DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC565

Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of SEDAR 33 Gulf of Mexico Gag and Greater Amberjack Data Scoping Webinar.

SUMMARY: The SEDAR 33 assessment of the Gulf of Mexico gag and greater amberjack fisheries will consist of a series of workshops and supplemental webinars. This notice is for a data scoping webinar of the Data Workshop portion of the SEDAR process. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 33 Data Scoping Webinar will be held on April 10, 2013. The webinar will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude no later than 5 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The data scoping webinar will be held via GoToWebinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Ryan Rindone at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request meeting information at least 24 hours in advance.

SEDAR address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Rindone, SEDAR Coordinator; telephone: (813) 348–1630; email: *ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process including a workshop and webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Consensus Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include: data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the SEDAR 33 Data Scoping Webinar are as follows:

Panelists will review data determined to be pertinent in the assessment for Gulf of Mexico gag and greater amberjack prior to the Data Workshop.

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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the SEDAR office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: March 12, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2013–05975 Filed 3–14–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Deposit of Biological Materials

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 May 14, 2013.

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

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov.* Include ''0651–0022 comment'' in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Raul Tamayo, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–7728; or by email to *Raul.Tamayo@uspto.gov* with ''Paperwork'' in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at *http://www.reginfo.gov* under ''Information Collection Review.''

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The deposit of biological materials as part of a patent application is required by 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2) and outlined in 37 CFR 1.801–1.809. Every patent must contain a description of the invention sufficient to enable a person (knowledgeable in the relevant science), to make and use the invention as specified by 35 U.S.C. 112. The term ''biological material'' is defined by 37 CFR 1.801 as including material that is capable of self-replication, either directly or indirectly. When the invention involves a biological material, sometimes words and figures are not sufficient to satisfy the statutory requirement for patentability under 35

U.S.C. 112. In such cases, the required biological material must either be: (1) Known and readily available (neither condition alone is sufficient) or, (2) deposited in a suitable depository that has been recognized as an International Depositary Authority (IDA) established under the Budapest Treaty, or a depository recognized by the USPTO to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

In cases where a deposit is necessary, it must be made under conditions that assure access to those entitled thereto under 37 CFR 1.14 and 35 U.S.C. 122 and upon issuance as a patent that all restriction to public access is permanently removed.

In order to meet and satisfy requirements for international patenting, all countries signing the Budapest Treaty must recognize the deposit of biological material with any International Depositary Authority (IDA).

II. Method of Collection

By mail, hand delivery, or electronically to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0022.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,001 responses per year. The USPTO estimates that approximately 5% of these responses will be from small entities.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public 1 hour to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate form or documents, and submit the information to the USPTO for a deposit of biological materials. The USPTO estimates that it will take the average depository seeking approval to store biological materials approximately 5 hours to collect and submit the necessary approval information.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 2,005 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: $61,855 per year to submit the information to the USPTO. Using the professional hourly rate of $30 for a senior administrative assistant, the USPTO estimates $60,000 per year for salary costs associated with collecting and submitting the necessary deposit information to the USPTO. The USPTO expects that the information in this collection associated with the average depository seeking approval to store biological material will be prepared by attorneys at an estimated rate of $371 per hour, for a total of $1,855. Therefore, the USPTO estimates that the respondent cost burden for this collection will be approximately $61,855 per year.

Item	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Deposited Materials	1 hour	2,000	2,000
Depository Approval	5 hours	1	5
Totals		2,001	2,005

Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden: $5,938,646. There are no maintenance costs, recordkeeping costs, or filing fees associated with this information collection. However, this collection has annual (non-hour) costs in the form of capital start-up and postage costs.

Depositories charge fees to depositors; all depositories charge about the same rates for their services. For example, the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), one of the world's leading biological supply houses and recognized patent depositories, offers comprehensive patent services for $2,500 per deposit. Most deposits received from outside the United States require an import permit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as well as a Public Health Service (PHS) permit, available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for importation of agents infectious to humans. There is no extra charge for this permit application processing. The USPTO estimates that the total non-hour respondent cost burden in the form of capital start-up costs amounts to $5,000,000.

