

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Narragansett Town Hall, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, RI 02882; telephone: (401) 789-1044; fax: (401) 783-9637.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The panel will review the strength and weaknesses of current and future scallop surveys, as well as hear plans for the new NMFS survey vessel, the RV Bigelow. The panel also will review the terms of reference to set short and long-term goals and objectives. Other issues related to the sea scallop surveys and their use in the management process may be discussed.

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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 14, 2006.

**James P. Burgess,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-5903 Filed 4-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket Number: 06041100-6100-01]

#### Science Advisory Board; The Preliminary Report of the External Review of NOAA's Ecosystem Research and Science Enterprise Panel

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA Research (OAR) publishes this notice on behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to announce the availability of the preliminary report of the External Review of NOAA's Ecosystem Research and Science Enterprise panel (here called the External Ecosystem Task Team) for public comment. The preliminary report of the External Ecosystem Task Team is compiled pursuant to the request from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to the SAB to conduct an external review of NOAA's ecosystem research and science enterprise.

**DATES:** Comments on this draft must be submitted by the close of business May 22, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The Preliminary Report of the External Ecosystem Task Team will be available on the NOAA Science Advisory Board Web site at [http://www.sab.noaa.gov/reports/prelim\\_eett0306.pdf](http://www.sab.noaa.gov/reports/prelim_eett0306.pdf).

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically to [noaa.sab.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.sab.comments@noaa.gov). For commenters who do not have access to a computer, comments may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) c/o Dr. Cynthia Decker, Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 3, Room 11117, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11117, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-9121, Fax: 301-713-3515, E-mail: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov)) during normal business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The preliminary report will be posted on the SAB Web site. The SAB is seeking public comment from all interested parties. This preliminary report is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated where appropriate.

The preliminary report of the External Ecosystem Task Team is compiled pursuant to the request from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to the SAB to conduct an external review of NOAA's ecosystem

research and science enterprise. This review addresses questions and drafts recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the mix of scientific activities conducted and/or sponsored by NOAA to its mission and on the organization of NOAA ecosystem research and science enterprise. The SAB is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with the responsibility to advise the Under Secretary on long- and short-term strategies for research, education, and application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the report. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the report, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the draft report, please propose specific remedies.

Please follow these instructions for preparing and submitting a review. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the processing of reviewer comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. Please provide background information about yourself on the first page of your comments: your name(s), organization(s), area(s) of expertise, mailing address(es), telephone and fax numbers, email address(es). Overview comments on the section should follow your background information and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs or lines of the section should follow any overview comments and should identify the page numbers to which they apply. Please number all pages and place your name at the top of each page.

Dated: April 13, 2006.

**Stephen B. Brandt,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. E6-5904 Filed 4-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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## PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### Customer Panel Quality Survey

**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 take this opportunity to

comment on this new information 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 June 19, 2006.

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

- E-mail: [Susan.Brown@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Brown@uspto.gov). Include "0651-00xx Customer Panel Quality Survey" in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Brown.

- Mail: Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Martin Rater, Management Analyst, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone 571-272-5966; by facsimile at 571-273-5966; or by e-mail at [martin.rater@uspto.gov](mailto:martin.rater@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

For over the past 10 years, the USPTO has used surveys to obtain customer feedback regarding the products, services, and related service standards of the USPTO. The USPTO used the data to measure how well the agency is meeting established customer service standards, to identify any disjoints between customer expectations and USPTO performance, and to develop improvement strategies. Typically, these surveys ask customers to express their satisfaction with the USPTO's products and services based upon their interactions with the agency as a whole over a 12 month period.

To obtain further data concerning customer ratings of the USPTO's

services, service standards, and performance, the USPTO has developed the proposed Customer Panel Quality Survey. This study will narrow the focus of customer satisfaction to examination quality and will use a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions and to identify key areas for examiner training and opportunities for improvement. All patent agents and attorneys who have been registered to practice before the USPTO for longer than one year and who belong to a company or firm that has filed six or more patents in the past year will be eligible for the study. The study will also include independent inventors who have filed six or more patents in the past year. The USPTO will draw a random sample of these customers from their database. Due to the rotating panel design, some sample members will be surveyed twice in order to measure change over a period of time. Each year of the survey will include four waves of data collection.

