

and to enhance the abundance and diversity of reef resources; (3) protection of critical spawning stock and fishing size-class recruits from overfishing, thus helping to ensure the continued abundance of fishery resources; and (4) improvement of opportunities for research on and monitoring of a coral reef ecosystem reference site. Disadvantages include displacement of fishing effort to other areas with associated crowding and possible short-term loss of revenues for commercial fishermen. The Generic Amendment would amend, as necessary, the Council's FMPs for stone crab, shrimp, corals, spiny lobster, coastal migratory pelagics, reef fish, and red drum.

The Council intends to prepare a DSEIS covering the expected environmental impacts of the Generic Amendment. The DSEIS would supplement the environmental reviews conducted previously by the Council and NMFS for each of the Council's FMPs. It is noted that the Council intends to assess, within its DSEIS, the expected environmental impacts of a management alternative prohibiting all fishing, including fishing for HMS.

Scoping Process

The FKNMS established a working group (Tortugas 2000) in 1998 consisting of representatives of various user groups that may be impacted by the establishment of a marine reserve in the Tortugas region. This working group conducted several public meetings in 1998 and 1999. Furthermore, the FKNMS held public hearings on the proposed marine reserve in 1998 and 1999 throughout Florida and in Washington, DC. Because of these previous opportunities for public input, the Council has scheduled no scoping meetings for the DSEIS for the Generic Amendment. However, the Council is requesting written comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DSEIS.

Timetable for DSEIS Preparation and Decisionmaking Schedule

The Council intends to accept public comments on the completed DSEIS, prepare a final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS), and submit the FSEIS to NMFS when it submits the final Generic Amendment for agency review, approval, and implementation, as provided by procedures of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council intends to hold public hearings on the Draft Generic Amendment/DSEIS in June 2000; the specific times and locations for these hearings will be

announced through publication of a separate **Federal Register** notice.

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

Dated: March 23, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032200C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to hold a work session that is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2000 and Friday, April 21, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, Room D-203, La Jolla, CA.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council, (503) 326-6352; or Dr. Doyle Hanan, California Department of Fish and Game, (619) 546-7170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this work session is to initiate several analyses requested by the Council. These include: (1) establish a capacity goal for the coastal pelagic species (CPS) finfish fishery and analyze transferability of CPS limited entry permits; (2) address disapproved portions of the CPS fishery management plan—develop alternatives for specifying maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for market squid, and management alternatives for assessing bycatch in CPS fisheries and measures to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality in CPS fisheries; (3) initiate the 2000 stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) process for the CPS fishery, including preparation of the CPS SAFE

document and consideration of developing a process to review Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel stock assessments.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the CPSMT meeting agenda may come before the CPSMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal CPSMT action during this meetings. CPSMT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 CPSMT'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 Mr. John Rhoton at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 22, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 000317075-0075-01]

RIN 0651-XX22

Public Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for nominations.

SUMMARY: On November 29, 1999, the President signed into law the Patent and Trademark Office Efficiency Act, Public Law 106-113, Title VI, Subtitle G, which, among other things, established Public Advisory Committees to review the policies, goals, performance, budget and user fees of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with respect to patents, in the case of the Patent Public Advisory Committee; and with respect to trademarks in the case of the Trademark Public Advisory Committee. To implement these statutory changes, the USPTO is requesting nominations for members to these Committees.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted on or before April 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to submit nominations should send the nominee's resume to Nicholas Flagler by electronic mail to nicholas.flagler@uspto.gov; by facsimile transmission marked to his attention at (703) 305-8664, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to the Office of the Commissioner, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicholas Flagler by telephone at (703) 305-8600, by electronic mail to nicholas.flagler@uspto.gov, by facsimile transmission marked to his attention at (703) 305-8664, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to the Office of the Commissioner, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Patent and Trademark Office Efficiency Act, the Secretary of Commerce must appoint members of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees by June 29, 2000. The Advisory Committees will:

- Review and advise the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on matters relating to policies, goals, performance, budget, and user fees of patents and trademarks, respectively; and
- Within 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, (1) prepare an annual report of the matters listed above, (2) transmit the report to the Secretary of Commerce, the President, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and (3) publish the report in the Official Gazette of the USPTO.

