

Participation Requirements

All parties interested in participating in the Commercial Service Trade Mission to Colombia must complete and submit an application package for consideration by the Department of Commerce. All applicants will be evaluated on their ability to meet certain conditions and best satisfy the selection criteria as outlined below. A minimum of 6 and maximum of 11 companies with up to two participants per company will be selected to participate in the mission from the applicant pool. U.S. companies already doing business with Colombia, as well as U.S. companies seeking to enter the Colombian market for the first time may apply.

Fees and Expenses

After a company has been selected to participate on the mission, a payment to the Department of Commerce in the form of a participation fee is required. The participation fee will be \$2,500 for a small- or medium-sized enterprise (SME) * and \$3,250 for large firms. The fee for the additional firm representative (large firm or SME) is \$450. This entitles the company to one appointment schedule. Expenses for travel to and from Colombia, airfare between Bogota and Cartagena, lodging, incidentals and most meals will be the responsibility of each mission participant. Bus transportation from Cartagena to Barranquilla is included in the above cost. Bus transportation to Santa Marta is not included in the cost and will be at the participant's expense. Participants have the option of returning to the United States from Barranquilla or, if they participate in the mine site visit, from Cartagena.

Conditions for Participation

- An applicant must submit a completed and signed mission application and supplemental application materials, including adequate information on the company's products and/or services, primary market objectives, and goals for participation. If the Department of Commerce receives an incomplete application, the Department may reject the application, request additional information, or take the lack of

* An SME is defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees or that otherwise qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations (see http://www.sba.gov/services/contracting_opportunities/sizestandardstocps/index.html). Parent companies, affiliates, and subsidiaries will be considered when determining business size. The dual pricing reflects the Commercial Service's user fee schedule that became effective May 1, 2008 (for additional information see <http://www.export.gov/newsletter/march2008/initiatives.html>).

information into account when evaluating the applications.

- Each applicant must also certify that the products and services it seeks to export through the mission are either produced in the United States, or, if not, marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have at least 51 percent U.S. content of the value of the finished product or service.

Selection Criteria: Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of the company's products or services to the Colombian market.
- Applicant's potential for business in Colombia, including likelihood of exports resulting from the mission.
- Consistency of the applicant's goals and objectives with the stated scope of the mission.

Referrals from political organizations and any documents containing references to partisan political activities (including political contributions) will be removed from an applicant's submission and not considered during the selection process.

Timeframe for Recruitment and Applications

Mission recruitment will be conducted in an open and public manner. Outreach will include posting on the Commerce Department trade mission calendar (<http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm/tmcal.html>) and other Internet Web sites, press releases to general and trade media, direct mail, broadcast fax, notices by industry trade associations and other multiplier groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. The International Trade Administration will explore and welcome outreach assistance from other interested organizations, including other U.S. Government agencies.

The mission is open on a first come first served basis. Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and close as soon as 10 applicants have been selected and registered, and no later than February 16, 2009. Late applications will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit. Applications will be available from the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center. They can also be obtained by contacting the mission contact listed below.

Contacts

Brie Knox, New Orleans Export Assistance Center, U.S. Department of

Commerce, Tel: 504-589-6703, E-mail: Brie.Knox@mail.doc.gov.

Sean Timmins,

Global Trade Programs, Commercial Service Trade Missions Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, 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 proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 7, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, (907) 586-7008 or patsy.bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, the United States (U.S.) Congress included a directive to the Secretary of Commerce to establish, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, a pilot program for management of three rockfish fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) in the exclusive economic zone off the coast of Alaska. The Rockfish Pilot Program provides exclusive harvesting and processing privileges for a specific set of rockfish species and associated species harvested incidentally to those CGOA rockfish; an area from 140° W. long. to 168° W. long.

II. Method of Collection

Paper reports are required from participants; these reports are transmitted by U.S. mail or facsimile.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0545.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,142.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours each for: Application for Cooperative Quota, Application for Limited Access Fishery, Application for Entry-level Fishery, and Application to Opt-out; 2 hours for Application for Inter-Cooperative Transfer of Cooperative Quota and Application to Participate; 4 hours for Annual Rockfish Cooperative Report; 6 minutes for Rockfish Catch Report; 15 minutes for Cooperative Termination of Fishing Declaration; 30 minutes for Vessel Check-in and Check-out; and 4 hours for Appeals.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,270.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$5,909.

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 and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 2, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-2496 Filed 2-5-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Madrid Protocol

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 the revision of a continuing 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 April 7, 2009.

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

- *E-mail:* Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0051 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan K. Fawcett.
- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Customer Information Services Group, Public Information Services Division, 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 Jennifer Chicoski, Attorney Advisor, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA 22313-1451; by telephone at 571-272-8943; or by e-mail to Jennifer.Chicoski@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection of information is required by the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. 1051 *et seq.*, which provides for the Federal registration of trademarks, service marks, collective trademarks and service marks, collective membership marks, and certification marks. Individuals and businesses that use or intend to use such marks in commerce may file an application to register the marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

The Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks ("Madrid Protocol") is an international treaty that

allows a trademark owner to seek registration in any of the participating countries by filing a single international application. The International Bureau ("IB") of the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO") in Geneva, Switzerland, administers the international registration system. The Madrid Protocol Implementation Act of 2002 amended the Trademark Act to provide that: (1) The owner of a U.S. application or registration may seek protection of its mark in any of the participating countries by submitting a single international application to the IB through the USPTO, and (2) the holder of an international registration may request an extension of protection of the international registration to the United States. The Madrid Protocol became effective in the United States on November 2, 2003, and is implemented under 15 U.S.C. 1141 *et seq.* and 37 CFR Part 2 and Part 7.

An international application submitted through the USPTO must be based on an active U.S. application or registration and must be filed by the owner of the application or registration. The USPTO reviews the international application to certify that it corresponds to the data contained in the existing U.S. application or registration before forwarding the international application to the IB. The IB then reviews the international application to determine whether the Madrid filing requirements have been met and the required fees have been paid. If the international application is unacceptable, the IB will send a notice of irregularity to the USPTO and the applicant. The applicant must respond to the irregularities to avoid abandonment, unless a response from the USPTO is required. After any irregularities are corrected and the application is accepted, the IB registers the mark, publishes the registration in the *WIPO Gazette of International Marks*, and sends a certificate to the holder.

When the mark is registered, the IB notifies each country designated in the application of the request for extension of protection. Once an international registration has been issued, the holder may also file subsequent designations to request an extension of protection to additional countries.

Under Section 71 of the Trademark Act, a registered extension of protection to the United States will be cancelled unless the holder of the international registration periodically files affidavits of continued use in commerce or excusable nonuse. These affidavits cannot be filed until five years after the USPTO registers an extension of protection. Since the USPTO will not be