

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coast Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: February 6, 1997.

David L. Evans,

*Acting Deputy Assistant, Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Robert H. Wayland, III,

*Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency.*

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[I.D. 020497B]

### **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 convene a public meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 3, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 333 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA; telephone 504-525-9444.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Reef Fish SSC will review additional analyses of shrimp trawl bycatch of red snapper prepared by NMFS. These analyses may include revisions to the data base and to the methodology based on recommendations developed at the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) meeting held February 12-14, 1997.

The SSC will also consider recommendations, if any, of the RFSAP for phasing in over a 3-year period levels of total allowable catch, bag limits, and quotas for vermilion snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC will develop their recommendations to the Council on these issues.

### **Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by February 24, 1997.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-3259 Filed 2-10-97; 8:45 am]

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### **Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. 970129014-7014-01]

RIN 0651-XX09

### **Interim Guidelines for the Examination of Claims Directed to Species of Chemical Compositions Based Upon a Single Prior Art Reference**

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) requests comments from any interested member of the public on interim guidelines to be used by office personnel in their review of patent applications which contain claims directed to a species or subgenus of chemical compositions for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 103 based upon a single prior art reference which discloses a genus embracing the claimed species or subgenus but does not expressly describe the particular claimed species or subgenus.

**DATES:** The interim guidelines are effective February 11, 1997.

Written comments on the interim guidelines will be accepted by the PTO until April 14, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the attention of Linda Moncys Isacson, Office of the Solicitor, P.O. Box 15667, Arlington, Virginia 22215 or to Linda S. Therkorn, Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC. 20231, or by facsimile transmission to (703) 305-9373 or by electronic mail to baird-comments@uspto.gov.

Written comments will be made available for public inspection at the Patent Search Room, Crystal Plaza 3, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA. In addition, comments provided in machine-readable format will be available through the PTO's Website at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Moncys Isacson, Office of the

Solicitor, P.O. Box 15667, Arlington, Virginia 22215 or Linda S. Therkorn, Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC. 20231, or by facsimile transmission to (703) 305-9373 or by electronic mail to baird-comments@uspto.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks issued a Notice in the Official Gazette (O.G.) on April 17, 1995 (1174 O.G. 68), withdrawing the Office's March 22, 1994 O.G. Notice (1161 O.G. 314). Both notices were entitled "In re Baird." Pursuant to the April 17, 1995 O.G. Notice, the following interim examination guidelines are being published for public comment. The purpose of these guidelines is to assist PTO personnel in the examination of applications which contain claims directed to a species or subgenus of chemical compositions for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 103 based upon a single prior art reference which discloses a genus embracing the claimed species or subgenus but does not expressly describe the particular claimed species or subgenus. Thereof, these interim guidelines will be referred to as "Genus-Species Guidelines."

It has been determined that these interim guidelines are not a significant rule for purposes of Executive Order 12866. Because these guidelines govern internal practices, they are exempt from notice and comment rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A).

Members of the public may present written comments on these guidelines. Written comments should include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of the individual responding;
- An indication of whether the comments offered represent views of the respondent's organization or are the respondent's personal views; and
- If applicable, information on the respondent's organization, including the type of organization (e.g., business, trade group, university, nonprofit organization).

The PTO is particularly interested in comments relating to the accuracy of the emphasized prior art teachings, and comments identifying any additional teachings that should be emphasized in determining whether a prima facie case of obviousness exists in the types of cases covered by these interim guidelines. The PTO is also interested in comments relating to the effect these guidelines may have on future application submissions.