

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****Notice of Jointly Owned Invention Available for Licensing**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is jointly owned by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Navy. The Department of Commerce's interest in the invention is available for non-exclusive licensing, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR Part 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical and licensing information on this invention may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Office of Technology Partnerships, Attn: Mary Clague, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Information is also available via telephone: 301-975-4188, fax 301-869-2751, or e-mail: mary.clague@nist.gov. Any request for information should include the NIST Docket number or Patent number and title for the invention as indicated below.

The invention available for licensing is:

[Docket Number 05-009US]

Title: Method of Stabilization of Functional Nanoscale Pores for Device Applications.

Abstract: The invention comprises a structure comprising a membrane of a compound spanning an aperture. The compound comprises a hydrophilic head group, an aliphatic tail group, and a polymerizable or polymerized functional group.

The invention further comprises a method of forming a structure comprising: providing a solution of a compound and a chamber comprising a partition having an aperture; placing a quantity of an aqueous liquid into the chamber, such that the liquid does not cover any part of the aperture; placing the solution on the top surface of the liquid; and raising the solution to a point above the aperture to form a membrane of the compound across the aperture. The compound comprises a hydrophilic head group and an aliphatic tail group and comprises a polymerizable functional group in an organic solvent.

Dated: September 13, 2006.

James E. Hill,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6-15543 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; North Atlantic Right Whale Economic Benefit Study; Pre-test Data Collection**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, 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 proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Kathryn Bisack, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543; telephone: (508) 495-2324; or Kathryn.Bisack@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plans to conduct a pilot survey with the objective of testing a survey instrument that will be used to collect data for measuring the preferences U.S. residents have among the available management options to protect the northern right whale (*Eubalena glacialis*), which is a listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 35). NMFS is charged with protecting this species and has in the past and will continue to implement management actions to allow the

species to recover (69 FR 53040). Because available management options have potentially different socioeconomic impacts, it is important to understand the public's attitudes towards potential impacts on northern right whales and the fishing and shipping industries. This information is currently not available, yet is an additional socioeconomic component critical for improvement of the planning and evaluation of effective protection measures for northern right whales.

The pilot instrument will present the latest information on northern right whales, current population levels, probabilities of extinction, alternative management options, and likely impacts of management options. The survey is expected to ask respondents for information regarding their knowledge and opinions on northern right whale conservation, and on the potential impacts of management options available to protect the species. Additional standard social-demographic information needed to classify respondents will also be obtained. The pilot pre-test will gather a sufficient number of responses to evaluate the information, presentation, reliability, internal consistency, response variability, and other properties of a newly developed survey. The results from these pre-test activities will be used to make improvements to the survey instrument.

A second **Federal Register** Notice will appear when the final survey is to be conducted. Ultimately, final survey results may provide information on the economic benefits of right whale protection. These results may supplement other materials to allow one to evaluate alternative protection measures. Such information may be used in an analysis to determine whether the benefits of stronger protection measures (i.e., right whale benefits) are commensurate with the costs.

II. Method of Collection

Two modes are being considered, mail and the Internet; however, we are more likely to use mail as the method of collection.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Response: 35 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 117.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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 shall 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, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: September 14, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-15546 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090706C]

Meeting of Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS will host a half-day meeting with the Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors in October 2006. The intent of this meeting is to discuss science, coordination, and communication issues related to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS).

DATES: The meeting with the Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 703-845-1010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Othel Freeman or Chris Rilling at 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting with the Atlantic CCED will focus on science, coordination, and communication issues between NMFS and the Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils) regarding Atlantic HMS.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Othel Freeman or Chris Rilling at (301) 713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 13, 2006.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. E6-15540 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091306C]

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a public meeting to gather public comments on options to research and manage shark viewing operations in federal waters around Hawaii.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday October 5, 2006, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Haleiwa Elementary School, 66-505 Haleiwa Rd., Haleiwa, HI 96712.

Council address: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director;

telephone: (808) 522-8220; fax: (808) 522-8226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 2001, commercial shark viewing operations began providing and promoting services to swim, dive and snorkel with sharks off the North Shore of Oahu. The operations essentially consist of deploying a protective cage into the water into which individuals enter while sharks swim freely outside of the cage. To keep sharks near the cage for viewing, tour operators often introduce chum (i.e. fish parts) into the water. In 2002, citing concerns of the risk to human safety, particularly, the potential increased risk of shark attacks on individuals not involved in shark feeding operations, the State of Hawaii promulgated regulations prohibiting the feeding of sharks for commercial purposes in state marine waters from 0 to three miles from shore. As a result of the State's law, commercial shark tour operations relocated into federal waters beyond three miles from shore where there are no rules or regulations in place to control this activity.

Currently, the commercial shark viewing operations occur three to four miles offshore of Haleiwa, HI in waters approximately 400 to 600 feet in depth. The precise locations are marked by buoys deployed by the tour operators. Species of sharks encountered during these operations include the galapagos shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*), the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*), the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna spp.*) and occasionally grey reef sharks (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) and tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*).

Presently, information on the effects of commercial shark viewing operations on shark behavior and ecology, fish habitat and other user groups are largely anecdotal. As a result, there remains great uncertainty regarding the potential impacts to humans as well as to shark populations and the health of the marine ecosystem in this area.

The Council will convene a public meeting to gather public comments on options to research and manage shark viewing operations in federal waters around Hawaii. These include but are not limited to: (1) Conducting research on shark movement and behavior and population numbers in and around the North Shore of Oahu; (2) Recommending the State of Hawaii establish a moratorium on any new shark tour operations; (3) Establishing federal regulations for shark tour operations such as prohibiting or limiting the amount of chum that may be used, requiring shark tour operations to move further offshore, limiting the