

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 19, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2011-9803 Filed 4-21-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA388

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Groundfish Plan Team will meet via teleconference in Juneau, AK, Seattle, WA and Anchorage, AK. Note the meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. (ADT)/2:30 PDT, but the lines will open ½ hour prior to the official start, check out the Council Web site at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/> for WebEx, meeting numbers and passwords.

DATES: The session will start at 1:30 p.m. (ADT) on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The session will be held at the Auke Bay Laboratory, 17385 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK; Anchorage Council office, Old Federal Building, Room 205, Anchorage, AK; Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC), Traynor Room, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Council staff contact, Jane DiCosimo; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The teams will be reviewing proposals for model runs for GOA and BSAI Pacific cod and making recommendations to the author for those that will be reviewed at the August 2011 Groundfish Plan Team meeting. Proposed model runs include those by the author, BSAI Plan Team, GOA Plan Team, Science and Statistical Committee, CIE reviewers (tentative) and the public. Joint Plan Team

recommendations from this May 2011 meeting will be reviewed by the author with the SSC in June 2011. The deadline for proposing models had been extended to April 29 to allow the public an opportunity to consider the results of the CIE reviews, which are due April 22. Proposals should be submitted to Grant Thompson, AFSC, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, Seattle, WA.

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: April 19, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2011-9804 Filed 4-21-11; 8:45 am]

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consideration at its June meeting in Spokane, WA.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 19, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA382

Endangered Species; File No. 14949

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Carlos Diez, Ph.D., Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, Protected Species Program, P.O. Box 366147, San Juan, PR, 00936, has been issued a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

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) 713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colette Cairns or Carrie Hubbard, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 22, 2010, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 13488) that a request for a scientific research permit to take green and hawksbill sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of 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).

Dr. Diez was issued a 5-year permit to provide information on the ecology and population dynamics of hawksbill and green turtles inhabiting the waters surrounding Puerto Rico and the adjacent islands including Mona, Monito, Desecho, Caja-de-Muertos, Vieques, the Culebra Archipelago, and the Tres Palmas reserve. In addition, researchers would monitor the prevalence of fibropapillomatosis, a debilitating disease known to occur in green turtle foraging aggregations in Puerto Rico. Researchers may capture by hand, entanglement or cast net, transport, photograph, measure, weigh, flipper tag, passive integrated transponder tag, blood and tissue sample, ultrasound, attach satellite transmitters to and release sea turtles. A subset of up to 10 green turtles per year from the Culebra study sites may undergo fibropapillomatosis tumor removal surgery and subsequent rehabilitation.

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 or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 18, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–9852 Filed 4–21–11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–C–2011–0011]

Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Participation in Settlement Discussions

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”) is seeking comments from stakeholders about the extent to which the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (“TTAB” or “Board”) should become more directly involved in settlement discussions of parties to *inter partes* proceedings, including oppositions,

cancellations and concurrent use cases. The purpose of this notice of inquiry is to determine whether the involvement of an Administrative Trademark Judge (ATJ) or Board Interlocutory Attorney (IA) would be desirable by parties, and if so, how extensively and at what points in proceedings. In addition, to the extent stakeholders voice a preference for assistance in settlement discussions but prefer such assistance to be provided by mediators or individuals other than Board judges and attorneys, it will be useful for the Board to receive suggestions on this option.

COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Written comments must be received on or before June 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to *TTAB_Settlement_comments@uspto.gov*. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—TTAB, P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA, 22313–1451, marked to the attention of Karen Kuhlke. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the Office prefers to receive comments electronically. Comments may also be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Additional instructions on providing comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal are available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments submitted directly to the Office or provided on the Federal eRulemaking Portal should include the docket number (PTO–C–2011–0011).

The written comments will be available for public inspection at the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, located in Madison West, Ninth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the Office’s Internet Web site (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Kuhlke, Administrative Trademark Judge, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, at (571) 272–4287.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Over time, representatives of the Board have engaged in discussions with the Trademark Public Advisory Committee (TPAC) concerning the average overall length of Board trial proceedings. These discussions have generated a number of suggestions for process improvements, including suggestions related to fostering settlement discussions. The

USPTO 2010–2015 Strategic Plan includes a commitment by the Office to assess the desirability among stakeholders, including trademark owners, intellectual property organizations, the trademark bar and others with an interest in defining Board procedures, for meaningful involvement of Board personnel in settlement discussions regarding *inter partes* proceedings (*i.e.*, trial cases). In general, the Office seeks comments from stakeholders on all aspects of this issue, and is now opening the discussion to stakeholders and will consider all comments and suggestions that address this subject as well as any others which may be pertinent to the discussion. Below, specific questions are posed to generate discussion, but it is useful to first consider some background information.

The Board estimates that two-thirds of all *inter partes* cases are disposed of without an answer being filed (*e.g.*, because of withdrawal, default, or settlement). This may suggest that it would not be resource-effective to have a judge, attorney or mediator routinely involved in settlement discussions prior to close of the pleadings. On the other hand, perhaps the two-thirds figure would be higher, or cases that do settle without an answer ever being filed would be disposed of more quickly, if judges, attorneys or mediators were involved in settlement discussions early on.

Most of the cases comprising the one-third that are not disposed of prior to an answer being filed still are disposed of without a full trial and do not require issuance of a final decision on the merits. While some of these are cases that a plaintiff fails to prosecute, or cases in which a defendant eventually abandons an application or surrenders a registration, *i.e.*, cases disposed of as the result of unilateral action (or inaction), many are cases that are settled by agreement of the parties. In informal discussions with Board personnel, some have suggested that more parties would be willing to discuss settlement, even of seemingly intractable disputes, if the Board required them to discuss settlement. Based on anecdotal reports and observations, it would appear that there are many cases in which settlement talks are most useful after the exchange of initial disclosures or after the exchange of discovery requests and responses. Thus, related to the inquiry about whether Board personnel should be involved in settlement discussions of the parties is the inquiry about the particular point (or points) in the chronology of a proceeding when Board involvement in discussions should be