

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042905A]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Oversight Committee in May, 2005. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The 2-day meeting will held on May 23, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. and May 24, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Groundfish Oversight Committee will hold a 2-day meeting to identify measures for the biennial adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The schedule for this meeting is shown below. Members of the public are cautioned that the Committee may deviate from this schedule, if necessary, in order to complete its work. While the Committee will make every effort to adhere to the agenda, topics may be discussed at different times, or on different days, than planned.

Tentatively identified as Framework Adjustment 42, the biennial adjustment will consider a number of groundfish management issues, including any changes to measures necessary to achieve Amendment 13 mortality objectives, revisions to existing Special Access Programs (SAPs), a review of the days-at-sea (DAS) leasing program, a review of the Category B (regular) DAS Pilot Projects, and other issues. The Council will review Committee recommendations at an initial framework meeting that will be held at the June 21-23, 2005 Council meeting.

Final decisions by the Council will take place at the November 15-17, 2005 Council meeting. If approved, management measures are scheduled to be implemented on May 1, 2006.

*Monday, May 23, 2005:* Modifications to existing SAPs (such as changing the time, error, or haddock catch in the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP, changing measures in the Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP and the Closed Area II yellowtail flounder SAP, etc.), options for the DAS leasing program, receipt of a report on the recently held meetings to address safety in the groundfish fishery, and review of draft management measures already approved by the Council for inclusion in this action.

*Tuesday, May 24, 2005:* Consideration of options for addressing the concern that vessels fishing with handgear while using DAS could not meet the qualification criteria for DAS allocations under Amendment 13, recommendations to reduce bycatch of haddock, a proposal for a gillnet sector, and a preliminary review of landings statistics for calendar and fishing year 2005 (if available).

Other business may be discussed by the Committee if time is available.

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 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 29, 2005.

**Peter H. Fricke,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 05-8859 Filed 5-3-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office****Patent Examiner Employment Application—Job Application Rating System (JARS) (Formerly Electronic Application for Patent Examiners—Job Application Rating System (JARS))**

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

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the submission of an extension of a currently approved collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 5, 2005.

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

- E-mail: [Susan.Brown@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Brown@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0042 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 571-273-0221; marked to the attention of Susan Brown.
- Mail: Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Theresa Hall, Supervisor, Patent Branch, Office of Human Resources, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria, VA 22314; by telephone at 571-272-6144; or by e-mail to [Theresa.Hall@uspto.gov](mailto:Theresa.Hall@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Job Application Rating System (JARS) is a system by which the USPTO can rapidly review applications for employment of entry-level patent examiners. The Office of Human Resources (OHR), armed with a recommendation from a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) can, in turn, rapidly make an offer of employment and support hiring actions with necessary administrative action. Over the past three fiscal years, JARS has enabled the Patent Corps to hire more than 1,600 entry-level patent examiners.

Since the inception of JARS, upgrades have increased the flexibility of the system and the speed and ease with which the Office of Human Resources can support hiring recommendations.

Specifically, JARS allows applicants to update personal information without submitting a new application. Additional form letters and reports are available, date tracking of previous employment is significantly improved; and status tracking improvements enable users to tell who has previously updated the record and when. Future enhancements will allow JARS to collect demographic data, upgrade the Windows server from 2000 to 2003, migrate JARS to a J2EE environment, perform pre-employment testing, provide integration with Recruitment One-Stop (e-Government Initiative), and allow for category ranking. The above upgrades to JARS will begin in FY 05 and extend to FY 07. These enhancements and upgrades will increase and improve the capabilities of the JARS system.

In the current employment environment, information technology professionals and engineering graduates are in great demand. The USPTO is in direct competition with private industry for the same caliber of candidates with the requisite knowledge and skills to perform patent examination work. Consequently, it is imperative that every available technology be employed if the USPTO is to remain competitive, meet the hiring goal, and fulfill the agency's congressional commitment to reduce the pendency rate for the examination of patent applications. The information supplied to the USPTO by an applicant seeking a patent examiner position with the USPTO assists the Human Resources Specialists and hiring managers in determining whether an applicant possesses the basic qualification requirements for the patent examiner position.

JARS provides the USPTO a user-friendly on-line employment application process for applicants and enables the USPTO to process hiring actions in an efficient and timely manner. The on-line application provides an electronic real-time candidate inventory that allows the USPTO to review applications from potential applicants almost instantaneously. Given the immediate hiring need of the Patent Examining Corps, time consumed in the mail distribution system or paper review of applications delays the decision-making process by several weeks. The JARS system results in increased speed and accuracy in the employment process, in addition to streamlining labor and reducing costs.

The use of the JARS on-line application fully complies with 5 U.S.C. 2301, which requires adequate public notice to assure open competition by guaranteeing that necessary employment information will be accessible and available to the public on inquiry. The JARS on-line application is fully compliant with Section 508 (29 U.S.C. 794(d)), which requires agencies to provide disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

Since the JARS on-line application is used as an alternative form of employment application, the collection and use of the information requires OMB approval as outlined in Section 5.1 of the Delegated Examining Operations Handbook. The Handbook provides guidance to agencies under a delegated examining authority by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM),

under the provisions of Title 5, U.S. Code, Chapter 11, Section 1104.

