

section 305 (c) of the MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228-2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by August 31, 2001.

Dated: August 21, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-21599 Filed 8-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081701C]

Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of plan team meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Plan Team for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) King and Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 20-21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W. Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 20th, and continue on Friday, September 21st. The Plan Team will address the following topics:

1. Preparation of the 2001 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document.
2. Review of BSAI King and Tanner Crab survey information and guideline harvest levels for 2001-02.

3. Review of biological seasons in the BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP.

4. Review of pending Alaska Board of Fisheries and Council proposals pertaining to or affecting BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries or stocks.

5. Progress on Eastern Bering Sea snow crab harvest strategy development.

6. Update on king and Tanner crab research pertinent to BSAI stocks.

7. Discussion of crab essential fish habitat.

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 after publication 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 21, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-21598 Filed 8-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 010126025-1025-01]

RIN 0651-AB34

Notice of Request for Comments on Development of a Plan To Remove the Patent and Trademark Classified Paper Files From the Public Search Facilities

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) requests public comment on issues associated with the development of a plan to remove the patent and trademark classified paper files from the USPTO's public search libraries and replace them with electronic records. These public

search facilities are currently located in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

Interested members of the public are invited to present comments on the appropriate scope for and contents of this plan, including the topics outlined in the supplementary information section of this notice.

DATES: Comments will be accepted by the USPTO until September 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Those interested in presenting written comments on the topics presented in the supplementary information, or any related topics, may mail their comments to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, marked to the attention of Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer, or send them by facsimile transmission to (703) 308-7792.

Parties are encouraged to provide their comments in machine-readable format and send them over the Internet as electronic mail messages to *file-removal@uspto.gov*. Machine-readable submissions should be provided as unformatted text (e.g., ASCII or plain text), or as formatted text in one of the following file formats: Microsoft Word (Macintosh, DOS or Windows versions) or WordPerfect (Macintosh, DOS or Windows versions). Machine-readable submissions may be provided on a 3½-inch floppy disk formatted for use in either a Macintosh or MSDOS-based computer, mailed to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer.

All comments should include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of the individual responding;
- An indication of whether comments offered represent views of the respondent's organization or are the respondent's personal views; and
- If applicable, information on the respondent's organization, including the type of organization (e.g., business, trade group, university, non-profit organization).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Ronald Hack by telephone at (703) 305-9095, by facsimile at (703) 308-7792, by electronic mail at *ronald.hack@uspto.gov*;
- Martha Sneed by telephone at (703) 308-5558, by facsimile at (703) 306-2654, by electronic mail at *martha.sneed@uspto.gov*; or

- by mail addressed to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999, Title IV, Section 4804(d)(1) (the "Act"), amended Section 11(a) of title 35, United States Code, to provide that the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO may, for public use, maintain "paper, microform, or electronic" (emphasis supplied) collections of patents and trademark registrations. The Act further provides, in Section 4804(d)(2), that the Director of the USPTO shall not:

cease to maintain, for use by the public, paper or microform collections of United States patents, foreign patent documents, and United States trademark registrations, except pursuant to notice and opportunity for public comment and except that the Director shall first submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives detailing such plan, including a description of the mechanisms in place to ensure the integrity of such collections and the data contained therein, as well as to ensure prompt public access to the most current available information, and certifying that the implementation of such plan will not negatively impact the public.

For a number of years, the USPTO has been engaged in a program to automate access to patents and to trademark registrations. The agency currently provides electronic access to patent and trademark information in two ways. First, the agency provides search terminals for public use in the three Patent and Trademark Public Search Facilities that are currently housed in the South Tower, Crystal Plaza 3-4, and Crystal Mall 1 buildings at the agency's offices in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. Second, the USPTO provides access to patent and trademark information on its World Wide Web (Web) site.

Approximately 76 public search terminals provide access to patent and trademark information by means of computer software programs that facilitate the search process. Some of the electronic data available through these terminals are:

- *Public EAST & WEST Systems*: the full text of over 2.5 million U.S. patents issued since January 1971; the full images of over 6.5 million U.S. patents issued since 1790 and over 14.5 million foreign patents; English translations of

5.1 million Japanese patent abstracts; English translations of 3.1 million European patent abstracts; and full text and images of all U.S. patent applications published since March 15, 2001; and

- *X-Search System*: text and image of over 2.7 million trademark applications and registrations (including active, canceled, expired, and abandoned).

During fiscal year 2000, the average number of unique public users who logged on to the WEST search system each month was 472 and the average number of search sessions initiated per month by these users was 7,173.

In addition to the terminals accessing the databases listed above, the public is provided additional workstations in the public search facilities for accessing the electronic search tools listed below:

- *Patents ASSIST*: Full Text of Patent Search Tools.

- *Patents BIB*: Selected Bibliographic Information from U.S. Patents Issued 1969 to Present.

- *Patents CLASS*: Current Classifications of U.S. Patents Issued 1790 to Present.

- *USAPat*: Facsimile Images of United States Patents.

- *Trademarks REGISTERED*: Bibliographic Information from Registered U.S. Trademarks.

- *USAMark*: Facsimile Images of United States Trademark Registrations.

On the USPTO Web site, the public can access considerable patent and trademark information. This information includes:

- *Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)*: searchable database including the full text and clipped images of all registered trademarks.