In addition, this collection does have postage costs. Biological deposits are generally shipped to the depository ''Domestic Overnight'' by Federal Express (FedEx) and, since depositors are urged to supply frozen or freeze-dried material, it must be packed in dry ice according to a representative from the Patent Department at ATCC. Dry ice itself is considered dangerous goods and requires special packaging. Additional FedEx special handling charges for inaccessible dangerous goods shipments of $37.50 per shipment apply for temperature-sensitive biological materials and also for the dry ice. An average cost for shipping by FedEx ''Domestic Overnight'' is estimated to be $75. If the shipment requires pick-up by FedEx, there is an additional charge of $4. Special packaging is also required for these shipments. According to DG Supplies Inc., a supplier of infectious and diagnostic goods packaging, the average cost of frozen infectious shippers is estimated to be $352.82 per package of four for specimen shipments requiring refrigeration or dry ice. Therefore, postage costs average $469.32 per shipment, for a total cost to respondents of $938,640.

The postage cost for a depository seeking recognition is estimated to be $5.95, sent to the USPTO by priority mail through the United States Postal Service. Since the USPTO estimates that it receives one request for recognition from a depository every four years, the average postage cost to respondents is approximately $6 per year.

The USPTO estimates that the (non-hour) respondent cost burden in the form of mailing costs amounts to $938,646.

Therefore, the USPTO estimates that the total (non-hour) respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of capital start-up costs and postage costs is $5,938,646.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Dated: March 12, 2013.

Susan K. Fawcett,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–06046 Filed 3–14–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2012–0052]

Extension of the Period for Comments on the Enhancement of Quality of Software-Related Patents

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice announcing the formation of a partnership with the software community to enhance the quality of software-related patents (Software Partnership), and a request for comments on the preparation of patent applications, seeking input on potential practices for preparing patent applications. The USPTO also conducted two roundtables to obtain public input from organizations and individuals on topics relating to the quality of software-related patents and the preparation of software-related patent applications including: establishing clear boundaries for claims that use functional language; identifying additional topics for future discussion by the Software Partnership; and potential practices that applicants can employ at the drafting stage of a patent application in order to facilitate examination and bring more certainty to the scope of issued patents. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments in response to the notice. Accordingly, the USPTO is extending the comment period to provide interested members of the public with additional time to submit comments to the USPTO.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to *SoftwareRoundtable2013@uspto.gov*. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Seema Rao, Director, Technology Center 2100. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via electronic mail because sharing comments with the public is more easily accomplished.

The comments will be available for public inspection on the USPTO's Web site at *http://www.uspto.gov,* and will also be available at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, currently located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments. Parties who would like to rely on confidential information to illustrate a point are requested to summarize or otherwise submit the information in a way that will permit its public disclosure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seema Rao, Director, Technology Center 2100, by telephone at 571–272–5253, or by electronic mail message at *seema.rao@uspto.gov;* or Matthew J. Sked, Legal Advisor, by telephone at (571) 272–7627, or by electronic mail message at *matthew.sked@uspto.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 3, 2013, the USPTO published a notice announcing the Software Partnership, which is a cooperative effort between the USPTO and the software community to explore ways to enhance the quality of software-related patents. *See Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable Events for Partnership for Enhancement of Quality of Software-Related Patents,* 78 FR 292 (January 3, 2013). The Software Partnership commenced with two bi-coastal roundtable events held in Silicon Valley on February 12, 2013, and in New York City on February 27, 2013, during which multiple speakers from the software community and the public offered oral comments on functional claim language, topics for future discussion by the Software Partnership, and the preparation of patent applications. The notice also invited the public to submit written comments on or before March 15, 2013. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments, and is now extending the period for submission of public comments until April 15, 2013.

Dated: March 11, 2013.

Teresa Stanek Rea,

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2013–06014 Filed 3–14–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2011–0046]

Extension of the Period for Comments on the Preparation of Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a request for comments on the preparation of patent applications, seeking input on potential practices that applicants can employ at the drafting stage of a patent application in order to facilitate examination and bring more certainty to the scope of issued patents. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments on the preparation of patent applications. Accordingly, the USPTO is extending the comment period to provide interested members of the public with additional time to submit comments to the USPTO.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to *QualityApplications_Comments@uspto.gov.* Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Nicole D. Haines. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via electronic mail because sharing comments with the public is more easily accomplished.

The comments will be available for public inspection on the USPTO's Web