

stock. Initial reports were completed in 1995.

The MMPA requires NMFS and FWS to review the SARs at least annually for strategic stocks and stocks for which significant new information is available, and at least once every 3 years for non-strategic stocks. NMFS and the FWS are required to revise a SAR if the status of the stock has changed or can be more accurately determined. NMFS, in conjunction with the Alaska, Atlantic, and Pacific Scientific Review Groups (SRGs), reviewed the status of marine mammal stocks as required and revised reports in the Alaska, Atlantic, and Pacific regions to incorporate new information. NMFS solicits public comments on the draft 2009 SARs.

Alaska Reports

Twenty-three reports (14 strategic stocks and 9 non-strategic stocks) were revised, and 13 reports were not revised. Most revisions included updates of abundance and/or mortality estimates; there were no changes in the status of the affected stocks.

The most recent 5-year period of incidental mortality and serious injury estimates for Federal fisheries in Alaska is 2002–2006. Although observer data from these fisheries are available for more recent years, analysis of observer data from 2007 and 2008 has not been completed due to changes in staffing and in the structure of the database. The 2007 and 2008 fishery mortality data are currently being analyzed, and these results will be incorporated in the 2010 SARs.

Results from a collaborative international study on humpback whales have been incorporated into the reports for the Central and Western North Pacific stocks. These results produced new abundance estimates for these stocks and allowed PBR for both stocks to be changed from undetermined to calculated values. Both stocks remain strategic stocks because they are populations of an endangered species.

Atlantic Reports

Fifty-two new or updated reports (16 strategic and 36 non-strategic) are included among 2009 Atlantic regional SARs. Nineteen reports were not revised. New reports include four stock-specific reports for beaked whales and nine new reports of bay, sound, and estuary stocks of bottlenose dolphins along the Atlantic coast. The 39 revised reports included updates of abundance or mortality estimates, strandings, and status of these stocks was unchanged. However, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) estimates for three stocks of dolphins (bottlenose, Atlantic spotted,

and rough-toothed) in the Gulf of Mexico were changed to “undetermined” because the abundance data supporting these estimates are outdated (more than 8 years old).

The beaked whale reports were previously published as a combined report (*Mesoplodon* sp.) because most beaked whale species cannot be distinguished from one another during abundance surveys. Each of the new reports and the report for Cuvier's beaked whale contain the same numbers for abundance (3,513), minimum population estimate (2,154), and PBR (17) and were included in the 2008 SAR for *Mesoplodon* sp. Similarly, a single observed serious injury of an unidentified beaked whale incidental to a long-line fishery is included in all reports; three of the beaked whale species (Blainville's, Sowerby's, and True's) have additional human-caused mortality based upon stranded animals that were identified to species.

Bottlenose dolphins within bays, sounds, and estuaries along the Atlantic coast were not included in previous stock assessment reports. Although these stock identities have been proposed, there is sufficient mixing of individuals from coastal and bay stocks that abundance and mortality/serious injury estimates for all nine of the new bottlenose dolphin stocks are unknown.

Pacific Reports

In the Pacific region, 13 reports were updated in 2009, including 8 strategic stocks and 5 non-strategic stocks; 50 SARs were not revised. Most changes were updates of abundance or mortality estimates and did not result in a change of status of any stock.

A new SAR for humpback whales in American Samoa waters, which is strategic because all humpback whales are listed under the Endangered Species Act, is also included. The assessment for Northern Oregon/Washington Coast stock of harbor porpoise includes a name change (“Oregon” is appended to “Northern Oregon”) to reflect recent stock boundary changes. Changes in abundance estimates for the two stocks of harbor porpoise that occur in Oregon waters are the result of these boundary changes and do not reflect biological changes in the populations.

Dated: June 19, 2009.

Helen M. Golde,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9–15200 Filed 6–25–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Invention Promoters/Promotion Firms Complaints

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 25, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0044 comment” in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* 571–273–0112, marked to the attention of Susan K. Fawcett.

- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Administrative Management Group, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Cathie Kirik, Mail Stop 24, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–8800; or by e-mail at Cathie.Kirik@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the Inventors' Rights Act of 1999, as found in 35 U.S.C. 297 and implemented by 37 CFR Part 4, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is required to provide a forum for the publication of complaints concerning invention promoters and responses from the invention promoters to these complaints. An individual may submit a complaint concerning an invention promoter to the USPTO, which will forward the complaint to the invention promoter for response. The complaints and responses will be published and made available to the public on the USPTO Web site. The USPTO does not investigate these complaints or participate in any legal proceedings against invention promoters or promotion firms.

Complaints submitted to the USPTO must identify the name and address of the complainant and the invention promoter or promotion firm, explain the basis for the complaint, and include the signature of the complainant. The identifying information is necessary so that the USPTO can forward the complaint to the invention promoter or promotion firm and also notify the complainant that the complaint has been forwarded. Complainants should understand that the complaints will be forwarded to the invention promoter for response and that the complaint and response will be made available to the public as required by the Inventors' Rights Act. If the USPTO does not receive a response from the invention promoter, the complaint will still be published without the response. The USPTO does not accept complaints under this program if the complainant requests confidentiality.

This information collection includes one form, Complaint Regarding Invention Promoter (PTO/SB/2048), which is used by the public to submit a complaint under this program. This

form is available for download from the USPTO Web site. Use of this form is not mandatory as long as the complaint includes the necessary information and is clearly marked as a complaint filed under the Inventors' Rights Act. There is no associated form for submitting responses to the complaints.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, facsimile, or hand delivery to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0044.

Form Number(s): PTO/SB/2048.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to gather the necessary information, prepare the form, and submit a complaint to the USPTO and approximately 30 minutes (0.5 hours)

for an invention promoter or promotion firm to prepare and submit a response to a complaint.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 38 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: \$5,970 per year. The USPTO expects that complaints will be prepared by paraprofessionals or independent inventors. Using the average of the paraprofessional rate of \$100 per hour and the estimated rate of \$30 per hour for independent inventors, the USPTO estimates that the average rate for preparing the complaints will be approximately \$65 per hour. The USPTO expects that the responses to the complaints will be prepared by attorneys or invention promoters. Using the average of the professional rate of \$310 per hour for attorneys in private firms and the estimated rate of \$100 per hour for invention promoters, the USPTO estimates that the average rate for preparing the responses to the complaints will be approximately \$205 per hour. Therefore, the respondent cost burden for this collection is estimated to be \$5,970 per year.

Item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Complaint Regarding Invention Promoter (PTO/SB/2048)	15	50	13
Responses to the Complaints	30	50	25
Totals		100	38

Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden: \$897. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, recordkeeping costs, or filing fees associated with this information collection. However, the public may incur postage costs when submitting a complaint or a response to a complaint by mail to the USPTO. The USPTO estimates that the first-class postage cost for a mailed complaint will be 44 cents. Promotion firms may choose to send responses to complaints using overnight mail service at an estimated cost of \$17.50 per response. Therefore, the total annual (non-hour) respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of postage costs is estimated to be \$897 per year.

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, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Susan K. Fawcett,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Administrative Management Group.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of extension of membership solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting nominations for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (the Panel), a Federal advisory committee. NOAA is extending the time period for submission of membership applications from Friday, June 26, 2009 to Friday, July 24, 2009. This notice responds to the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002,