- U.S. patents issued from 1790 through 1975—searchable by patent number and current U.S. patent classification; and

- U.S. patents issued from 1976 to the most recent issue week—searchable by full-text fields that now include current U.S. classification data.

- Full text and images of all U.S. patent applications published since March 15, 2001.

In November 2000, the public accessed an average of 970,000 pages of patent and trademark information (*i.e.*, issued patents and registered trademarks) each day through the USPTO's Web site. As a result of significant investment in these public search tools, and the significant use of them, the USPTO intends to submit a plan to the 107th Congress to eliminate the patent and trademark classified paper collections from the Trademark Public Search Facility located in the South Tower Building, 2900 Crystal

Drive, and the Patent Public Search Facility located in the Crystal Plaza 3-4 Building, 2021 South Clark Place. Elimination of these paper files is consistent with the USPTO's goals, strategic information technology plans, and the agency's operational practices.

The USPTO has invested and continues to invest a substantial portion of its fee income in the maintenance of patent and trademark electronic databases and the development and enhancement of software search vehicles. As a result, trademark examining attorneys rely solely on electronic records for examining and approving marks for Federal registration. In accordance with patent examiners' increasing reliance on automated searching, management and the Patent Office Professional Association, which represents patent examiners, have agreed to begin phased elimination of paper copies of patents from examiner search files later this fiscal year. It is anticipated that by the time the agency completes its relocation and consolidation at the Carlyle campus in Alexandria, Virginia, in 2004, a substantial portion of the patent examiner paper search files will have been eliminated.

The USPTO's current planning approach to the dissemination of patent and trademark information is to continue enhancing its electronic databases that capture the content of patents and trademarks, and to expand public access beyond its Crystal City location. The agency intends to formalize a plan to eliminate the paper collections of patents and trademark registrations and is providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and contents of the plan that the USPTO is required to submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives.

II. Issues for Public Comment

Any interested member of the public is invited to provide comments on any topic related to development of a plan to eliminate the patent and trademark paper classified collections and replace them with electronic records. Issues that the USPTO has identified for consideration thus far, upon which the agency is particularly interested in obtaining public comment, include the following:

A. Measures required to ensure the integrity of electronic records.

B. Comparable functionality for searching and retrieving information from electronic records.

C. Re-classifications of the patent electronic file.

D. Paper Disposition.

An important corollary issue for public comment relates to the final disposition of the paper collections. The USPTO intends to consider expressions of interest from the public and private sector regarding third-party interest in maintaining the paper collections. The USPTO particularly seeks comment on the following paper disposition options. Any transfer of Federal records would be made only with the written authorization of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

D.1 Offer the collections to the NARA or some other government agency (Federal or state).

D.2 Transfer ownership of the collections to an educational or not-for-profit entity that agrees to keep them current and to make them available to the public (no exchange of money).

D.3 Offer the collections for sale.

D.4 If necessary for disposition, divide the collections and permit the transfer/sale of different segments to different organizations/businesses.

Dated: May 24, 2001.

Nicholas P. Godici,

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

[FR Doc. 01-21541 Filed 8-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended, section 3506(c)(2)(A) of title 44, United States Code, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposal to renew public information collection forms and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. 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 burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on

respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by October 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Department of Defense Education Activity, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, ATTN: Ms. Sara Riggs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call at (703) 696-3067 ext. 2652.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Control Number: Employment Opportunities for Educators; DS Forms 5010, 5011, 5012 and 5013; OMB Number 0704-0370.

Needs and Uses: The information collected by these forms concerns applicants for educator positions within the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. The information is used to verify employment history of educator applicants and to determine creditable previous experience for pay-setting purposes for candidates selected for educator positions. In addition, the information is used to ensure the selection for employment with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools of individuals possessing the abilities and personal traits that give promise of outstanding success under the unusual circumstances they will find working abroad. Information gathered is also used to ensure that the Department of Defense Dependents Schools personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law. Completion of the forms is entirely voluntary.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Burden Hours: 11,200.

Number of Respondents: 24,000.

Responses per Respondents: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 28 minutes.

Frequency: Annually.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The primary objective of the information collection is to ensure a quality education from prekindergarten through grade 12 for the eligible minor dependents of the Department of Defense military and civilian personnel on official overseas assignments. This is

accomplished by securing data from applicants for educational positions and officials with sufficient information to address an individual applicant's traits and characteristics.

The forms associated with this data collection are:

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Supplemental Application for Overseas Employment (DS Form 5010). The primary objective of this voluntary form is to ascertain an applicant's eligibility for educator positions.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Professional Evaluation (DS Form 5011). This form is provided to officials in managerial and supervisory positions as a means of verifying abilities and personal traits of applicants for educator positions to ensure the selection of the best-qualified individuals to occupy educator positions.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Voluntary Questionnaire (DS Form 5012). This voluntary form helps ensure that the Department of Defense Dependents Schools personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Verification of Professional Educator Employment for Salary Rating Purposes (DS Form 5013). The purpose of this voluntary form is to verify employment history of educator applicants and to determine creditable previous experience for pay-setting purposes for selected candidates.

Dated: August 20, 2001.

Patricia Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD.

[FR Doc. 01-21531 Filed 8-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0013]

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Proposed Collection; Cost or Pricing Data Requirements and Information Other Than Cost or Pricing Data

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0013).