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by the Department; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)-(iv). Any party, when submitting factual information, must specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.

Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Please review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351, or as otherwise specified by the Secretary. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351 expires. For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, we may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in the letter or memorandum setting forth the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, stand-alone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely-filed requests for the extension of time limits. Please review Extension of Time Limits: Final Rule, 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013), available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22653.html, prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective order (“APO”) in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. On January 22, 2008, the Department published Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Documents Submission Procedures: APO Procedures, 73 FR 3634 (January 22, 2008). Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of these procedures (e.g., the filing of letters of appearance as discussed in 19 CFR 351.103(d)).

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: February 8, 2016.

Paul Piquado.
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I—Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by the investigation is certain biaxial integral geogrid products. Biaxial integral geogrid products are a polymer grid or mesh material (whether or not finished, slit, cut-to-length, attached to woven or non-woven fabric; or sheet material, or packaged) in which four-sided openings in the form of squares, rectangles, rhomboids, diamonds, or other four-sided figures predominate. The products covered have integral strands that have been stretched to induce molecular orientation into the material (as evidenced by the strands being thinner toward the middle between the junctions than at the junctions themselves) constituting the sides of the openings and integral junctions where the strands intersect. The scope includes products in which four-sided figures predominate whether or not they also contain additional strands intersecting the four-sided figures and
whether or not the inside corners of the four-sided figures are rounded off or not sharp angles. As used herein, the term “integral” refers to strands and junctions that are homogenous with each other. The products covered have a tensile strength of greater than 5 kilonewtons per meter (“kN/m”) according to American Society for Testing and Materials (“ASTM”) Standard Test Method D6637/D6637M in any direction and average overall flexural stiffness of more than 100,000 milligram-centimeter according to the ASTM D7748/D7748M Standard Test Method for Flexural Rigidity of Geogrids, Geotextiles and Related Products, or other equivalent test method standards.

Subject merchandise includes material matching the above description that has been finished, packaged, or otherwise further processed in a third country, including by trimming, slitting, coating, cutting, punching holes, stretching, attaching to woven or non-woven fabric or sheet material, or any other finishing, packaging, or other further processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigations if performed in the country of manufacture of the biaxial integral geogrid. The products subject to the scope are currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”) under the following subheading: 3925.90.0000. The HTSUS subheadings set forth above are provided for convenience and description of the scope is dispositive.

The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm Mohead or Rosa L. González, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 17, 2014, notice was published in the Federal Register (79 FR 68413) of a request for a permit to conduct research on shortnose sturgeon had been submitted by the above-named applicant. On June 26, 2015, notice was published in the Federal Register (80 FR 36770) that the application was amended to include a request to conduct research on Atlantic sturgeon. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as 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 parts 222–226).

Permit No. 19255 authorizes annual takes of endangered shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon to document nursery areas, individual movement patterns, seasonal movements, home ranges, and habitat usage(s) in the Delaware River. The authorized activities include capture of shortnose and Atlantic shortnose with gillnets. It also authorizes individuals to be weighed, measured, marked with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT), T-bar tagged, anesthetized, acoustic tagged, genetic tissue sampled, gastric lavaged, and photographed. It also authorized one unintentional mortality per species during the life of the permit. Specific activities and number of animals authorized per species are found on the permit. The shortnose sturgeon research activities are a continuation of the ones authorized under the DNREC expired Permit No. 14396 (75 FR 4043). The Atlantic sturgeon research activities were incorporated from the ones authorized under the DNREC Permit No. 16431 (76 FR 58469), which was set to expire April 5, 2017. Permit No. 16431 was terminated with issuance of Permit No. 19225, valid until February 5, 2021.

Issuance of this permit, 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 such endangered or threatened species and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 9, 2016.

Perry F. Gayaldó,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2016–03026 Filed 2–12–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XE437
Fisheries of the South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of a permit, and termination of a permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) [Responsible Party: Michael Stangl], 3002 Bayside Dr., Dover, Delaware 19977, has been issued a permit to take shortnose (Acipenser brevirostrum) and Atlantic (Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus) sturgeon in the Delaware River for purposes of scientific research. Additionally, Permit No. 16431, issued to the same Permit Holder for study of Atlantic sturgeon, is hereby terminated.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Byrd, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571–4366; email: julie.byrd@sfmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions,