

3. NMFS Stock Assessment Prioritization
4. NMFS Policy Directive 01–101–10
5. Essential Fish Habitat Model Tier 1 Review
6. Discuss and update 5-year stock assessment review schedule and review levels, including any changes to the scheduling of reviews for stock assessments already on the calendar, and any new additions to the schedule
7. Review the upcoming schedule and nominate additional products for review by the Center for Independent Experts, if necessary.
8. Other business
9. Public comment

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Make direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to Marlowe Sabater at (808) 522–8143 or marlowe.sabater@noaa.gov, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 24, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2022–06554 Filed 3–28–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Permit and Reporting Requirements for Non-Commercial Fishing in the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments (MANM)

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public

comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 31, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0664 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Walter Ikehara, Fishery Information Specialist, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, (808) 725–5175, walter.ikehara@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for extension of an approved information collection.

NMFS manages non-commercial fishing activities in the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments. Regulations at 50 CFR part 665 require the owner and operator of a vessel used to non-commercially fish for, take, retain, or possess any management unit species in these monuments to hold a valid permit issued by NMFS.

Regulations also require the owner and operator of a vessel that is chartered to fish recreationally for, take, retain, or possess, any management unit species in these monuments to hold a valid permit issued by NMFS. The fishing vessel must be registered to the permit. The charter business must be established legally in the permit area where it will operate. Charter vessel clients are not required to have a permit.

The permit application collects basic information about the permit applicant, type of operation, vessel, and permit area. NMFS uses this information to confirm the identity of the applicant and determine permit eligibility. The information is important for understanding the nature of the fishery and its participants. It also aids in the enforcement of fishing regulations within the monuments.

Regulations also require the vessel operator to report a complete record of catch, effort, and other data on a NMFS log sheet. The vessel operator must record all requested information on the log sheet within 24 hours of the completion of each fishing day. The vessel operator also must sign, date, and

submit the form to NMFS within 30 days of the end of each fishing trip. NMFS uses the information provided in the log sheets to monitor fishing activities, evaluate, and assess the status of fish stocks, and determine whether changes in management are needed to sustain the productivity of the fishery and conserve marine resources.

II. Method of Collection

Information is collected on paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0664.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission, extension of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses, or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes per permit application, 20 minutes per log sheet.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 31.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$1,033.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: 50 CFR 665.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this information collection request. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying

information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2022-06598 Filed 3-28-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2022-0001]

Expanded Collaborative Search Pilot Program—New Combined Petition Option for Participation

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in partnership with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), have collaborated on a new petition option for participation in the Expanded Collaborative Search Pilot (CSP) program. The new petition option, which has several enhancements compared to the current petition form and process, permits an applicant to file a combined petition in one of the partner intellectual property (IP) offices rather than separate petitions in both partner IP offices. Enhancements include a more user-friendly layout, addition of multilingual text, and a foundation for data collection that both satisfies the petition requirements and streamlines the process for partaking in the Expanded CSP program.

DATES: The combined petition option and the related process will take effect on March 29, 2022. Each IP office will continue to grant no more than 400 requests per year per partner office for the duration of the pilot, which is currently set to expire on October 31, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries regarding any specific application participating in the pilot may be directed to Jessica Patterson, Senior Advisor and Director, International Worksharing, Planning, and Implementation; Office of International Patent Cooperation; at 571-272-8828 or Jessica.Patterson@uspto.gov. Any inquiry regarding this pilot program and the petition process can be emailed to esp@uspto.gov. Inquiries concerning this notice may be

directed to Michael Arguello; Management and Program Analyst; International Worksharing, Planning, and Implementation; Office of International Patent Cooperation; at 571-270-7876 or Michael.Arguello@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The USPTO continually looks for ways to improve its worksharing pilot programs, including the Expanded CSP program. The Expanded CSP program provides applicants who cross-file with the USPTO and the JPO or the KIPO with search results from each office early in the examination process. It is designed to accelerate examination and provide the applicant with more comprehensive prior art by combining the search expertise of the USPTO and the JPO or the KIPO examiners before issuing a first office action. For additional details of this program, see Expanded Collaborative Search Pilot Program Extension, 86 FR 8183 (February 4, 2021) (Expanded CSP extension notice). Feedback from applicants based in the United States, Korea, and Japan has cited the petition process as an area for improvement, specifically the requirement to petition each office separately. As a result, the USPTO collaborated with its partner IP offices, the JPO and the KIPO, to develop combined petition forms (PTO/437-JP for the USPTO/JPO pilot program and PTO/437-KR for the USPTO/KIPO pilot program). Submitting a completed combined petition form to either the USPTO or the partner IP office (JPO or KIPO) will result in receipt of the form at both offices in the corresponding pilot and placement in the application files of both counterpart applications.

The current petition option and process, in which an applicant files a petition or a request separately with each partner IP office (original petition option), remains available. Under the original petition option, an applicant must submit petition form PTO/SB/437 to the USPTO to request CSP participation for the U.S. application and a separate submission to the partner IP office in the desired pilot to request CSP participation for a counterpart application.

II. Overview of the Combined Petition Option

Applicants need only submit one combined petition form to the USPTO or the partner IP office (JPO or KIPO). There are separate agreements between the USPTO and the JPO and the USPTO

and the KIPO. Therefore, to request participation in the corresponding pilot between the USPTO and the JPO using this combined petition option, applicants must file the combined petition form PTO/437-JP with either the USPTO or the JPO. Likewise, to request participation in the corresponding pilot between the USPTO and the KIPO using this combined petition option, applicants must file the combined petition form PTO/437-KR with either the USPTO or the KIPO. However, if an application in a pilot program corresponds to more than one counterpart application in a partner IP office, the combined petition option cannot be used. In this situation, an applicant must use the original petition option to request participation in the Expanded CSP program.

Under the combined petition option, use of the proper combined petition form will assist applicants in complying with the pilot program's requirements, and will assist the USPTO in quickly identifying participating applications and the partner IP office. The combined petition forms for the USPTO/JPO pilot and the USPTO/KIPO pilot are multilingual. Both combined petition forms provide links to the requirements (with exceptions noted in section VI below) and conditions for entry into the respective pilot program for each partner IP office. As each office's conditions for entry may differ, applicants should review the requirements of the relevant partner IP offices to ensure compliance.

Forms PTO/437-JP and PTO/437-KR are available at www.uspto.gov/CollaborativeSearch. The forms will also be available as Portable Document Format (PDF) fillable forms in EFS-Web and Patent Center and on the USPTO website at www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/forms/forms-patent-applications-filed-or-after-september-16-2012. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has reviewed and approved the collection of information involved in this pilot program, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), as part of a collection identified by OMB control number 0651-0079. Collection 0651-0079 is available at OMB's Information Collection Review website, www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. No fee for the combined petition to make special under 37 CFR 1.102 is required for participation in the Expanded CSP program.

III. Filing a Combined Petition Form

If opting to use a combined petition form, applicants must file a completed combined petition form (PTO/437-JP or