

Bering Sea (Convention). The Convention was signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953, and was amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979. The Convention's central objective is to develop the stocks of Pacific halibut in waters off the west coasts of Canada and the United States to levels that will permit the optimum yield from the Pacific halibut fishery and to maintain the stocks at those levels. The IPHC fulfills this objective in part by recommending Pacific halibut fishery conservation and management measures for approval by the United States and Canada. Pursuant to the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, may accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, conservation and management measures recommended by the IPHC. 16 U.S.C. 773b. Measures accepted by the Secretary of State are adopted as binding regulations governing fishing for Pacific halibut in Convention waters of the United States. 16 U.S.C. 773c(b)(1). More information on the IPHC can be found at <http://www.iphc.int>.

Section 773a of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773a) requires that the United States be represented on the IPHC by three U.S. Commissioners. U.S. Commissioners are appointed for a term not to exceed 2 years, but are eligible for reappointment. Of the Commissioners:

(1) One must be an official of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(2) Two must be knowledgeable or experienced concerning the Northern Pacific halibut fishery; of these, one must be a resident of Alaska and the other shall be a nonresident of Alaska. Of the three commissioners described in paragraphs (1) and (2), one must also be a voting member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(3) Commissioners who are not Federal employees are not considered to be Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in section 8101 *et seq.* of title 5 and section 2671 *et seq.* of title 28.

In their official IPHC duties, Commissioners represent the interests of the United States and all of its stakeholders in the Pacific halibut fishery. These duties require a modest amount of travel (typically two or three trips per year lasting less than a week), and travel expenses are paid by the U.S. Department of State. Commissioners

receive no compensation for their services.

Nomination Process

NOAA Fisheries is currently accepting nominations for two U.S. Commissioners for the IPHC who are not officials of NOAA. Successful nominees will be considered for appointment by the President and (pending Presidential action) interim designation by the Department of State. Nomination packages should provide details of an individual's knowledge and experience relative to Pacific halibut. Examples of such knowledge and/or experience could include (but are not limited to) such activities as: Participation in commercial, tribal, or Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries, and/or sport and charterboat halibut fishing operations; participation in halibut processing operations; and participation in Pacific halibut management activities.

Nomination packages should document an individual's qualifications and state of residence. Self-nominations are acceptable, and current and former IPHC Commissioners are eligible for reappointment. Résumés, curriculum vitae, and/or letters of recommendation/support are useful but not required. Nomination packages will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by officials in NOAA and the Department of Commerce who are familiar with the duties and responsibilities of IPHC Commissioners; evaluations will consider the aggregate of an individual's prior experience and knowledge of the Pacific halibut fishery, residency requirements, and any letters of recommendation provided. Nominees will be notified of their status (including rejection or approval) and any need for further information once the nomination process is complete.

Dated: January 23, 2018.

Steven Wilson,

Acting Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-01629 Filed 1-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; "Representative and Address Provisions"

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction ACT (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: Representative and Address Provisions.

OMB Control Number: 0651-0035.

Form Number(s):

- PTO/AIA/80
- PTO/AIA/81
- PTO/AIA/81A
- PTO/AIA/81B
- PTO/AIA/82A
- PTO/AIA/82B
- PTO/AIA/122
- PTO/AIA/123
- PTO/SB/80
- PTO/SB/81
- PTO/SB/81A
- PTO/SB/81B
- PTO/SB/81C
- PTO/SB/83
- PTO/SB84
- PTO/SB/122
- PTO/SB/123
- PTO/SB/124
- PTO/SB/125
- PTO-2248

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 501,905 responses per year.

Average Hours per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately between 3 minutes (0.05 hours) and 90 minutes (1.5 hours) to submit the information in this collection, including the time to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate form or document, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Burden Hours: 28,479.25 hours per year.

Cost Burden: \$13,950.74 per year.

Needs and Uses: The public uses this information collection to grant or revoke power of attorney, to withdraw as attorney or agent of record, to authorize a practitioner to act in a representative capacity, to change a correspondence address, to request a Customer Number, and to change the data associated with a Customer Number. This collection is necessary so that the USPTO knows who is authorized to take action in an application, patent, or reexamination proceeding and where to send correspondence regarding an application, patent, or reexamination proceeding.

Frequency: On occasion.

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

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through *reginfo.gov*. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov*. Include "0651-0035 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.*

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before February 28, 2018 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to *Nicholas.A.Fraser@omb.eop.gov*, or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,

Records and Information Governance Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-01609 Filed 1-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Public Search Facility User ID and Badging

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection: 0651-0041 (Public Search Facility User ID and Badging).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 30, 2018.

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

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov*. Include "0651-0041 comment in the subject line of the message.

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

- *Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Terry Howard, Manager, Public Search Facility, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-3258; or by email to *Terry.Howard@uspto.gov*. Additional information about this collection is also available at *http://www.reginfo.gov* under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is required by 35 U.S.C. 41(i)(1) to maintain a Public Search Facility to make publically accessible USPTO patent and trademark collections for search and retrieval. The facility is located in a publicly accessible portion of USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, and offers access to the collection's paper and electronic files. Trained staff are available to assist users with searches. The USPTO also offers training courses to assist users with the advanced electronic search systems available at the facility.

This collection covers information that individuals submit in application to establish a USPTO online access account. This application allows users to obtain, renew, or replace online access account cards which provide access to the electronic search system at the Public Search Facility. The public may apply for an online access account only at the Public Search Facility reference desk by providing the completed application (including contact information) and proper identification. The access account cards include a bar-coded user number and an expiration date. Users may renew their account card in person by validating and updating the required information and may obtain a replacement for a lost account card by providing proper identification. Users who wish to register for the voluntary training courses by do so by completing the appropriate form.

This collection also covers information in applications to establish, renew, or replace security identification badges issued, under the authority provided in 41 CFR part 102-81, to members of the public who wish to access the Public Search Facility. Users may apply for a security badge in person at the USPTO Security Office by providing the completed application (including applicant and contact information) and presenting a valid

form of identification with photograph. The security badges include a color photograph of the user and must be worn at all times while at the USPTO facilities.

II. Methods of Collection

The applications for online access accounts and security identification badges are completed on site and handed to a USPTO staff member for issuance. User training registration forms may be mailed, faxed, emailed, or hand delivered to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0041.

IC Instruments and Forms: PTO-2030 and PTO-2224.

Type of Review: Extension of a Previously Existing Information Collection.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,250 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 5 minutes (0.08 hours) to 10 minutes (0.17 hours) to complete the information in this collection, depending on the application. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, prepare the appropriate form, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: \$145,750. The USPTO expects that both attorneys and paraprofessionals will complete the submissions. The USPTO estimates that one third of the applicants will be attorneys and the remaining two thirds will be paraprofessionals. The professional hourly rate for attorneys is \$438 and the professional hourly rate for paraprofessionals is \$145. The attorney rates is established by estimates in the 2017 *Report on the Economic Survey*, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. The paraprofessional rate is established by estimates in the 2016 *National Utilization and Compensation Survey*, published by the National Association of Legal Assistance (NALA). The estimated combined rate is \$291.50. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$145,750 per year.