determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing 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 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 at the SEDAR 82 South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish Assessment Webinar 7 are as follows: Discuss any leftover data issues that were not cleared up during the data process, answer any questions that the analysts have, and discuss model development and model setup.

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 from the discussion 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

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

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


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

[BFR Doc. 2023–21058 Filed 9–26–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; DOCX Submission Requirements

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comments on this information collection renewal, which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register (88 FR 37039) on June 6, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comment.


Title: DOCX Submission Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 0651–New.

Needs and Uses: On August 3, 2020, the USPTO published a final rule in the Federal Register that included a new fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(u). See Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees in Fiscal Year 2020, 85 FR 46032. Although that final rule indicated the new fee at § 1.16(u) would go into effect on January 1, 2022, the effective date of the new fee was delayed to give applicants more time to adjust to filing patent applications in the DOCX format.

As specified in § 1.16(u), the fee is due for any application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 for an original patent—except design, plant, or provisional applications—where the specification, claims, and/or abstract do not conform to the USPTO requirements for submission in the DOCX format. Therefore, the fee is due for nonprovisional utility applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111, including continuing applications, that are not filed in the DOCX format.

The USPTO conducted two pilot programs for filing applications in the DOCX format. The eMod Text Pilot Program was conducted between August 2016 and September 2017. The USPTO then expanded the ability to file patent applications in the DOCX format in EFS–Web to all users in September 2017. In 2018, the USPTO launched the Patent Center and conducted the Patent Center Text Pilot Program from June 2018 through April 2020. All applicants have been able to file applications in the DOCX format in the Patent Center since April 2020. Information about the Patent Center is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentCenter. The USPTO continues to hold many discussions and training sessions with stakeholders to ensure a fair and reasonable transition to the DOCX format. In addition, to further ensure a fair and reasonable transition to the DOCX format, the USPTO has, since April 2022, provided patent applicants with the option to submit a back-up applicant-generated PDF version of the application along with the DOCX file(s) when filing an application in Patent Center. See Extension of the Option for Submission of a PDF With a Patent Application Filed in DOCX Format, 88 FR 37036 (Jun. 6, 2023).

The items in this new information collection relate solely to the impacts of the § 1.16(u) non-DOCX filing surcharge fee on the filing of nonprovisional utility applications under 35 U.S.C. 111, including continuing applications. In particular, this new information collection accounts for the § 1.16(u) non-DOCX filing surcharge fee itself, as well as an additional 30 minutes of time to accommodate (i) the extra review that some respondents may undertake as they start to become more familiar with the DOCX format and (ii) submission of the back-up applicant-generated PDF that some respondents will opt to submit.

The estimated volumes for the items in this new information collection are based on the estimates for the corresponding nonprovisional utility applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111, including continuing applications, that are covered under an existing OMB clearance (0651–0032; Initial Patent Applications). Respondents for the items in the new information collection will either take an extra 30 minutes to file their applications in DOCX format or they will pay the non-DOCX surcharge, they will not do both.

Form Numbers: None.

Type of Review: New.
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No.: PTO–C–2023–0034]

**Joint ITA–NIST–USPTO Collaboration Initiative Regarding Standards**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending the deadline for written comments announced in the Federal Register Notice titled “Joint ITA–NIST–USPTO Collaboration Initiative Regarding Standards; Notice of Public Listening Session and Request for Comments.” Through this notice, the USPTO is extending the period for public comments until November 6, 2023.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before November 6, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Anthony Quinn, at 202–893–6488.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On September 11, 2023, the USPTO published a Federal Register Notice titled “Joint ITA–NIST–USPTO Collaboration Initiative Regarding Standards; Notice of Public Listening Session and Request for Comments” (88 FR 62349), announcing that the USPTO, the International Trade Administration (ITA), and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) are seeking stakeholder input on the current state of U.S. firm participation in standard setting, and the ability of U.S. industry to readily adopt standards to grow and compete, especially as they relate to the standardization of critical and emerging technologies. The Agencies are now extending the comment submission period until November 6, 2023, to ensure that stakeholders have a sufficient opportunity to submit written comments.

All other information provided in the September 11, 2023, notice remains unchanged. Previously submitted comments do not need to be resubmitted.

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023–20919 Filed 9–26–23; 8:45 am]

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