

for full details on the monitoring and reporting proposed by the Navy.

Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the Navy's request (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the Navy, if appropriate.

Dated: January 29, 2019.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-00632 Filed 1-31-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG642

Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of revised referendum voting period.

SUMMARY: On December 3, 2018, NMFS issued a notice to announce the voting period for the proposed second fishing capacity reduction program loan in the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery and inform persons of their eligibility to vote. This notice informs the public of the revised referendum voting period due to the lapse in appropriations. The referendum, if approved, will result in a loan of \$10.1 million and permanently retire an additional 36 permits from the fishery.

DATES: The referendum voting period will now start on February 4, 2018 and end on March 6, 2019. Any votes not received by NMFS by 5 p.m. on March 6, 2019, will not be counted.

ADDRESSES: Send questions about this notice to Michael A. Sturtevant, Acting Chief, Financial Services Division, NMFS, Attn: SE Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Buyback, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine Saiz at (301) 427-8752, fax (301) 713-1306, or elaine.saiz@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Southeast Alaska purse seine salmon fishery is a commercial fishery in Alaska state waters and adjacent Federal waters. It encompasses the commercial taking of salmon with purse seine gear, and participation is limited to fishermen designated by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Congress authorized a \$23.5 million loan to finance a fishing capacity reduction program in the Southeast Alaska purse seine salmon fishery. NMFS published proposed program regulations on May 23, 2011 (76 FR 29707), and final program regulations on October 6, 2011 (76 FR 61986), to implement the reduction program. Interested persons should review these documents for further program details.

In 2012, NMFS conducted a referendum to determine the remaining fishermen's willingness to repay a \$13.1 million fishing capacity reduction loan to remove 64 permits. After a majority of permit holders approved the loan, NMFS disbursed payments to the successful bidders and began collecting fees to repay the loan. Since only \$13.1 million was expended from the total loan amount, \$10.4 million remains available. This referendum, if approved, will result in a loan of \$10.1 million and permanently retire an additional 36 permits from the fishery.

In June, 2018, the Southeast Revitalization Association submitted a capacity reduction plan to NMFS and NMFS approved the plan in November, 2018. As of November 16, 2018, there are 315 permits in the fishery designated as S01A by CFEC. In accordance with the final regulations, NMFS published the notice on December 3, 2018 (83 FR 62302). The original voting period was to start January 15, 2019 and end on February 14, 2019. Due to the lapse in appropriations we have revised voting period to the new dates.

II. Referendum Voting Period

The referendum voting period will start February 4, 2019, and end on March 6, 2019. Any votes not received by NMFS by 5 p.m. on March 6, 2019, will not be counted.

Dated: January 29, 2019.

Brian T. Pawlak,

CFO/Director, Office of Management and Budget, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-00679 Filed 1-31-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; "International Work Sharing"

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: International Work Sharing.

OMB Control Number: 0651-0079.

Form Number(s):

- PTO/SB/437
- PTO/SB/CSP Survey 1

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 300 responses per year.

Average Hours per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately between 5 minutes (0.08 hours) and 3 hours to complete the information in this collection, including the time to gather the necessary information, prepare the forms or documents, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Burden Hours: 462 hours per year.

Cost Burden: \$0 per year.

Needs and Uses: The public who uses this information collection are applicants who file applications in the USPTO, JPO, and KIPO. They do so in order to participate in the International Work Sharing Program. The Program enables its participants to engage in the exchange of IP documents between the United States, Japan, and Korea to facilitate efficient worldwide patent examinations.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publically available in electronic format through www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- **Email:** InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0079 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division

Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before March 4, 2019 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov, or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,

Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-00610 Filed 1-31-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Patents External Quality Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 2, 2019.

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

- *Email: InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include '0651-0057 comment' in the subject line of the message.*

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

- *Mail: Marcie Lovett, Director, Records and Information Governance Division, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to David Fitzpatrick, Management Analyst, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-0525; or by email to David.Fitzpatrick@USPTO.GOV, with "0651-0057 comment" in the subject line. Additional information about this

collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The USPTO developed the Patents External Quality Survey in 2006 as part of its quality improvement efforts. This survey gauges customer satisfaction with respect to examination quality. It uses a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions, identify areas for improvement, and pinpoint key areas for additional examiner training. Participants of this survey include patent agents, attorneys, and other individuals from large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-size businesses, and universities and other non-profit research organizations. The USPTO also plans to survey independent inventors. The USPTO does not survey foreign entities.

From the Patent Application and Location Management (PALM) database, the USPTO draws a random sample of firms and entities that have filed more than 6 patent applications in a 12-month period. These firms and entities typically represent 95% of total domestic patent applications filed over the same period. The Patents External Quality Survey uses a rotating panel design in order to measure changes in the quality of USPTO's work over time. Customers participate in two consecutive data collection periods (waves) before rotating out of the panel. Each wave is conducted over a two month period. One wave occurs during the months of January and February and the other wave occurs during July and August. The rotating panel design means that for each wave, 50 percent of the panel have participated in a prior wave and 50 percent are being surveyed for the first time. At the next panel rotation, the 50 percent of customers who have participated in two consecutive waves will be dropped, and the panel will be refreshed.

Respondents receive the Patents External Quality Survey by mail and can respond either by mail or electronically on the USPTO website. A survey packet containing the questionnaire, a separate cover letter prepared by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope, and instructions for

completing the survey electronically are mailed to all respondents. A pre-notification letter, reminder/thank you postcards, and telephone calls are used to encourage a response.

This is a voluntary survey and all responses remain confidential. The collected data is not linked to the respondent, and contact information that is used for sampling purposes is 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. Instead, in order to access and complete the online survey, respondents must use the username, password, and survey ID number provided by the USPTO.

II. Method of Collection

Electronically via email; by postal mail, facsimile, or hand delivery in paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0057.

IC Instruments and Forms: No forms.

Type of Review: Extension of an existing information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,500 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public 10 minutes (.17 hours) to respond to the survey, including the time to gather the necessary information along with completing and submitting the survey. The time per response, estimated annual responses, and estimated annual hour burden associated with each instrument in this collection are shown in the table below.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 416.67 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: \$182,501.46. The USPTO expects that attorneys will complete these applications. The professional hourly rate for attorneys is \$438. The rate is established by estimates in the 2017 Report on the Economic Survey, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$182,501.46 per year.