

(FMP) among harvesters, processors, and coastal communities. Regulations implementing the FMP and the CR Program are at 50 CFR part 680. Information on the CR Program is posted on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-crab-rationalization-program>.

This information collection includes the forms used by participants in the CR Program to apply for or renew permits; transfer or lease individual fishing quota (IFQ), individual processor quota (IPQ), quota share (QS), or processor quota share (PQS); and apply for exemption from regional delivery requirements. This information collection also includes the following reports for which no collection forms are used:

- The North or South Region Delivery Exemption Report is submitted by IFQ holders who signed a preseason application. This report provides NMFS with the means to assess how the industry is exercising the exemption opportunity and whether implementing regulations are sufficient to meet the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Statement of Intent for Amendment 41 to the FMP.

- The Community Impact Report or IPQ Holder Report is submitted by a community entity or IPQ holder, respectively, and provides documentation needed by NMFS to evaluate the efficacy of privately administered contracts.

- The CDQ Group Notification of Community Representative is submitted by the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups representing Saint Paul and Saint George to designate to NMFS a single entity as the regional representative for these two communities.

- The Eligible Crab Community Organization (ECCO) Annual Report is submitted by the ECCO. It details the use of the crab QS and IFQ and is intended to ensure that the ECCO maintains the QS and IFQ to benefit residents of eligible communities.

## II. Method of Collection

The information is collected primarily by mail and fax. The following may be submitted online through eFISH on the NMFS Alaska Region website: The Application for Transfer (Lease) of Crab IPQ, the Application for Transfer (Lease) of Crab IFQ, the Application for Transfer of IFQ between Crab Harvesting Cooperatives, and renewals of registered crab receiver permits and Federal crab vessel permits. Applications are available as fillable pdfs on the NMFS Alaska Region

website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-crab-rationalization-applications-and-reporting-forms>.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0514.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 496.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Application for Annual Crab IFQ Permit: 2.5 hours; Application for Annual Crab IPQ Permit: 2 hours; Application for Annual Crab Harvesting Cooperative IFQ Permit: 23 hours; Application for Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) Permit: 30 minutes; Application for BSAI Crab Hired Master (skipper) Permit: 1 hour; Application for Federal Crab Vessel Permit (FCVP): 20 minutes; Application for Transfer of Crab QS: 2 hours; Application for Transfer of Crab PQS: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer (lease) of Crab IFQ: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer of IFQ between Crab Harvesting Cooperatives: 2 hours; Application for Transfer (Lease) of Crab IPQ: 2.5 hours; Application for Converted CPO QS and CPO IFQ: 30 minutes; Application for CR Program Eligibility to Receive QS/PQS or IFQ/IPQ by Transfer: 2 hours; Application for Annual Exemption from Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab West Region Delivery Requirements: 2 hours; Application for Exemption from CR Crab North or South Region Delivery Requirements: 20 hours; North or South Region Delivery Exemption Report: 20 hours; Voluntary Community Impact Report or IPQ Holder Report (N or S Response Report): 2 hours; CDQ Group Notification of Community Representative: 5 hours; Application to Become an ECCO: 2.5 hours; Application for Transfer of Crab QS/IFQ to or from an ECCO: 2 hours; ECCO Annual Report: 4 hours; BSAI Crab Rationalization Program QS Beneficiary Designation Form: 30 minutes; File an Appeal to NMFS Decisions: 4 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,597 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$11,430 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary; Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits; Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2023–20377 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2023–0008]

### Elimination of the Postal Postcard in the Patent Center Electronic Office Action Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) transitioned to the Patent Center Electronic Office (e-Office) Action program in April 2023. The Patent Center e-Office Action program is designed to modernize the e-Office

action process and further streamline the USPTO's service delivery processes. The USPTO furnishes a courtesy postcard to Patent Center e-Office Action program users as a reminder when there are available USPTO communications that have not been viewed or downloaded after a period of time. With the transition, the USPTO introduced a new option to receive the courtesy postcard by email (e-postcards) rather than by postal mail (postal postcards). In view of the new option to receive e-postcards, the USPTO requested public comments on eliminating the postal postcard for all Patent Center e-Office Action program users. The USPTO is now eliminating the postal postcard as an option for all Patent Center e-Office Action program users.