The Customer Panel Quality Survey is a mail survey, although respondents also have the option to complete the survey electronically on the Web. The content of both versions will be identical. A survey packet containing the questionnaire, a separate cover letter prepared by the Commissioner of Patents, a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope, and instructions for completing the survey electronically will be mailed to all sample members. A pre-notification letter, reminder/thank you postcards, and telephone calls will be used to encourage response from the sample members.

This is a voluntary survey and all responses will remain confidential. The collected data will not be linked to the respondent and contact information that is used for sampling purposes will be maintained in a separate file from the quantitative data. Respondents are not required to provide any identifying information such as their name, address, or Social Security Number. In order to access and complete the online survey,

respondents will need to use the username and password provided by the USPTO.

**II. Method of Collection**

By mail, or electronically over the Internet if respondents choose to complete the survey online.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-00xx.

*Form Number(s):* N/A.

*Type of Review:* New information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; and state, local, or tribal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,168 responses per year. Out of a sample size of 2,842 for each wave of data collection, the USPTO estimates that 792 completed surveys will be received. Each year of the survey will include four waves of data collection with an estimated 3,168 completed surveys received. Of this total, the USPTO estimates that 70% or 2,218 surveys will be returned by mail and that 30% or 950 surveys will be completed using the online option.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately 10 minutes (0.17 hours) to complete either the paper or online version of this survey. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, complete the request, and submit it to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 539 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$154,154 per year. The USPTO believes that patent attorneys will be responding to these surveys. Using the professional hourly rate of \$286 for associate attorneys in private firms, the USPTO estimates that the salary costs for the respondents completing these surveys will be \$154,154 per year.

Item	Estimated time for response (min)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Customer Panel Quality Survey (paper) .....	10	2,218	377
Customer Panel Quality Survey (electronic) .....	10	950	162
Total .....	.....	3,168	539

*Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0 per year.

There are no capital start-up, maintenance, operation, or

recordkeeping costs, nor are there any filing fees associated with this

information collection. The USPTO covers the costs of all survey materials and provides postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for the completed mail surveys.

#### 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, e.g., 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 also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 13, 2006.

**Susan K. Brown,**

*Records Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division.*

[FR Doc. E6-5929 Filed 4-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. 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 burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and

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

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 19, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail: Federal Docket Management System Office, 1160 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1160.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (Program Integration) (Legal Policy), ATTN: LTC Gingras, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000, or call at (703) 697-3387; facsimile (703) 693-6708.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB*

*Control Number:* Application for Review of Discharge or Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States; DD Form 293; OMB Control Number 0704-0004.

*Needs and Uses:* Former members of the Armed Forces who received an administrative discharge have the right to appeal the characterization or reason for separation. Title 10 of the U.S.C., Section 1553, and DoD Directive 1332.28 established a Board of Review consisting of five members to review appeals of former members of the Armed Forces. The DD Form 293, *Application for Review of Discharge or Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States*, provides the respondent a vehicle to present to the Board their reasons/justifications for a discharge upgrade as well as providing the Services the basic data needed to process the appeal.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 6,000.

*Number of Respondents:* 8,000.  
*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.  
*Average Burden Per Response:* 45 minutes.

*Frequency:* One-time.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Summary of Information Collection

Under Title 10 U.S.C., Section 1553, the Secretary of a Military Department established a Board of Review, consisting of five members, to review appeals of former members of the Armed Forces. This information collection allows an applicant to request a change in the type of military discharge issued. Applicants are former members of the Armed Forces who have been discharged or dismissed (other than a discharge or dismissal by sentence of a general court-martial), or if the former member is deceased or incompetent, the surviving spouse, next-of-kin, or legal representative who is acting on behalf of the former member. The DD Form 293, *Application for Review of Discharge or Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States*, provides the former member an avenue to present to their respective Service Discharge Review Board their reasons/justifications for a discharge upgrade as well as providing the Services the basic data needed to process the appeal.

Dated: April 11, 2006.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 06-3771 Filed 4-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[No. DoD-2006-OS-0004]

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 22, 2006.

*Title and OMB Number:* Marine Corps Marathon Race Applications; OMB Control Number 0703-TBD.

*Type of Request:* New.

*Number of Respondents:* 31,739.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 31,739.