

*Estimated Time per Response:* 2 hours per for hire operation, 20 minutes per on-site interview of passengers, 20 minutes per importance-satisfaction/knowledge, attitudes & perceptions mail back, and 20 minutes for the expenditure mail back.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 733 total: 100 hours for "for hire" operations, 333 hours for the on-site survey of passengers, 167 hours for the importance-satisfaction/knowledge, attitudes & perceptions mail back and 133 hours for the expenditure mail back.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

#### 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: October 24, 2018.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-23545 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* U.S. Fishermen Fishing in Russian Waters.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0228.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 1.

*Average Hours per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 1 hour.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Regulations at 50 CFR part 300, subpart J, govern U.S. fishing in the Economic Zone of the Russian Federation. Russian authorities may permit U.S. fishermen to fish for allocations of surplus stocks in the Russian Economic Zone. Permit application information is sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for transmission to Russia. If Russian authorities issue a permit, the vessel owner or operator must submit a permit abstract report to NMFS, and also report 24 hours before leaving the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the Russian Economic Zone and 24 hours before re-entering the U.S. EEZ after being in the Russian Economic Zone.

The permit application information is used by Russian authorities to determine whether to issue a permit. NMFS uses the other information to help ensure compliance with Russian and U.S. fishery management regulations.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: October 24, 2018.

**Sarah Brabson,**

*NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-23544 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-C-2018-0058]

#### National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI) Nomination Evaluation Committee will meet in closed session on November 9, 2018. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss the relative merits of persons, teams, and companies nominated for the NMTI.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene November 9, 2018, at approximately 9 a.m., and adjourn at approximately 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Palafoutas, Program Manager, National Medal of Technology and Innovation Program, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box, Alexandria, VA 22313; telephone (571) 272-9821; or by electronic mail: [nmti@uspto.gov](mailto:nmti@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, notice is hereby given that the NMTI Nomination Evaluation Committee, chartered to the United States Department of Commerce, will meet at the United States Patent and Trademark Office campus in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for recommending to the President prospective NMTI recipients. The NMTI Nomination Evaluation Committee evaluates the nominations received pursuant to public solicitation and makes its recommendations for the Medal to the Secretary. Committee members are distinguished experts in the fields of science, technology, business, and patent law drawn from both the public and private sectors and are appointed by the Secretary for three-year terms.

The NMTI Nomination Evaluation Committee was established in accordance with the FACA. The Committee meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the FACA and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B), because the discussion of the relative merit of the Medal nominations is likely to disclose information of a personal nature that would constitute a clearly

unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of the nominees; and premature disclosure of the Committee's recommendations would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of the Medal Program.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer/ Assistant Secretary for Administration, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, United States Department of Commerce, formally determined on October 17, 2018, pursuant to section 10(d) of the FACA, that the meeting may be closed because Committee members are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Due to closure of this meeting, copies of any minutes of the meeting will not be available. A copy of the determination is available for public inspection at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Dated: October 24, 2018.

**Andrei Iancu,**

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

[FR Doc. 2018-23609 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; USPTO Websites Customer Satisfaction Surveys

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

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

*Title:* USPTO Websites Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

*OMB Control Number:* 0651-New. *Form Number(s):*

- None.

*Type of Request:* Regular.

*Number of Respondents:* 100,000 responses per year.

*Average Hours per Response:* 8 minutes per response.

*Burden Hours:* 13,333.33 hours annually.

*Cost Burden:* \$0.

*Needs and Uses:* The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) wishes to conduct customer satisfaction surveys on its websites. This collection will allow for continued use of a data-driven and a statistically valid approach to understanding customer satisfaction

with Agency websites. The objective is to help the USPTO become more citizen-centric and achieve higher levels of public trust and confidence. The USPTO will use the ForeSee surveys in order to collaborate effectively with the public and meet Administration mandates. These surveys will assist the Agency in its efforts to be open and collaborative.

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

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Nicholas A. Fraser, email: [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov).

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-New" in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before November 28, 2018 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov), or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records and Information Governance Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2018-23553 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2018-0062]

#### Request for Comments on Motion To Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This Request for Comments seeks public input on certain practices

and procedures that the Patent Trial and Appeal Board ("PTAB" or "Board") of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Office" or "USPTO") proposes regarding motions to amend filed in *inter partes* reviews ("IPR"), post-grant reviews ("PGR"), and covered business method patent reviews ("CBM") pursuant to the provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act ("AIA") providing for trial proceedings before the Office. Specifically, the Office seeks input on a proposed amendment process that would involve a preliminary non-binding decision by the Board that provides information to the parties regarding the merits of a motion to amend, and an opportunity for a patent owner to revise its motion to amend thereafter. In addition, the Office seeks input on a proposed pilot program implementing the new amendment process. The Office also seeks input regarding whether the Office should continue to allocate the burden of persuasion regarding patentability of substitute claims as set forth in a recent informative Board decision, as well as any suggestions the public may have as to motion to amend practice before the Board generally.

**DATES:** *Comment Deadline Date:* Written comments must be received on or before December 14, 2018, to ensure consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the internet addressed to: [TrialRFC2018Amendments@uspto.gov](mailto:TrialRFC2018Amendments@uspto.gov). Comments may also be submitted by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Board, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of "Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Patent Judge Jacqueline Wright Bonilla or Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge Michael Tierney, PTAB Request for Comments 2018."

Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the Office prefers to receive comments by electronic mail message to more easily share all comments with the public. The Office prefers the comments to be submitted in plain text, but also accepts comments submitted in portable document format or DOC format. Comments not submitted electronically should be submitted on paper in a format that facilitates convenient digital scanning into portable document format.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, located in Madison East, Ninth Floor, 600 Dulany Street,