

habitat, and fish and macroinvertebrate assessments in the creek. The researchers would take chemical and temperature measurements, capture some insects, and conduct a single pass through a single stream reach (approximately 150 meters long) with a backpack electrofishing unit. They would use the information they gather to assess the community assemblage and the relative fish species abundance. Any listed steelhead the researchers encounter would simply be identified in the capture net and immediately released; they would not be removed from the stream. The research would benefit listed species by helping managers design actions to address water and habitat quality impairments in the stream and thus make it more habitable for listed fish in the future. It is possible, but unlikely, that a very small number of the captured fish may be killed as an inadvertent result of the research.

#### *Permit 18049*

The Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) are seeking a five-year permit to monitor UCR steelhead population sizes, habitat use, and emigration rates in the Okanogan River and its tributaries in Washington State. The researchers would conduct their work in randomly-selected sites on eleven tributaries to the Okanogan River. They would capture juvenile steelhead using backpack electrofishing units and soft-mesh dipnets. The captured fish would be anesthetized and measured, and any steelhead greater than 95mm in fork length would be marked by experienced taggers with a 12mm passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag injected from a single-use needle. All fish less than 95mm in length would have their caudal fins clipped for marking purposes and, in some cases, the tissue would be retained for DNA analysis. The researchers would make two passes with the electrofishing unit in each stream reach. The research would benefit the listed fish in two ways: First, UCR steelhead status in the Okanogan River subbasin is poorly understood and the information generated by the research would fill that gap and thereby help managers design recovery strategies for the listed fish in that area; it would also help them guide and mitigate any future land management activities that could affect the fish. Second, the collected genetic material would be used to examine the relationship between natural and hatchery fish in the area—and given that hatchery influence is considered a limiting factor for the UCR steelhead, more knowledge about that interaction

would help managers design actions to address the negative effects local hatchery programs may be having. The researchers do not intend to kill any of the fish being captured, but a small number may die as an inadvertent result of the research activities.

#### *Permit 18079*

The University of Idaho is seeking a two-year permit to study the effects of hyporheic exchange on the growth of post-emergent Chinook salmon. The research is designed to study hydrological exchange between surface and ground and determine the ways in which it may affect the factors that affect rearing conditions for juvenile salmon. The project has two components. The first component involves a cage experiment in which post-emergent hatchery Chinook salmon would be held and their growth monitored. The second component involves sampling wild (natural) post-emergent Chinook salmon to compare fish lengths and weights and estimate relative fish abundances. Both components would be carried out at up to 18 sites in the Methow River subbasin in Washington State. The first component would only affect hatchery fish that have already been accounted for in a hatchery plan of operations (Winthrop hatchery). The second component of the study would involve fish snorkeling surveys supplemented by dip netting three times before and after cage experiments to measure relative fish abundance in groundwater upwelling and downwelling areas at the selected sites. The fish would be captured, anaesthetized with MS-222 and a buffer solution, measured, weighed, and released. The research would produce important information on how a key river characteristic (groundwater/surface water exchange) affects salmonid growth and survival. The researchers do not intend to kill any fish, but a small number may die as an inadvertent result of the research.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 26, 2013.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013–23893 Filed 9–30–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648–XC861**

### **Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide Year 2014 Cage Tags**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of vendor to provide fishing year 2014 cage tags.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS informs surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota (ITQ) allocation holders that they will be required to purchase their fishing year 2014 (January 1, 2014–December 31, 2014) cage tags from the National Band and Tag Company. The intent of this notice is to comply with regulations for the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries and to promote efficient distribution of cage tags.

**ADDRESSES:** Written inquiries may be sent to: Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anna Macan, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9165; fax (978) 281–9161.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.77(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Northeast Region, NMFS, to specify in the **Federal Register** a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP), shall be purchased. Notice is hereby given that National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky, is the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the fishing year 2014 Federal surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries. Detailed instructions for purchasing these cage tags will be provided in a letter to ITQ allocation holders in these fisheries from NMFS within the next several weeks.

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

**Dated:** September 26, 2013.

**Kelly Denit,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-23966 Filed 9-30-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC886**

#### Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the proposed schedule and agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). The members will discuss and provide advice on issues outlined under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held October 22-24, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the NOAA Science Center, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Holliday, MAFAC Executive Director; (301) 427-8004; email: [Mark.Holliday@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.Holliday@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, notice is hereby given of a meeting of MAFAC. The MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), and, since 1971, advises the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The complete charter and summaries of prior meetings are located online at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/>.

#### Matters To Be Considered

This meeting time and agenda are subject to change.

The meeting is convened to hear presentations and discuss policies and guidance on the following topics: seafood certification and sustainability, Endangered Species Act and section 7 consultations, outcomes of the

Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 conference and next steps, recreational fisheries issues, and the NMFS budget. The meeting will include discussion of various MAFAC administrative and organizational matters and may include meetings of the standing subcommittees.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mark Holliday, MAFAC Executive Director; 301-427-8004 by October 11, 2013.

**Dated:** September 25, 2013.

**Samuel D. Rauch III,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, performing the functions and duties of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-23968 Filed 9-30-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Initial Patent Applications

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this revision of a continuing information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before December 2, 2013.

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

- **Email:** [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0032 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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 the attention of Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email to

[raul.tamayo@uspto.gov](mailto:raul.tamayo@uspto.gov). Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The USPTO is required by Title 35 of the United States Code, including 35 U.S.C. 131, to examine applications for patents. The USPTO administers the patent statutes through various rules in Chapter 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.84. The patent statutes and regulations require applicants to provide sufficient information to allow the USPTO to properly examine the application to determine whether it meets the criteria set forth in the patent statutes and regulations to be issued as a patent.

Most applications for patent, including new utility, design, and provisional applications, can be submitted to the USPTO through EFS-Web. EFS-Web is the USPTO's system for electronic filing of patent correspondence. EFS-Web is accessible via the Internet on the USPTO Web site. The Legal Framework for EFS-Web, available at [http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/fiie/efs/guidance/New\\_legal\\_framework.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/fiie/efs/guidance/New_legal_framework.jsp), provides a listing of patent applications and documents permitted to be filed via EFS-Web and patent applications and documents not permitted to be filed via EFS-Web.

There are 69 forms in this collection. This total includes versions of the inventor's oath and declaration forms that were created to comply with the changes resulting from the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, e.g., forms AIA/01, AIA/02, etc., as well as pre-America Invents Act versions of the oath and declaration forms, e.g., forms SB/01, SB/02, etc., and foreign language translations of the oath and declaration forms, e.g., forms AIA/01CN, SB/02CN, etc. On the other hand, the petitions and the papers filed to supply the name or names of the inventor or inventors after the filing date without a cover sheet in a provisional application, to correct inventorship in a provisional application, and to convert a nonprovisional application to a provisional application do not have forms associated with them.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved this collection on January 8, 2011, but the Notice of Action included terms of clearance stating that the USPTO should conduct outreach to stakeholders regarding the burden of 0651-0032 Initial Patent Applications and ways to potentially reduce it before the next renewal of the