Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination. Normally, Commerce verifies information using standard procedures, including an on-site examination of original accounting, financial, and sales documentation. However, due to current travel restrictions in response to the global COVID–19 pandemic, Commerce is unable to conduct on-site verification in this investigation. Accordingly, we intend to verify the information relied upon in making the final determination through alternative means in lieu of an on-site verification.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. A timeline for the submission of case briefs and written comments will be notified to interested parties at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs after the deadline date for case briefs.

Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until further notice. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument:

1. A statement of the issue;
2. A brief summary of the argument;
3. A table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party’s name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine 75 days after the final determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: March 7, 2022.
Lisa W. Wang,
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is certain OCTG, which are hollow steel products of circular cross-section, including oil well casing and tubing, of iron (other than case iron) or steel (both carbon and alloy), whether seamless or welded, regardless of end finish (e.g., whether or not plain end, threaded, or threaded and coupled) whether or not conforming to American Petroleum Institute (API) or non-API specifications, whether finished (including limited service OCTG products) or unfinished (including green tubes and limited service OCTG products), whether or not thread protectors are attached. The scope of this investigation also covers OCTG coupling stock.

Subject merchandise includes material matching the above description that has been finished, packaged, or otherwise processed in a third country, including by performing any heat treatment, cutting, upsetting, threading, coupling, or any other finishing, packaging, or processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the OCTG.

Excluded from the scope of the investigation are: Casing, tubing, or coupling stock containing 10.5 percent or more by weight of chromium; drill pipe; unattached couplings; and unattached thread protectors. The merchandise subject to this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers: 7304.29.1010, 7304.29.1020, 7304.29.1030, 7304.29.1040, 7304.29.1050, 7304.29.1060, 7304.29.1080, 7304.29.2010, 7304.29.2020, 7304.29.2030, 7304.29.2040, 7304.29.2050, 7304.29.2060, 7304.29.2080, 7304.29.3110, 7304.29.3120, 7304.29.3130, 7304.29.3140, 7304.29.3150, 7304.29.3160, 7304.29.3180, 7304.29.4110, 7304.29.4120, 7304.29.4130, 7304.29.4140, 7304.29.4150, 7304.29.4160, 7304.29.4180, 7304.29.5015, 7304.29.5030, 7304.29.5045, 7304.29.5060, 7304.29.5075, 7304.29.6115, 7304.29.6130, 7304.29.6145, 7304.29.6160, 7304.29.6175, 7305.20.2000, 7305.20.4000, 7305.20.6000, 7305.20.8000, 7306.29.1030, 7306.29.1090, 7306.29.2000, 7306.29.3100, 7306.29.4100, 7306.29.6010, 7306.29.6050, 7306.29.8110, and 7306.29.8150.

The merchandise subject to this investigation may also enter under the following HTSUS item numbers:


The HTSUS subheadings and specifications above are provided for convenience and customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the Investigation
IV. Subsidies Valuation
V. Analysis of Programs
VI. Recommendation

For further information contact:

Brontee Jeffries or Theodore Pearson,
Department of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration


AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of oil country tubular goods (OCTG) from the Russian Federation (Russia) for the period of investigation (POI) January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable March 14, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brontee Jeffries or Theodore Pearson,
AD/CVD Operations, Office 1, Enforcement and Compliance. International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4645 or (202) 482–2631, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background
This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on November 1, 2021.1 On November 23, 2021, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation to March 7, 2022.2 For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.3 A list of topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance’s Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at http://access.trade.gov. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.

Scope of the Investigation
The products covered by this investigation are OCTG from Russia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

Scope Comments
In accordance with the preamble to Commerce’s regulations,4 the Initiation Notice set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (i.e., scope).5 Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the Initiation Notice. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this preliminary determination and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.6 Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the Initiation Notice, see Appendix I.

Methodology
Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found countervailable, Commerce preliminarily determines that there is a subsidy, i.e., a financial contribution by an “authority” that gives rise to a benefit to the recipient, and that the subsidy is specific.7 For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary conclusions, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum. Commerce notes that, in making these findings, it relied, in part, on facts available and, because it finds that the Government of Russia did not act to the best of its ability to respond to Commerce’s requests for information, it drew an adverse inference where appropriate in selecting from among the facts otherwise available.8 For further information, see “Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences” in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Alignment
In accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(4), and based on the petitioners’ request,9 we are aligning the final CVD determination in this investigation with the final determination in the companion AD investigations of OCTG from Argentina, Mexico, Korea, and Russia. Consequently, the final CVD determination will be issued on the same date as the final AD determination, which is currently scheduled to be issued no later than July 18, 2022, unless postponed.

