

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111999A]

**Endangered Species; Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1226).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a permit application from Mr. Mike Clancy, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) (1226).

**DATES:** Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5:00pm eastern standard time on December 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the application should be sent to: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to (301) 713-0376. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The application and related documents are available for review in the following office, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the application listed in this notice should set out the specific

reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearings is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

**Species Covered in this Notice**

The following species is covered in this notice:

Endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

**New Application Received**

As a requirement in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Sturgeon Management Plan, New York State must initiate monitoring of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River. While conducting this research it is a very likely and unavoidable event that shortnose will be captured in the sampling gear deployed to capture Atlantic sturgeon. The NYSDEC is applying for a permit to handle and tag any shortnose sturgeon incidentally caught in their sampling gear. The NYSDEC will work in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (permit #1051) to share biological and movement data regarding shortnose sturgeon residing in the Hudson River.

Dated: November 19, 1999.

**Margaret C. Lorenz,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-30806 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office****Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate Action Form**

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (DoC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 25, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental

Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Art Purcell, Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Systems Architecture and Engineering, Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, by telephone at (703) 308-6856, or by e-mail at art.purcell@uspto.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION****I. Abstract**

The Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is a set of hardware, software, policies, and procedures that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has chosen to support secure electronic communications between the PTO and its customers. The information collected by the PTO through the Certificate Action Form (PTO Form PTO-2042) is used by the PTO to authorize the creation of a digital certificate. The digital certificate enables the PTO to issue the cryptographic "keys" necessary to provide the applicant with a digital identity and to support encrypted communication between the applicant and the PTO. Using PKI enables the PTO to offer the option to applicants to review their patent application information, to send their patent applications, and to communicate with the PTO electronically, while preserving the integrity and confidentiality of these various actions. Both the laws governing patents and the Patent Cooperation Treaties established between the United States and the international community require that patent applications be preserved in confidence. Using PKI ensures that the patent applications are preserved in confidence because it requires that a user authenticate his or her identity through passwords or other means before it allows the user access to the encryption and digital signature services.

The PTO will use PKI to support secure communications and electronic commerce with its applicant community, international business partners, the Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries, its own employees, and support contractors. By implementing PKI, the PTO is indicating to its customers that the agency is making a major commitment to preserve the integrity of the electronic transactions. PKI can also alert the different parties involved that an electronic transaction has occurred.

The PTO is implementing PKI in a phased approach. The first phase is the pilot project for the Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system. PAIR allows applicants secure authenticated access to their patent application information, through the use of public key cryptography mechanisms that provide strong authentication, encryption, and digital signatures.

**II. Method of Collection**

By mail, facsimile, or hand carry when the applicant files a Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Action Form with the PTO.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-XXXX.  
*Form Number:* PTO Form PTO-2042.  
*Type of Review:* Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.  
*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal, state, local or tribal government.  
*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 6,000 responses per year.  
*Estimated Time Per Response:* It is estimated to take approximately 10 minutes to read the instructions, gather

the necessary data, and complete the Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Action Form.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,020 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden:* \$525,000 (this cost is associated with the one-time download of additional software that is needed as part of the encryption process). Using the professional hourly rate of \$175.00 for associate attorneys in private firms, the PTO estimates \$178,500 for salary costs associated with respondents.

Title of form	PTO form No.	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual burden hours	Estimated annual responses
United States Patent and Trademark Office Certificate Action Form .....	PTO Form PTO-2042	0.17	1,020	6,000
Totals .....	.....	.....	1,020	6,000

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 22, 1999.

**Madeleine Clayton,**  
*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*  
 [FR Doc. 99-30811 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.  
**TIME AND DATE:** Thursday, December 2, 1999, 10:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Room 420, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Open to the Public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

*Bunk Beds*

The Commission will consider options concerning whether the Commission should issue a final rule addressing entrapment of children in the structure of bunk beds.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

**Sadye E. Dunn,**  
*Secretary.*  
 [FR Doc. 99-30940 Filed 11-23-99; 3:34 pm]  
**BILLING CODE 6355-01-M**

**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.  
**TIME AND DATE:** Friday, December 3, 1999, 10 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** Room 420, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Open to the Public.

**MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:**

*Hydrocarbons*

The Commission will consider options concerning whether the Commission should issue a proposed

rule to require child-resistant packaging for low-viscosity liquid hydrocarbons.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

**Sadye E. Dunn,**  
*Secretary.*  
 [FR Doc. 99-30941 Filed 11-23-99; 3:34 pm]  
**BILLING CODE 6355-01-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the