

| Time                     | Discussion item   | Presenter                           |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 11:30 a.m.–12 noon ..... | Communications Group Report .....   | Kitty Simonds.                      |
| 12 noon–1:30 p.m. ....   | Lunch.  |                                     |
| 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m. ....    | Compliance with NS2: BSIA used by Council/NMFS for stock status determination, specifications (OFL/ABC/ACL), and model selection.<br>—Issues and examples.<br>—Agency process to determine BSIA for Stock Status. | Tom Nies/Gregg Waugh/Jane DiCosimo. |
| 3 p.m.–3:15 p.m. ....    | Coffee Break.   |                                     |
| 3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. .... | SSC Subcommittee.<br>—Agenda items for 2017 Meeting.  |                                     |
| 3:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m. .... | Other Business.   |                                     |
| 4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m. .... | Next CCC Meeting (2017) .....   | Tom Nies.                           |

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The CCC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Copy of the tentative agenda can be found at the CFMC Web page: [www.caribbeanfmc.com](http://www.caribbeanfmc.com).

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918–1903, telephone (787) 766–5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 2, 2016.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016–10650 Filed 5–5–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2015–0064]

### Use of WIPO's ePCT System for Preparing the PCT Request for Filing as Part of an International Application With the USPTO as Receiving Office

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO), in its capacity as a PCT Receiving Office (RO/US), will begin to accept international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) that are filed electronically with a PCT Request prepared in the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) ePCT system. ePCT allows users to generate a zip file containing a validated PCT Request; the zip file can then be

submitted electronically to the RO/US as part of an international application filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS-Web). Because WIPO's ePCT system is web-based and the servers that support the system are located outside the United States, users of ePCT are reminded that the export of subject matter abroad pursuant to a foreign filing license from the USPTO is limited to purposes related to the filing of foreign applications, which include international applications filed in a Receiving Office other than the RO/US. A foreign filing license does not authorize the export of subject matter into ePCT for generating a PCT Request for filing with the RO/US. Persons who are considering the use of WIPO's ePCT system for preparation of the PCT Request for filing as part of an international application with the RO/US should consider contacting the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) at the Department of Commerce, the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) at the Department of State, or the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) at the Department of Energy for the appropriate clearances where the international application may include technology subject to export controls.

**DATES:** The change in this notice takes effect on June 1, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Neas, Deputy Director (telephone (571) 272–3289; electronic mail message ([michael.neas@uspto.gov](mailto:michael.neas@uspto.gov))), International Patent Legal Administration, Office of International Patent Cooperation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS-Web) enables users to electronically file international applications under the PCT with the RO/US. EFS-Web currently permits users to submit the PCT Request by uploading a zip file created using PCT Secure Applications Filed Electronically (PCT–SAFE) software which is made available and maintained by WIPO. The zip file from

PCT–SAFE contains a validated PCT Request and fee calculation sheet in PDF format, which are subsequently loaded in the USPTO's Image File Wrapper (IFW). The zip file contains additional files that, among other things, allow the USPTO and WIPO to auto-load application bibliographic data. All other documents and application parts must be prepared and loaded separately in EFS-Web for filing of the international application. Submission of the zip file from PCT–SAFE at the time of filing the international application entitles the applicant to a reduction of the international filing fee. Starting on June 1, 2016, in addition to accepting the zip files generated by PCT–SAFE, the RO/US will also begin to accept international applications filed electronically with zip files created by WIPO's ePCT system. ePCT is a web-based service that provides for electronic filing of international applications with certain PCT Receiving Offices. ePCT also provides for secure electronic access, file management, and document submissions for international applications held by the International Bureau (IB). The use of ePCT in this manner requires the use of a WIPO user account authenticated with a WIPO digital certificate. ePCT is accessed via an internet browser on the user's system, and all information input into ePCT is stored securely on WIPO's servers. Detailed information on ePCT-Filing can be found at [http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/epct/pdf/epct\\_filing\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/epct/pdf/epct_filing_guidelines.pdf).