Preliminary Negative Determination of Critical Circumstances
The petitioners alleged, based on publicly available trade statistics, that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist regarding imports of OCTG.10 Based on monthly shipment information requested from the mandatory respondents, Commerce is preliminarily determining that critical circumstances do not exist within the meaning of section 703(e)(1) of the Act. For further information, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate
Sections 703(d)(1)(A)(i) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that, in the preliminary determination, Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for companies not individually examined. Pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act, this rate shall normally be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates established for those companies individually examined, excluding any rates that are zero, de minimis, or rates based entirely under section 776 of the Act.

We preliminarily calculated individual estimated countervailable subsidy rates for TMK Group (TMK) and United Metallurgical Company and Vyksa Steel Works (collectively, OMK) that are not zero, de minimis, or based entirely on facts otherwise available. Commerce calculated the all-others rate using a weighted average of the individual estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents using each company’s publicly-ranged values for the merchandise under consideration.11

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4 See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule, 62 FR 27296, 27232 (May 19, 1997).
7 See sections 771(5)(B) and (D) of the Act regarding financial contribution; section 771(5)(E) of the Act regarding benefit; and section 771(5)(A) of the Act regarding specificity.
8 See sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act.
10 With two respondents under examination, Commerce normally calculates (A) a weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents; (B) a simple average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents; and (C) a weighted-average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents using each company’s publicly-ranged U.S. sale quantities for the merchandise under consideration, Commerce then compares (B) and (C) to (A) and selects the rate closest to (A) as the most appropriate rate for all other producers and exporters. See, e.g., Ball Bearings and Parts Thereof from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom: Final Results
11
Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminary determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer/exporter</th>
<th>Subsidy rate (percent ad valorem)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JSC Vyksa Steel Works 13</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMK 12</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(d)(1)(B) and (d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise as described in the scope of the investigation entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register. Further, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the rates indicated above.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of its public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination. Normally, Commerce verifies information using standard procedures, including an on-site examination of original accounting, financial, and sales documentation. However, due to current travel restrictions in response to the global COVID–19 pandemic, Commerce is unable to conduct on-site verification in this investigation. Accordingly, we intend to verify the information relied upon in making the final determination through alternative means in lieu of an on-site verification.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Interested parties will be notified of the timeline for the submission of case briefs and written comments at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs. Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until further notice. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) A statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and location to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date and time of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its determination. If Commerce’s final determination is affirmative, the ITC will make its final injury determination before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: March 7, 2022.

Lisa W. Wang,
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is certain OCTG, which are hollow steel products of circular cross-section, including oil well casing and tubing, of iron (other than case iron) or steel (both carbon and alloy), whether seamless or welded, regardless of end finish (e.g., whether or not plain end, threaded, or threaded and coupled) whether or not conforming to American Petroleum Institute (API) or non-API specifications, whether finished (including limited service OCTG products) or unfinished (including green tubes and limited service OCTG products), OMK—Ecometall; United Metallurgical Company; and Joint-Stock Company Trubodeltug.

12 As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, Commerce has found the following companies to be cross-owned with Volzhsky Pipe Plant: TMK Neftegasservice-Buzuluk, Limited Liability Company; Russian Research Institute of Oil and Gas Industries, JSC, and Scientific and Technical Center TMK, LLC.

13 As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, Commerce has found the following companies to be cross-owned with JSC Vyska Steel Works: BusinessOptima; Metallomoya Company.

14 See 19 CFR 351.307; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements); Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID–19, 85 FR 17006 (March 26, 2020) (Temporary Rule); and Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID–19: Extension of Effective Period, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020) (Temporary Rule Extension).

15 See Temporary Rule; see also Temporary Rule Extension.
whether or not thread protectors are attached. The scope of this investigation also covers OCTG coupling stock.

Subject merchandise includes material matching the above description that has been finished, packaged, or otherwise processed in a third country, including by performing any heat treatment, cutting, upsetting, threading, coupling, or any other finishing, packaging, or processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the OCTG.

Excluded from the scope of the investigation are: Casing, tubing, or coupling stock containing 10.5 percent or more by weight of chromium; drill pipe; unattached couplings; and unattached thread protectors.