**II. Method of Collection**

The application information is collected electronically from the applicant. The application form may be completed on-line and then transmitted to the USPTO electronically, via the Internet. For those applicants who do not have access to a personal computer, applications are available in the Personnel Office at the USPTO, or the applicant can go to the local library to complete an application.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-0042.

*Form Number(s):* PTO-2041.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; farms; the Federal Government; and State, local or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,000 responses per year.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 30 minutes to complete the employment application, depending upon the situation. There is one form associated with this information collection, Form PTO-2041.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 3,500 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$110,250. Using the median hourly rate for scientists and engineers of \$31.50, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the USPTO estimates \$110,250 per year for salary costs associated with respondents. This is a fully loaded rate.

Item	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Patent Examiner Employment Application .....	30 minutes ..	7,000	3,500
Total .....	.....	7,000	3,500

*Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) Respondent Cost Burden:* \$4,200. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, or record keeping costs, as well as no filing fees associated with this information collection. However, this collection does have annual (non-hour) costs in the form of postage costs.

Not every applicant can supply all of the required information electronically. For example, in order to apply for a patent examiner position, the applicant must possess a minimum of a bachelor degree. A resume and an official college

or university transcript must be submitted separately with this application and mailed to the USPTO. The college or university transcript must be an official/original copy and include the university stamp or seal. When responding to the veteran's preference claim field, additional information may be required. The applicant may be required to submit Form DD214 or SF-15, which must be completed separately and either mailed, faxed or delivered to the USPTO. The OF-306 (Declaration of Federal

Employment) and the SF-85 (Security Background Information) must be printed, signed and dated, and provided to the USPTO via mail prior to reporting for duty. These additional required documents may be submitted to the USPTO by first-class mail through the United States Postal Service. The USPTO estimates that the average first-class postage is 60 cents. Therefore, the USPTO estimates that it will receive 7,000 responses to the JARS on-line application per year, for a total cost of

\$4,200 (7,000 × \$0.60 = \$4,200) in postage fees.

#### IV. Request for Comments

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 the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 27, 2005.

**Susan K. Brown,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division.*

[FR Doc. 05-8879 Filed 5-3-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

#### COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

##### Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China

April 28, 2005.

**AGENCY:** The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (the Committee)

**ACTION:** Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of men's and boys' cotton and man-made fiber shirts, not knit (Category 340/640).

**SUMMARY:** On April 6, 2005, the Committee received a request from the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, and UNITE HERE requesting that the Committee limit imports from China of men's and boys' cotton and man-made fiber shirts, not knit (Category 340/640). They request that a textile and apparel safeguard action, as provided for in the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of

China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement), be taken on imports of such shirts. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of such shirts are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in this product. Comments must be submitted by June 3, 2005 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jay Dowling, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Section 204 of the Agriculture Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order 11651, as amended.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (Accession Agreement) provides that, if a WTO Member, such as the United States, believes that imports of Chinese origin textile and apparel products are, "due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products", it may request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding the disruption. Pursuant to this provision, if the United States requests consultations with China, it must, at the time of the request, provide China with a detailed factual statement showing (1) the existence or threat of market disruption; and (2) the role of products of Chinese origin in that disruption. Beginning on the date that it receives such a request, China must restrict its shipments to the United States to a level no greater than 7.5 percent (6 percent for wool product categories) above the amount entered during the first 12 months of the most recent 14 months preceding the month in which the request was made.

On April 6, 2005, the Committee received a request that an Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard action be taken on imports from China of men's and boys' cotton and man-made fiber shirts, not knit (Category 340/640). The Committee has determined that this request provides the information necessary for the Committee to consider the request in light of the considerations set forth in the Procedures. In this case, the Committee notes that imports from China of men's and boys' cotton and

man-made fiber shirts, not knit (Category 340/640) have increased from 500,713 dozen in the first quarter of 2004 to 1,925,762 dozen in the first quarter of 2005 (includes preliminary data for 2005). The text of the request is reproduced in full below.

The Committee is soliciting public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of such shirts are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in this product.

Comments may be submitted by any interested person. Comments must be received no later than June 3, 2005. Interested persons are invited to submit ten copies of such comments to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

If a comment alleges that there is no market disruption or that the subject imports are not the cause of market disruption, the Committee will closely review any supporting information and documentation, such as information about domestic production or prices of like or directly competitive products. Particular consideration will be given to comments representing the views of actual producers in the United States of a like or directly competitive product.

The Committee will protect any business confidential information that is marked "business confidential" from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. To the extent that business confidential information is provided, two copies of a non-confidential version must also be provided in which business confidential information is summarized or, if necessary, deleted. Comments received, with the exception of information marked "business confidential", will be available for inspection between Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m and 5:30 p.m in the Trade Reference and Assistance Center Help Desk, Suite 800M, USA Trade Information Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, (202) 482-3433.

The Committee expects to make a determination within 60 calendar days of the close of the comment period as to whether the United States will request consultations with China. If, however, the Committee is unable to make a determination within 60 calendar days, it will cause to be published a notice in the **Federal Register**, including the date by which it will make a determination. If the Committee makes a negative determination, it will cause this