Notice of New Dates for Public Hearing and Transmittal of the Commission’s Report


SUMMARY: The Commission has changed the date of its public hearing for Investigation No. 332-575: Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries from May 12, 2020 to September 3, 2020; and the date has changed for transmittal of its report to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means (Committee) in this investigation from December 19, 2020 to February 18, 2021 due to COVID-19.

DATES:
August 12, 2020: Deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing.
August 21, 2020: Deadline for filing pre-hearing briefs and statements.
September 17, 2020: Deadline for filing post-hearing briefs and statements.
October 9, 2020: Deadline for filing all other written submissions.
February 18, 2021: Transmittal of Commission report to the Committee.

ADDRESSES: All Commission offices, including the Commission’s hearing rooms, are located in the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at https://edis.usitc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Leader Renee Berry (202-205-3498 or renee.berry@usitc.gov) or Deputy Project Leader Daniel Matthews (202-205-5991 or daniel.matthews@usitc.gov) for information specific to this investigation. For information on the legal aspects of these investigations, contact William Gearhart of the Commission’s Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091 or william.gearhart@usitc.gov). The media should contact Margaret O’Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-205-1819 or margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov). Hearing-impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal at 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (https://www.usitc.gov). Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission published notice of institution of the investigation in the Federal Register on January 31, 2020 (85 FR 5704, January 31, 2020). In that notice, the Commission announced it would hold a public hearing on May 12, 2020, and it also set dates by which requests to appear at the hearing, briefs, and other written submissions should be filed. However, due to COVID-19, the Commission postponed the hearing to a date to be determined (85 FR 21460, April 17, 2020). The Commission has rescheduled the public hearing as well as deadlines for requests to appear at the hearing, briefs, and other written submissions to the following dates. Please note the Secretary’s Office will accept only electronic filings at this time. Filings must be made through the Commission’s Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, https://edis.usitc.gov). No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice. The scope of the investigation remains the same as published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on September 3, 2020. This hearing may occur at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC, or via an online videoconferencing platform. Information about the place and form of the hearing, including about how to participate in or view the hearing, will be posted on the Commission’s website at (https://usitc.gov/research_and_analysis/what_we_are_working_on.htm). Once on that webpage, scroll down to the entry for investigation No. 332–575, Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries, and click on the link to “hearing instructions.”

Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, no later than 5:15 p.m., August 12, 2020 in accordance with the requirements in the “Submissions” section below. All pre-hearing briefs and statements should be filed no later than 5:15 p.m., August 21, 2020; and all post-hearing briefs and statements should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., September 17, 2020. In the event that, as of the close of business on August 12, 2020, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or nonparticipant should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000 after August 12, 2020, for information concerning whether the hearing will be held.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to file written submissions concerning this investigation. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, and should be received not later than 5:15 p.m., October 9, 2020. All written submissions must conform to the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.8), as temporarily amended by 85 FR 15798 (March 19, 2020). Under that rule waiver, the Office of the Secretary will accept only electronic filings at this time. Filings must be made through the Commission’s Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, https://edis.usitc.gov). No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice. Persons with questions regarding electronic filing should contact the Office of the Secretary, Docket Services Division (202-205-1802), or consult the Commission’s Handbook on Filing Procedures. Confident Business Information: Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform to the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the “confidential” or “non-confidential” version, and that the confidential business information is clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available
As requested by the Committee, the Commission will not include any confidential business information in the report that it sends to the Committee or makes available to the public. However, all information, including confidential business information, submitted in this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel for cybersecurity purposes. The Commission will not otherwise disclose any confidential business information in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: The Commission intends to publish summaries of the positions of interested persons in an appendix to the report. Persons wishing to have a summary of their position included in the report should include a summary with their written submission. The summary may not exceed 500 words, should be in a format that can be easily converted to MS Word, and should not include any confidential business information. The summary will be published as provided if it meets these requirements and is germane to the subject matter of the investigation. The Commission will identify the name of the organization furnishing the summary and will include a link to the Commission’s Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) where the full written submission can be found.

By order of the Commission.

Lisa R. Barton
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: May 27, 2020