Both PCT–SAFE and ePCT include validation features to help users properly complete the PCT Request. Since the PCT–SAFE validation can only be made against the version of the software installed on the user's system, the most up-to-date version of PCT–SAFE is required in order to ensure accurate validation. In contrast to PCT–SAFE, validation in the ePCT system is made in real time and does not require software updates. Furthermore, like PCT–SAFE, the zip file generated by ePCT, which contains a PCT Request in

character coded format, also entitles the applicant to the same reduction in international filing fees as indicated in item 4(b) of the PCT Schedule of Fees ([http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/rules/rtax.htm#\\_S](http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/rules/rtax.htm#_S)). The use of the ePCT zip file would still require all other documents and application parts to be prepared and loaded separately in EFS-Web for filing of the international application.

By using ePCT, an international application will be associated with the user's ePCT account, even before the application is filed, thereby allowing users to share access rights with others prior to filing, if needed. In addition, after the record copy is received by the IB, the application file may be viewed online via ePCT without the need to separately request access rights.

Applicants who are residents and/or nationals of the United States and its territories can file international applications directly with the Receiving Office of the IB via ePCT or other means, provided that any national security provisions have been met prior to filing, including obtaining any required foreign filing license. See 37 CFR 5.11 and MPEP § 140. A foreign filing license does not, however, authorize the use of ePCT to prepare the PCT Request and resultant zip file for filing, as part of an international application, with the RO/US. See 37 CFR 5.15 regarding the scope of a foreign filing license. Also see *Scope of Foreign Filing Licenses*, 73 FR 42781 (July 23, 2008) (“A foreign filing license from the USPTO does not authorize the exporting of subject matter abroad for the preparation of patent applications to be filed in the United States.”). Using ePCT to create a PCT Request and resulting zip file for later submission to the RO/US does not constitute the “filing of an application in a foreign country or to any foreign patent agency or international patent agency” as provided in 37 CFR 5.15(a). Furthermore, an international application filed in the RO/US is not a “foreign application” within the meaning of 37 CFR 5.15(a) or 5.11(b), which authorize the export of subject matter abroad. See 37 CFR 5.1(b)(2). See also 35 U.S.C. 368(b) (“In accordance with article 27(8) of the treaty, the filing of an international application in a country other than the United States on the invention made in this country shall be considered to constitute the filing of an application in a foreign country within the meaning of chapter 17, whether or not the United States is designated in that international application.”).

As set forth above, a foreign filing license does not authorize the export of technical data into ePCT for generating a PCT Request and resulting zip file for filing as part of an international application with the RO/US. More specifically, to complete the PCT Request and generate the zip file, ePCT requires a title of the invention, which may contain technical data. Moreover, although an abstract is not required for creation of the zip file, ePCT allows users to optionally provide the contents of the application abstract, which may also contain technical data relating to the invention. Since this technical data is stored on servers located outside of the United States, users of ePCT are reminded that the export of this subject matter abroad for the purpose of filing an international application with the RO/US may require the appropriate clearances from the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) at the Department of Commerce (See *Scope of Foreign Filing Licenses*, *supra*), the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) at the Department of State, or the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) at the Department of Energy.

An ePCT demo system has been set up to enable filers to familiarize themselves with the system. For further information and to get started, go to the ePCT Portal at: <https://pct.wipo.int/ePCT>. To begin use of ePCT, a user is first required to obtain a WIPO account (<https://pct.wipo.int/wipoaccounts/en/ePCT/public/register.jsf>) and subsequently associate a WIPO digital certificate with the account (<https://pct.wipo.int/wipoaccounts/en/ePCT/private/certificates.jsf>—requires login). Users without a WIPO digital certificate can obtain one from <https://pct.wipo.int/CertRequest/Verisign/services/WorldIntellectualPropertyOrganizationWIPOCustomerCAV2/client/userEnrollMS.htm>.

Dated: May 2, 2016.

**Michelle K. Lee,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016-10733 Filed 5-5-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### Commission of Fine Arts; Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 19 May 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary

Square, 401 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20001-2728. Items of discussion may include buildings, parks and memorials.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our Web site: [www.cfa.gov](http://www.cfa.gov). Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address; by emailing [cfastaff@cfa.gov](mailto:cfastaff@cfa.gov); or by calling 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated: 26 April 2016, in Washington, DC.

**Thomas Luebke,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2016-10402 Filed 5-5-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6330-01-M**

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds products to the Procurement List that will be furnished by the nonprofit agency employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes services from the Procurement List previously provided by such agencies.

**DATES:** Effective on June 5, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S. Clark Street, Suite 715, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-4149.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barry S. Lineback, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or email [CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Additions

On 12/11/2015 (80 FR 76948), the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.