

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, August 14, from 8:10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, August 15, from 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an update on NIST with an overview of its role in U.S. science and technology. Several laboratory tours also will be featured. The meeting will conclude with an extended discussion on the overall role NIST plays in the nation's innovation enterprise. The agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/director/vcat/agenda.htm>.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on August 14, 2007 at 8:10 a.m. and will adjourn on August 15, 2007 at 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Building 1, Room 1107, at NIST, Boulder, Colorado. All visitors to the NIST site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Denise Herbert no later than Thursday, August 9, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Herbert's e-mail address is [denise.herbert@nist.gov](mailto:denise.herbert@nist.gov) and her phone number is (301) 975-2300.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Denise Herbert, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1000, telephone number (301) 975-2300.

Dated: July 17, 2007.

**James M. Turner,**  
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E7-14334 Filed 7-23-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

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

**RIN 0648-XB16**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 814-1899**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723 [Taulik Hepa, Responsible Party; Dr. Cheryl Rosa, Principal Investigator] has been issued a scientific research permit to collect and acquire marine mammal specimens from the following species: bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus*), ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*), spotted seal (*Phoca largi*), and ribbon seal (*Phoca fasciata*), bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and grey whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*).

**ADDRESSES:** The permit 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 Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On April 27, 2007, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 20994) that a request for a scientific research permit to the marine mammal species identified above had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The tissues collected/acquired by the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management under this permit

would be utilized in a variety of health-related analyses, including (but not limited to): tissue histology, contaminants analyses (elemental analyses, PAH/organochlorine analyses etc.), infectious disease research (culture, PCR analyses), parasitology studies and stable isotope work. Additionally, tissues would be collected to augment the Alaskan Marine Mammal Tissue Archival Project (AMMTAP). No animals would be killed for the purpose of providing samples under this permit. Locations of collections would be from the Northwest Arctic Borough (St. Lawrence Island, Diomedea, Wales and Kivalina) and the North Slope Borough, Alaska. This effort would provide critical baseline data and would be part of a long-term monitoring project being undertaken by the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management in response to public concerns about the safety and health of their subsistence species. This permit has been issued for a period of 5 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 18, 2007.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-14330 Filed 7-23-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

**RIN 0648-XB62**

**Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on August 14–15, 2007. The Council will convene on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Administrative Committee will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., on that same day. The Council will reconvene on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., approximately.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Carambola Beach Resort, Estate Davis Bay, St. Croix, U.S.V.I 00850

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1920, telephone: (787) 766–5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold its 125th regular public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

#### August 14, 2007

##### 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call to Order  
Election of Officials  
Adoption of Agenda  
Consideration of 124th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcription  
Executive Director's Report  
White Paper on the Sale of Catch by Charter/Recreational Fishers in the US  
Caribbean - Graciela Garcia-Moliner  
Options Paper on Trap Vents - Graciela Garcia-Moliner  
Deep Water Coral Reef - MCB  
Update Deep Water Coral Reef Survey - Jorge R. Garcia-Sais  
Caribbean Lobster Initiative

##### 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Administrative Committee Meeting  
-AP/SSC/HAP Membership  
-Budget 2007  
-SOPPs Amendment  
-Other Business

#### August 15, 2007

##### 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HMS Presentation on Proposed Measures for Sharks  
Marine Mammals Protection Act  
Proposed Rule for 2008 - Jennifer Lee  
Enforcement Reports  
-Puerto Rico  
-U.S. Virgin Islands  
-Federal and Local Jurisdiction on Mutton Snapper  
-NOAA  
-U.S. Coast Guard  
ACLs Meeting Report - Graciela Garcia-Moliner

#### Administrative Committee Recommendations

Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff

Other Business

Next Council Meeting

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

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. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–2577, telephone: (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: July 19, 2007.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E7–14280 Filed 7–23–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### External Quality Metrics Surveys

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

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this new 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 September 24, 2007.

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

• *E-mail:* Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov. Include “0651–00xx External Quality Metrics Surveys” in the subject line of the message.

• *Fax:* 571–273–0112, marked to the attention of Susan Fawcett.

• *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Customer Information Services Group, Public Information 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 0651–00xx External Quality Metrics Surveys c/o Joseph Rolla, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by facsimile at 571–273–9026, or by e-mail at [Joseph.Rolla@uspto.gov](mailto:Joseph.Rolla@uspto.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

One of the goals of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Strategic Plan is to optimize quality. The Office holds continuously improving quality as one of its guiding principles in the Agency's Strategic Plan framework. As such, the Office plans to consider appropriate measures of patent quality, including the performance targets, with the goal of a balance between the desire for assured high quality results and resource limitations for the initial examination process. Achieving widely accepted quality measures and processes will require that all stakeholders engage in the effort.

To promote greater consistency and credibility for the measurements of quality by the Office, the USPTO is proposing to engage the patent community to assist in the development of an objective set of review criteria and processes that could be applied across all selected components of the current USPTO examination process. The Office will be looking to determine what measures should be used to assess examination quality, how these measures should be reported and what meaningful quality targets should be the goals of an initial system of patent examination. This engagement will take place in the form of a survey, entitled the External Quality Metrics Survey. Through this survey the patent community will assist the USPTO in meeting its strategic goals, including efforts to optimize the patent process, in a clearly and concisely articulated and documented format.

The External Quality Metrics Survey project will be designed to query from