

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stu Kennedy, Fishery Biologist, telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has begun deliberation of a Dedicated Access Privilege System (DAP) for the Commercial grouper fishery. The Council has appointed an AHGIFQAP composed of commercial grouper fishermen and others knowledgeable about DAP systems to assist in the development of such a program. The Panel will discuss the scope and the general configuration of an IFQ program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial grouper fishery.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AHGIFQAP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AHGIFQAP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency. Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 24, 2006.

**James P. Burgess,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-8248 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052306B]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a two-day Council meeting on June 13-15, 2006, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13 beginning at 9 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, One Goat Island, Newport, RI 02940; telephone: (401) 851-1234.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Following introductions, the Council will receive reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. During this morning session, the Council will receive a briefing from the Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee on progress to date on the development of an amendment to implement an SBRM process across all New England Fishery Management Council fishery management plans (FMPs). During the remainder of the day, the Council will review and approve a range of essential fish habitat (EFH) designation alternatives for inclusion in phase I of the Council's EFH Omnibus Amendment. This review also will include the prey species-related sections of the amendment.

##### Wednesday, June 14, 2006

During the morning session the Council's Research Steering Committee Chairman will report on the committee's recommendations concerning the use of information provided in several cooperative research final reports. The committee also will provide additional comments and recommendations on the process to review final reports. There will be a report on the results of the

Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee's findings on the status of Atlantic herring. The Council will then discuss, review and approve the comments of its Magnuson-Stevens Act Committee on two reauthorization bills under consideration by the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to a noontime break, there will be a briefing by fishing industry representatives on progress to date to develop an industry-funded vessel buyout program for New England groundfish vessels.

The afternoon session will begin with the presentation of a NOAA Fisheries Environmental Hero Award by Northeast Regional Administrator Pat Kurkul to the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. This report will be followed by an opportunity for public comments on items not listed on the agenda. Council Executive Director Paul Howard will then provide background information on the use of sector allocation as a fishery management tool. The Groundfish Committee will initiate the development of Council comments on the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Sector's operations plan for the 2006 fishing year. At the end of the day, there will be a report by several Council members on their personal observations concerning New Zealand's Quota Management System.

##### Thursday, June 15, 2006

Beginning with the morning session, the Council will spend the majority of the day on sea scallop management issues. There will be an update on the activities of the Scallop Survey Advisory Committee, a report from the Scientific and Statistical Committee on updated scallop biological reference points and consideration and likely approval of alternatives to be considered and analyzed in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to accompany Amendment 11 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan. Finally, the Council will discuss and intends to reaffirm its control date for the hagfish fishery.

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

## Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 24, 2006.

**James P. Burgess,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-8247 Filed 5-26-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### Patent Processing (Updating)

**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 take this opportunity 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 July 31, 2006.

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

*E-mail:* [Susan.Brown@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Brown@uspto.gov).

Include "0651-0031 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, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services 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 the attention of Robert J. Spar, Director, Office of Patent Legal Administration, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7700; or by e-mail at [bob.spar@uspto.gov](mailto:bob.spar@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is required by 35 U.S.C. 131 to examine an application for patent and, when

appropriate, issue a patent. Also, the USPTO is required to publish patent applications, with certain exceptions, promptly after the expiration of a period of eighteen months from the earliest filing date for which a benefit is sought under Title 35, United States Code ("eighteen-month publication"). Certain situations may arise which require that additional information be supplied in order for the USPTO to further process the patent or application. The USPTO administers the statutes through various sections of the rules of practice in 37 CFR part 1.

The information in this collection can be used by the USPTO to continue the processing of the patent or application, to ensure that applicants are complying with the patent regulations, and to aid in the prosecution of the application.

The USPTO is adding two new forms into this collection. PTO/SB/33, Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, is a new optional procedure that is intended to spare applicants the added time and expense of preparing an appeal brief for an application that ultimately may be categorized as "not in condition for appeal."

Also new is form PTO/SB/28, Petition to Make Special Under Accelerated Examination Program. The requirement for the petition is already approved in the collection; however, the response time has been increased from 1 hour to 12 hours. Applicants who choose to participate in this optional procedure in order to receive the benefit of accelerated examination will have to share in the examination burden to a greater extent. In return, such applicants will receive the benefit of an early patentability determination for their claimed invention.

A previously overlooked requirement, the Request for Corrected Filing Receipt, is also being added into the collection, in both paper and electronic formats. Forms for this requirement are currently under development.

There are 41 forms associated with this collection.

#### II. Method of Collection

By mail, facsimile, or hand delivery to the USPTO. The eIDS (electronic information disclosure statements), the electronic filing system (EFS) copy of the application for publication, and the request for corrected filing receipt may be submitted electronically over the Internet.

#### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0651-0031.

*Form Number(s):* PTO/SB/08/08a/08b, PTO/SB/17i, PTO/SB/17P; PTO/SB/21-

28, PTO/SB/24A, PTO/SB/24B, PTO/SB/30-33, PTO/SB/35-39, PTO/SB/42-43, PTO/SB/61-64, PTO/SB/64a, PTO/SB/67-68, PTO/SB/91-92, PTO/SB/96-97, PTO-2053-A/B, PTO-2054-A/B, PTO-2055-A/B, PTOL/413A.

*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:* 2,604,029 responses per year.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public between 1 minute and 48 seconds (0.03 hours) to 12 hours (12.0 hours), depending upon the complexity of the situation, to gather, prepare, and submit the various documents in this information collection.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 3,157,840 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$504,711,200 per year. The USPTO expects that the transmittal form; the petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a); express abandonment under 1.138; express abandonment to avoid publication under 1.138(c); requests to access, inspect and copy; deposit account order form; certificates of mailing/transmission; electronic filing system (EFS) copy of application for publication; the copy of the applicant or patentee's record of the application; the request for voluntary publication or republication; the petition for request for documents in a form other than that provided by 1.19; the request for processing of replacement drawings; and the request for corrected filing receipt will be prepared by paraprofessionals. Using the paraprofessional rate of \$90 per hour, the USPTO estimates that the respondent cost burden for these items will be \$191,469,600. The USPTO estimates that the remaining items in this collection will be prepared by associate attorneys in private firms. Using the professional hourly rate of \$304 per hour for associate attorneys in private firms, the USPTO estimates \$313,241,600 per year for salary costs associated with respondents for the other items in this information collection. The total respondent cost burden is estimated to be \$504,711,200 per year.