**DATES:** The option to receive a courtesy postal postcard under the Patent Center e-Office Action program will no longer be available as of October 20, 2023. Patent Center e-Office Action program users may manually opt in to receiving e-postcards prior to that date. As of October 20, 2023, e-postcards will be the only option for the courtesy postcard, and the USPTO will automatically switch over any Patent Center e-Office Action program users who have not already opted in to receiving e-postcards. The USPTO will continue to mail postal postcards for seven days after October 20, 2023 for any unviewed correspondence in the queue as of October 20, 2023 for those program users who were receiving postal postcards prior to that date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eugenia A. Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7727; or Kristie A. Mahone, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-9016; or [patentpractice@uspto.gov](mailto:patentpractice@uspto.gov). For technical questions, please contact the Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free), 571-272-4100 (local), or [ebc@uspto.gov](mailto:ebc@uspto.gov). The Patent EBC is open from 6 a.m. to midnight ET, Monday-Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In April 2023, the USPTO migrated all participants from the Private PAIR e-Office Action program to the Patent Center e-Office Action program. The USPTO informed the public of the migration in advance. See Patent Center Electronic Office Action Program, 88 FR 20138 (Apr. 5, 2023) (April 2023 Notice).

Under the current Patent Center e-Office Action program, users have the option to receive either a courtesy postal postcard through the United States

Postal Service or a courtesy e-postcard by email. Courtesy reminder postcards are sent when none of the Office communications listed in the email notification have been viewed or downloaded in Patent Center within seven calendar days after the date of the notification and at least one of the listed Office communications requires the applicant's reply. In the April 2023 Notice, the USPTO requested comments on eliminating the courtesy postal postcard as an option. The USPTO received one comment in response to the request for comments. The commenter did not express any views on eliminating the postal postcard and only made a general comment about Patent Center.

The USPTO has determined that maintaining postal postcards is not necessary. Eliminating the postal postcard will reduce paper waste and mitigate the impact of potential postal delays. Furthermore, exclusively using e-postcards will enable the USPTO to continue to furnish courtesy reminders while more effectively streamlining service delivery processes. Therefore, the USPTO is eliminating the postal postcard as an option for all Patent Center e-Office Action program users. Instead, the USPTO will send a courtesy e-postcard notifying Patent Center e-Office Action program users if none of the Office communications listed in the email notification are viewed or downloaded through Patent Center within seven calendar days after the date of the email notification and at least one of the Office communications requires an applicant's reply. The USPTO will email courtesy e-postcards to the same email addresses assigned to the Customer Number for the correspondence address.

Participation in the Patent Center e-Office Action program will continue to be optional. Additional information on the Patent Center e-Office Action Program is available at [www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/checking-application-status/e-office-action-program](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/checking-application-status/e-office-action-program).

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-20351 Filed 9-19-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CPSC-2023-0033]

### Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Consumer Products

**AGENCY:** Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) is publishing this notice to request information on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in commerce or potentially used in consumer products, potential exposures associated with the use of PFAS in consumer products, and potential human health effects associated with exposures to PFAS from their use in consumer products. This notice also includes the availability information of a related contractor report.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted by November 20, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You can submit comments, identified by Docket No. CPSC-2023-0033, by any of the following methods:

*Electronic Submissions:* Submit electronic comments to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit through this website: confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information that you do not want to be available to the public. CPSC typically does not accept comments submitted by email, except as described below.

*Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier/Confidential Written Submissions:* CPSC encourages you to submit electronic comments by using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). You may, however, submit comments by mail, hand delivery, or courier to: Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-7479.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. CPSC may post all comments without change, including any personal identifiers, contact information, or other personal information provided to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). If you wish to submit confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information that you do not want to be available to the public, you may submit such comments by mail, hand delivery, or