

The meeting will be webcast to allow the public to watch and hear presentations. Comments will not be accepted via webcast or teleconference.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, (907) 271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 14, 2012.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-20216 Filed 8-16-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Hearings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public hearings to allow for public input on Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., EST, on September 24, 2012. The public hearings will be held on September 4, 5, and 6, 2012, starting at 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearings will be held, in chronological order, as follows: September 4, 2012 at the Magnuson Hotel Norfolk Airport, 5708 Northampton Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455, telephone: (757) 460-2205; September 5, 2012 at The Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, telephone: (609) 481-6100; and September 6, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn Providence Airport/Warwick, One Thuber Street, Warwick, RI 02886, telephone: (401) 734-9600. Written comments should be mailed to the Council office at the address below and marked "AMENDMENT 3." The public hearing document can be obtained by contacting the Council at the address below or at <http://www.mafmc.org/fmp/dogfish/dogfish.htm>.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State St.,

Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D. Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Amendment 3 addresses four management issues related to management of the spiny dogfish fishery in Atlantic federal waters. Specifically, the Amendment addresses (1) adding an option for allocating a small portion of the annual commercial quota as research set-aside, (2) reviewing and updating essential fish habitat (EFH) for spiny dogfish, (3) maintaining previous year annual management measures in case of a delay in the implementation of new annual measures, and (4) modifying the existing seasonal allocation of the annual quota to minimize conflicts with the geographically allocated interstate fishery.

Summaries of the proposed actions will be available and presented at the hearings. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the proposed actions is available by contacting the Council office at <http://www.mafmc.org/fmp/dogfish/dogfish.htm> after August 31st. If no one from the public has arrived half an hour after the hearing start time, the hearing may be closed. Some GPS navigation units may provide faulty directions for these locations so call ahead with the number provided if unfamiliar with a hearing location. All hearings will be digitally recorded and saved as transcripts of the hearing.

#### Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: August 14, 2012.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-C-2011-0041]

#### Extension of the Application Deadline for Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In February 2012, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced the Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program, which recognizes patent holders who use their technology for humanitarian purposes. In response to stakeholder feedback, the USPTO is extending the deadline for applications to the Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program by two months until October 31, 2012, to allow potential applicants more time to complete their applications.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* August 17, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of Policy and External Affairs, by telephone at (571) 272-9300; or by mail addressed to: Patents for Humanity Program, Office of Policy and External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; or by email to [patentsforhumanity@uspto.gov](mailto:patentsforhumanity@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In February, the USPTO initiated a pilot program which recognizes patent holders who use their technology for humanitarian purposes, called the Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program ("the Pilot", also known as Patents for Humanity). *See Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program*, 77 FR 6544 (Feb. 8, 2012). The original deadline for applications to the Pilot was August 31, 2012, with selection and awards to follow.

While conducting outreach to our user community we have received much feedback on the Pilot, including a number of requests to extend the deadline for filing applications past August 31. Among the reasons given, applicants have said that they are engaged in qualifying work which will not be complete before the deadline; or they do not have enough time to complete an application before the deadline.

In response to these requests, the USPTO is extending the application deadline for the Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program until October 31, 2012. After the application deadline, selections will be made as described in