

policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Authority: The requested permits have been issued under the MMPA of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), as applicable.

Dated: September 14, 2020.

Julia Marie Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2020–20495 Filed 9–16–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA493]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 1-day meeting via webinar of its Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place via webinar; you may register by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the Advisory Panel meeting on the calendar.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org, telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, October 6, 2020; 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EDT

The meeting will begin with Introductions and Adoption of Agenda, and review of Scope of Work. The AP will review presentations, documents, Draft Reef Fish Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Targets, SEDAR 67: Gulf of

Mexico Vermilion Snapper Stock Assessment, SEDAR 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Stock Assessment, Gray Triggerfish Interim Analysis, and Draft Reef Fish Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Annual Catch Limit.

The AP will review a Public Hearing Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs, receive a presentation on *Testing assumptions about sex change and spatial management in the protogynous gag grouper, Mycteroperca microlepis*; and, receive public comments.

—Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and clicking on the AP meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on www.gulfcouncil.org as they become available.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Advisory Panel will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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

Dated: September 14, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–20535 Filed 9–16–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2020–0036]

Deferred-Fee Provisional Patent Application Pilot Program and Collaboration Database To Encourage Inventions Related To COVID–19

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Patents and published patent applications provide a key source of free-flowing technical information among the world's brightest minds, thus promoting further innovation. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) recognizes that its charge to issue high-quality patents to inventors goes hand-in-hand with dissemination of this important information. Such information flow is now more important than ever in view of the urgent challenges posed by COVID–19. Therefore, the USPTO is implementing a deferred-fee provisional patent application pilot program (the program) to promote the expedited exchange of information about inventions designed to combat COVID–19. Under this program, the USPTO will permit applicants to defer payment of the provisional application filing fee until the filing of a corresponding nonprovisional application. In turn, applicants must agree that the technical subject matter disclosed in their provisional applications will be made available to the public via a searchable collaboration database maintained on the USPTO's website. To qualify for the program, the subject matter disclosed in the provisional application must concern a product or process related to COVID–19, and such product or process must be subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for COVID–19 use, whether such approval has been obtained, is pending, or will be sought prior to marketing the subject matter for COVID–19.

DATES: Comments must be received by November 16, 2020 to ensure consideration.

Pilot Duration: The deferred-fee provisional patent application pilot program will accept certifications and requests for participation for a period of 12 months, beginning on September 17, 2020. The USPTO may extend the pilot program (with or without modifications) or terminate it depending on the workload and resources needed to administer it, feedback from the public, and its effectiveness. Depending on feedback and public interest, the technological scope could also be expanded beyond COVID–19 to other areas that are the focus of pioneering or rapid innovation. If the pilot program is extended or terminated, the USPTO will notify the public. The USPTO may also make the program permanent via the rule-making process.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by email addressed to Covid19ProvisionalApplication@uspto.gov. If submission of comments by