

participation in State coastal resource management decisions. In addition, the ROD identifies mitigation and monitoring measures OCRM will implement as part of its continued oversight of Alaska's implementation of the ACMP.

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

Dated: January 6, 2006.

**Eldon Hout,**

*Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 06-356 Filed 1-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 010506A]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 984-1814**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the following individual has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals: Dr. Terrie Williams, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Center for Ocean Health - Long Marine Laboratory, University of California, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 16, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a

hearing on the request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include the appropriate document identifier in the subject line of the e-mail comment: File No. 984-1814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a five-year permit to investigate the behavioral and energetic adaptations that enable Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) to forage in the Antarctic fast-ice environment, particularly in the dark. The applicant proposes to capture up to 20 adults and disturb up to 40 adults annually. The animals would have a data logger/video system attached, muscle biopsies and blood samples collected, and blubber thickness measured. Study results are expected to increase understanding of the foraging behavior of this marine mammal. The animals would be recaptured up to three times to remove or tend to the instruments. The applicant also requests authorization for the research-related mortality of up to two seals per year.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 11, 2006.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-422 Filed 1-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 011106B]

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Observer Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Observer Advisory Committee will meet at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 30-31, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fishery Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Bldg 4, Room 1055, Seattle, WA 98115.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nicole Kimball, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to review the draft environmental analysis/regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis to restructure the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 11, 2006.

**Emily Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E6-417 Filed 1-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Customer Input: United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Surveys**

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

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), 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 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 March 20, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: *Susan.Brown@uspto.gov*. Include "0651-0038 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Brown.
- Mail: Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Martin Rater, Management Analyst, Office of the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-5966; or by e-mail at *martin.rater@uspto.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This is a generic clearance for an undefined number of voluntary surveys that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) may conduct over the next 3 years. The USPTO uses telephone surveys, questionnaires, and customer surveys to collect feedback from their customers.

With the exception of the telephone surveys, the surveys are mailed to the USPTO's customers. The USPTO provides the option for customers to respond to the questionnaires and surveys electronically. Although the USPTO is moving to an electronic environment and would prefer to administer the questionnaires and customer surveys wholly via the web to coincide with other e-government initiatives, the USPTO's customers have requested that the surveys be made available in paper format as well since many of them only find the time to complete the surveys during their commutes, on planes, etc., where they do not have Internet access. Consequently, the surveys are primarily answered in the paper format.

Customers either access the survey in question through the USPTO's Web site or through the Web sites of the USPTO's survey contractors. Instructions for using the online surveys are provided in the cover letter that accompanies the survey. The cover letter also contains the username and password required to enter the survey site and the access code to activate the survey. The electronic version of the survey mirrors the paper version.

The USPTO also conducts customer surveys of the entire agency. These surveys were previously covered under this generic clearance. However, since the 21st Century Strategic Plan changed the timing of these surveys from annually to biannually, these surveys will now be covered under a separate and distinct information collection. The face-to-face interviews, comment cards, and focus groups used previously have also been deleted from the collection.

The surveys in this collection are designed to obtain customer feedback regarding products, services, and related service standards of the USPTO. At this

time, the USPTO is unable to state precisely which survey vehicles will be used during the renewal period. As the USPTO's survey needs are determined, the USPTO will submit the specific survey instrument for approval.

**II. Method of Collection**

These surveys will either be conducted by telephone, mailed to the USPTO in a pre-addressed, self-stamped envelope, or completed electronically. A random sample is used to collect the data. Statistical methods will be followed.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-0038.

*Form Number(s):* The USPTO will have surveys and questionnaires in both paper and electronic formats.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms; the Federal Government; and State, local, or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,900 responses per year.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 15 minutes to complete the telephone surveys and 5 minutes to complete the questionnaires and customer surveys, whether they are mailed to the USPTO or submitted electronically. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, complete the surveys, and submit them to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 220 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$51,700. The USPTO believes that both professionals and para-professionals will complete these surveys, at a rate of 75% of the current professional rate of \$286 per hour and 25% of the para-professional rate of \$81 per hour. Using a combination of these rates, the USPTO is using an hourly rate of \$235 to calculate the respondent costs. The USPTO estimates that the respondent cost burden for this collection will be \$51,700 per year.

Item	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Telephone Surveys .....	5 minutes .....	400	100
Questionnaires and Customer Surveys .....	5 minutes .....	750	60
Electronic Questionnaires and Customer Surveys .....	5 minutes .....	750	60
Total .....	.....	1,900	220