non-containment traps and bycatch of non-target species is expected to be minimal. Bycatch from the spiny lobster traps are expected to be similar to that from the spiny lobster trap fishery in the South Atlantic.

The applicant has requested the EFP be effective for a 2-year period from the date the EFP is issued.

NMFS finds the application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on the permit, if granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting activities within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones. Additionally, NMFS may require special protections for ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat, and may require particular gear markings. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the appropriate fishery management agency of the affected state, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that the activities to be taken under the EFP are consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Authority: 16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 27, 2021.

Karen Abrams,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–28352 Filed 12–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2021–0037]

Extension of the Modified COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is extending the modified COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program. Requests that are compliant with the pilot program's requirements and are filed on or before March 31, 2022, will be accepted. The USPTO will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension period.

DATES: The COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program is extended as of December 30, 2021, to run until March 31, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Clarke, Editor of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (571–272–7735; *robert.clarke@uspto.gov*).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 14, 2020, the USPTO published a notice on the implementation of the COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program. *See* COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 85 FR 28932 (May 14, 2020) (COVID–19 Track One Notice). On September 3, 2021, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to December 31, 2021, and modifying it by removing the limit on the number of applications that could receive prioritized examination. *See* Modification of COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 86 FR 49522 (September 3, 2021) (Modifying Notice).

The COVID–19 Track One Notice indicated that an applicant may request prioritized examination without payment of the prioritized examination fee and associated processing fee if: (1) The application's claim(s) covered a product or process related to COVID–19, (2) the product or process was subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for COVID–19 use, and (3) the applicant met other requirements noted in the COVID–19 Track One Notice. As of November 29, 2021, 180 patents had issued from applications granted prioritized status under the pilot program. The average total pendency, including time consumed by continued examination, from filing date to issue date for those applications was 276 days. The shortest pendency from filing date to issue date for those applications was 75 days.

The Modifying Notice indicated that the pilot program would expire on December 31, 2021. In this notice, the Office is extending the pilot program by setting the expiration date as March 31, 2022. The Office will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension period. If the USPTO determines that a further extension of the pilot program is appropriate, the agency will publish a subsequent notice to the public further extending the program.

Unless the pilot program is further extended by a subsequent notice, following the expiration of this extension, the pilot program will be terminated, and applicants may instead seek to use the Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program. Applications accorded prioritized examination under the pilot program will not lose that status merely because the application is still pending after the date the pilot program is terminated. In other words, applications accepted into the pilot program will continue to be examined under prioritized examination status until that status is terminated for one or more reasons, as described in the COVID–19 Track One Notice.

The Track One Program permits an applicant to have an application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination under 37 CFR 1.102(e) if the applicant timely files a request for prioritized (Track One) examination accompanied by the appropriate fees and meets the other conditions of 37 CFR 1.102(e). *See* MPEP 708.02(b)(2). The current fee schedule is available at *www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/uspto-fee-schedule.*

The Track One Program does not have the restrictions of the COVID–19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program on the types of inventions for which special status may be sought, as the Track One Program does not require a connection to any particular technology. Moreover, delays associated with the determination of whether an application presents a claim that covers a product or process related to COVID–19 and whether the product or process was subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID–19 use may be avoided under the Track One Program.

Andrew Hirshfeld,

Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2021–28359 Filed 12–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA–2021–HQ–0013]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Army, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by January 31, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Duncan, 571–372–7574, *whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Exchange Official Personnel Folder—Privilege Card; Exchange Form 1100–016; OMB Control Number 0702–0129.

Type of Request: Revision.

Number of Respondents: 207.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 207.

Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 51.75.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain authorization or continued authorization for patronage to exchange associate dependents for shopping privileges.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jasmeet Seehra.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at *http://www.regulations.gov* as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Angela Duncan.

Requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Duncan at *whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.*

Dated: December 27, 2021.

Kayyonne T. Marston,

Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021–28366 Filed 12–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2021–OS–0092]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by January 31, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Duncan, 571–372–7574, *whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Personnel Security System Access Request Form; DD Form 2962, Volume 2; OMB Control Number 0704–0542.

Type of Request: Revision.

Number of Respondents: 22,225.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 22,225.

Average Burden per Response: 10 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 3,704.17.

Needs and Uses: The DD 2962, Volume 2, Personnel Security System Access Request (PSSAR) Form is used to collect the necessary information to vet and establish accounts for persons wishing to become users and gain access to personnel systems across the DoD, including National Background Investigation Services, the Defense Information System for Security, the Defense Central Index of Investigations, and the Secure Web Fingerprint Transmission. These systems facilitate the initiation, investigation, and adjudication of information relevant to DoD security clearances and employment suitability determinations for active duty military, civilian employees and contractors seeking such credentials. These personnel security systems are the authoritative source for clearance information resulting in accesses determinations to sensitive/classified information and facilities. The PSSAR Form is solely used for the purpose of requesting an account for these systems, and this information collection request is not intended to cover any information collected within those systems. Each respondent is required to have a completed form on file at all times to remain compliant with the account request procedures for all systems.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jasmeet Seehra.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at *http://www.regulations.gov* as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Angela Duncan.

Requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Duncan at *whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.*

Dated: December 27, 2021.

Kayyonne T. Marston,

Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021–28365 Filed 12–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P