

**Agenda**

Friday, September 17, 2021

The PCFMAC agenda will include: (a) Reviewing the draft 2022 Annual Deployment Plan and budget update; (b) status update on the partial coverage integrated analysis work plan; (c) an update on observer provider labor issues; (d) public comment; and (e) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2374> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

**Connection Information**

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2374>.

**Public Comment**

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2374>.

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

Dated: August 31, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-19092 Filed 9-2-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XB383]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Scallop Committee via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This webinar will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://>

[attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6632293038888778251](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6632293038888778251).

**ADDRESSES:** Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

The Committee will review Framework 34, specifically a review of results of 2021 scallop surveys, and preliminary projections. The primary focus of this meeting will be to develop input on the range of potential specification alternatives for FY 2022 and FY 2023. Framework 34 will implement measures approved through Amendment 21 to the FMP. The action will set ABC/ACLs, days-at-sea, access area allocations, total allowable landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, targets for General Category incidental catch, General Category access area trips and trip accounting, and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2022 and default specifications for fishing year 2023. They also plan to discuss the 2021 Work Priorities with a focus on Amendment 21 timelines, including final decision and implementation. Receive updates on the progress of the Scallop Survey Working Group and the evaluation of rotational management. Develop input, if needed. The Committee will also provide input on the range of possible 2022 scallop work priorities. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to

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

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

Dated: August 31, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-19123 Filed 9-2-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO-P-2021-0032]

**Patent Eligibility Jurisprudence Study**

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

**ACTION:** Request for information; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On July 9, 2021, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a request for public input on a study it is conducting on the current state of patent eligibility jurisprudence in the United States and on how that jurisprudence has impacted investment and innovation. Through this notice, the USPTO is extending the period for public comment until October 15, 2021.

**DATES:** *Comment date:* Comments must be received by October 15, 2021. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** For reasons of Government efficiency, comments must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). To submit comments via the portal, enter docket number PTO-P-2021-0032 on the homepage and click "Search." The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this request for information and click on the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format or MICROSOFT WORD® format. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments. Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal for additional instructions on providing comments via the portal. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the

internet, please contact the USPTO using the contact information below for special instructions regarding how to submit comments by other means.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Courtney L. Stopp, Office of Policy and International Affairs, USPTO, at [Courtney.Stopp@uspto.gov](mailto:Courtney.Stopp@uspto.gov) or 571-272-9300. Please direct media inquiries to the USPTO's Office of the Chief Communications Officer at 571-272-8400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the request of Senators Tillis, Hirono, Cotton, and Coons, the USPTO is conducting a study on the current state of patent eligibility jurisprudence in the United States and on how that jurisprudence has impacted investment and innovation. On July 9, 2021, the USPTO published a request for information, seeking public input to assist in the preparation of that study. See Patent Eligibility Jurisprudence Study, 86 FR 36257 (Jul. 9, 2021). The notice requested public comments by September 7, 2021.

Through this notice, the USPTO is extending the period for public comment until October 15, 2021, to give interested members of the public additional time to submit comments. All other information and instructions to commenters provided in the July 9, 2021, notice remain unchanged. Previously submitted comments do not need to be resubmitted.

**Andrew Hirshfeld,**

*Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021-19112 Filed 9-2-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2021-0037]

**Modification of COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is modifying the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program to accept applications until December 31, 2021. Requests that are compliant with the pilot program's requirements and are filed on or before December 31, 2021,

will be accepted, even if more than 500 requests have already been approved. The USPTO will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension.

**DATES:** The COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program is modified as of September 3, 2021 and is extended to run until December 31, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert A. Clarke, Editor of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (telephone at 571-272-7735; email at [robert.clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:robert.clarke@uspto.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 14, 2020, the USPTO published a notice for the implementation of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program. See COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 85 FR 28932 (May 14, 2020) (COVID-19 Track One Notice). The COVID-19 Track One Notice indicated that an applicant may request prioritized examination without payment of the prioritized examination fee and associated processing fee if: (1) The application's claim(s) covered a product or process related to COVID-19, (2) the product or process was subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for COVID-19 use, and (3) the applicant met other requirements given in the COVID-19 Track One Notice. As of August 2, 2021, 120 patents have issued from applications granted prioritized status under the pilot program. The average total pendency, including time consumed by continued examination, from filing to issue for those applications was 249 days. The shortest pendency from filing date to issue date for those applications was 75 days.

The COVID-19 Track One Notice indicated that the pilot program would expire after the USPTO accepted 500 applications into the program. As of August 16, 2021, the USPTO had accepted 476 applications into the program, and there were 52 requests to participate that had not yet been acted upon. To ensure that applicants are not refused access to the pilot program due to delays in the USPTO's consideration of the requests to participate, the USPTO is modifying the program to consider on the merits any request filed on or before December 31, 2021, even if an applicant's request to participate is not acted upon until after the USPTO has accepted 500 requests. The USPTO will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension. If the USPTO determines that a further extension of the pilot program is appropriate, the USPTO will publish a subsequent notice further extending the program.

Unless the pilot program is further extended by a subsequent notice to the public, following the expiration of this extension, the pilot program will be terminated, and applicants may instead seek to use the Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program. Applications accorded prioritized examination under the pilot program will not lose that status merely because the application is pending after the date the pilot program is terminated. In other words, applications accepted into the pilot program will continue to be examined under prioritized examination status until that status is terminated for one or more reasons, as described in the COVID-19 Track One Notice.

The Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program permits an applicant to have an application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination under 37 CFR 1.102(e) if the applicant timely files a request for prioritized (Track One) examination accompanied by the appropriate fees and meets the other conditions of 37 CFR 1.102(e). See MPEP 708.02(b)(2). The current fee schedule is available at: [www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/uspto-fee-schedule](http://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/uspto-fee-schedule).

The Track One Program does not have the restrictions of the COVID-19 Track One Program on the types of inventions for which special status may be sought, as the Track One Program does not require a connection to any particular technology. Moreover, delays associated with the determination of whether an application presents a claim that covers a product or process related to COVID-19 and whether the product or process was subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID-19 use will be avoided under the Track One Program.

**Andrew Hirshfeld,**

*Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021-19114 Filed 9-2-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

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**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

**Procurement List; Additions and Deletions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

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