Members of the Patent and Trademark Advisory Committees will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary will designate a chair of each Advisory Committee, whose term as chair will be for 3 years. In making appointments to each Committee, the Secretary shall consider the risk of loss of competitive advantage in international commerce or other harm to U.S. companies as a result of such appointments.

Advisory Committees

The Patent Public Advisory Committee will be composed of nine voting members who represent small and large entity applicants located in the United States. The composition of the Advisory Committee will be proportional to the number of applications filed by small and large entity applicants. However, in no case will members who represent small entity patent applicants (e.g., small businesses, independent inventors, and

non-profit organizations) constitute less than 25 percent of the Patent Public Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will include at least one independent inventor and will include individuals with substantial experience and achievement in finance, management, labor relations, science, technology, and office automation.

The Trademark Public Advisory Committee will be composed of nine voting members and will include individuals with substantial experience and achievement in finance, management, labor relations, science, technology, and office automation.

In addition to the voting members, each Advisory Committee will include a representative of each labor organization recognized by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Such representatives will be non-voting members of the Advisory Committee.

Procedures and Guidelines of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees

Each appointed member of the Patent and Trademark Advisory Committees will serve for a term of 3 years, with one-third of the members rotating out each year. Therefore, of the members first appointed, three will be appointed to a term of 1 year, and three will be appointed for a term of 2 years.

As required by the Act, members of the Patent and Trademark Advisory Committees will receive compensation for each day, including travel time, while the member is attending meetings or engaged in the business of that Advisory Committee. The rate of compensation is the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code. While away from home or regular place of business, each member will be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office will provide the necessary administrative support, including technical assistance, for the Committees. Members of each Advisory Committee will be provided access to records and information in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, except for personnel or other privileged information, and information concerning patent applications required to be kept in confidence by section 122.

Applicability of Certain Ethics Laws

Members of each Public Advisory Committee shall be special Government employees within the meaning of

section 202 of title 18, United States Code. The following additional information assumes that members are not engaged in Public Advisory Committee business more than sixty days each calendar year:

- Each member will have to file a confidential financial disclosure form upon appointment. 5 CFR 2634.202(c), 2634.204, 2634.903, and 2634.904(b).
- Each member will be subject to many of the public integrity laws, including criminal bars against representing a party, 18 USC 203(c), or acting where the United States has an interest, 18 USC 205(c), in a particular matter that came before the member's committee and that involved at least one specific party. See also 18 USC 207 for post-membership bars. A member also must not act on a matter in which the member (or any of certain closely related entities) has a financial interest. 18 USC 208.
- Representation of foreign interests may also raise issues. 35 USC 5(a)(1) and 18 USC 219.

Meetings of the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees

Meetings of each Advisory Committee will take place at the call of the chair to consider an agenda set by the chair. Meetings may be conducted in person, electronically through the Internet, or by other appropriate means. The meetings of each Advisory Committee will be open to the public except each Advisory Committee may, by majority vote, meet in executive session when considering personnel or other confidential matters. Nominees must also be available and have the ability to participate in Committee business through the Internet.

Procedure for Submitting Nominations

Submit resumes for nominations for the Patent Public Advisory Committee and the Trademark Public Advisory Committee to Nicholas Flagler (see **ADDRESSES**). Each nominee must (1) be a citizen of the United States, and (2) represent the interests of at least some of the diverse USPTO users, e.g., either a large or small entity located in the United States, including—if the nominee represents small entity interests—small businesses, independent inventors, or nonprofit organizations.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

Q. Todd Dickinson,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.
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