The merchandise subject to this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers:

7304.29.1010, 7304.29.1020, 7304.29.1030,
7304.29.1040, 7304.29.1050, 7304.29.1060,
7304.29.2010, 7304.29.2020, 7304.29.2030,
7304.29.2040, 7304.29.2050,
7304.29.2060, 7304.29.2080, 7304.29.3110,
7304.29.3120, 7304.29.3130, 7304.29.3140,
7304.29.3150, 7304.29.3160, 7304.29.3180,
7304.29.4110, 7304.29.4120, 7304.29.4130,
7304.29.4140, 7304.29.4150, 7304.29.4160,
7304.29.4180, 7304.29.5015, 7304.29.5030,
7304.29.5045, 7304.29.5060, 7304.29.5075,
7304.29.6115, 7304.29.6130, 7304.29.6145,
7304.29.6160, 7304.29.6173, 7305.20.2000,
7305.20.4000, 7305.20.6000, 7305.20.8000,
7306.29.1030, 7306.29.1090, 7306.29.2000,
7306.29.3100, 7306.29.4100, 7306.29.6010,
7306.29.6050, 7306.29.8110, and 7306.29.8150.

The merchandise subject to this investigation may also enter under the following HTSUS item numbers:

7304.39.0024, 7304.39.0028, 7304.39.0032,
7304.39.0036, 7304.39.0040, 7304.39.0044,
7304.39.0048, 7304.39.0052, 7304.39.0056,
7304.39.0062, 7304.39.0068, 7304.39.0072,
7304.39.0076, 7304.39.0080, 7304.59.6000,
7304.59.8015, 7304.59.8020, 7304.59.8025,
7304.59.8030, 7304.59.8035, 7304.59.8040,
7304.59.8045, 7304.59.8050, 7304.59.8055,
7304.59.8060, 7304.59.8065, 7304.59.8070,
7304.59.8080, 7305.31.4000, 7305.31.6000,
7306.30.5055, 7306.30.5090, 7306.30.5095,
and 7306.50.5070.

The HTSUS subheadings and specifications above are provided for convenience and customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Injury Test
IV. Preliminary Negative Determination of Critical Circumstances
V. Scope of the Investigation
VI. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Application of Adverse Inferences
VII. Subsidies Valuation
VIII. Interest Rate Benchmarks, Discount Rates, and Natural Gas Benchmark
IX. Analysis of Programs

X. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2022–05333 Filed 3–11–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB865]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This is a hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, April 4 at 8 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., CDT and Tuesday, April 5 at 8 a.m. through Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5 p.m., CDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, 21196 East Beach Boulevard, Gulf Shores, AL 36542.

Please note, in-person meeting attendees will be expected to follow any current COVID–19 safety protocols as determined by the Council, hotel and the City of Gulf Shores. Such precautions may include masks, room capacity restrictions, and/or social distancing. If you prefer to “listen in”, you may access the log-on information by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmers, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, April 4, 2022; 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., CDT

The meeting will begin with the Administrative/Budget Committee reviewing 2022 Anticipated Activities, Budget and 2021 Funded Expenditures, and discuss Electronic Voting Process and available technology for Council and Council Bodies.

The Ecosystem Committee will review and discuss contracted Draft Fishery Ecosystem Plan, and receive a meeting summary from the Ecosystem Technical Committee meeting.

The Mackerel Committee will review and discuss Coastal Migratory Pelagics Landings, Draft Framework Amendment 11: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Limits, Final Action: Draft Amendment 34: Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Levels and Atlantic King and Spanish Mackerel Management Measures, and Other Business: Discussion Gulf King Mackerel Southern Zone Gillnet Fishing Restriction on Weekends.


At approximately 2:45 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., the Council will convene the Full Council in a Closed Session to review and discuss the selection of Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Focus Group Participants, Coral Data Collection, and Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Members, and select the 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year or Team of the Year.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022; 8 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT

The Reef Fish Committee will convene to review Reef Fish Landings and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Landings, and Federal For-hire Season Projection. The Committee will review the Red Snapper Private Recreational Component 2021 Landings Summary and 2022 Season Projections, and Draft Options: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and other Rebuilding Plan Modifications. The Committee will review the revised Great Red Snapper Count Estimates and SSC Recommendations for Red Snapper Catch Advice.

Following lunch, the Committee will receive a presentation and hold a discussion on the Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper Interim Rule, State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) Calibration, and Interim Analysis. The Committee will hold an SSC discussion of Limited Access Privilege Programs in Mixed-use Fisheries, Focus Communication and Next Steps Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs, and review of the Gulf