

monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. Drafts of the proposed IHAs can be found at: <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>.

Request for Public Comments

We request comment on our analyses, the proposed authorizations, and any other aspect of this notice of proposed IHAs for the proposed construction project. We also request comment on the potential renewal of these proposed IHAs as described in the paragraph below. Please include with your comments any supporting data or literature citations to help inform decisions on the request for each IHA or a subsequent renewal IHA.

On a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-time, one-year renewal IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Description of Proposed Activity section of this notice is planned or (2) the activities as described in the Description of Proposed Activity section of this notice would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the *Dates and Duration* section of this notice, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond one year from expiration of the initial IHA).
- The request for renewal must include the following:

(1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).

(2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the

mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: April 5, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-07676 Filed 4-10-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD846]

Spring Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

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

ACTION: Notice of the Advisory Committee 2024 spring meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) announces its annual spring meeting, to be held April 30–May 1, 2024 in Miami, Florida.

DATES: The open sessions of the Committee meeting will be held on April 30, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and May 1, 2024, 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed sessions will be held on April 30, 2024, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on May 1, 2024, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All times are Eastern Daylight Savings time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Miami Coconut Grove, 2649 South Bayshore Drive, Miami, Florida 33133.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Keller, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, (301) 427-7725 or at bryan.keller@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in open session to receive and discuss information on the outcomes of ICCAT's 2023 annual meeting and the U.S. implementation of ICCAT decisions; ICCAT intersessional meetings in 2024; relevant NMFS research and monitoring activities; the results of the meetings of the Committee's Species Working Groups; and other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species. The public will have access to the open sessions of the meeting, but there will be no opportunity for public

comment during the meeting. An agenda is available from the Committee's Executive Secretary upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

The Committee will meet in its Species Working Groups in closed session in the afternoon of April 30, 2024, and in the morning of May 1, 2024. These sessions are not open to the public, but the results of the Species Working Group discussions will be reported to the full Advisory Committee during the Committee's open session on May 1, 2024.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to Bryan Keller (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 5, 2024.

Alexa Cole,

*Director, Office of International Affairs,
Trade, and Commerce, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024-07616 Filed 4-10-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD866]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is holding three regional workshops to hear and discuss feedback from the public to inform development of its Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan. Workshop summaries will be presented at a future Council meeting.

DATES: These meetings will be held between the dates of Tuesday, April 30, 2024, and Thursday, May 2, 2024. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more details on specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific addresses.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, New

England Fishery Management Council;
telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.*, Westin Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, ME 04101;

2. *Tuesday, May 1, 2024, from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.*, Four Points by Sheraton, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880;

3. *Wednesday, May 2, 2024, from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.*, 20 Hotel Drive, South Kingstown, RI 02879.

Agenda

The Council is holding three regional workshops to identify challenges and develop alternatives for addressing Atlantic cod management considering the new biological stock units. The Council is conducting these workshops to collect important feedback from fishing industry members and other stakeholders. The workshops are a platform for discussions and gathering different perspectives. A summary report of the workshops will be provided to the Council to help inform the development of its Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan. For more details, see the Council's web page: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/atlantic-cod-management-transition-plan>.

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 these meetings. 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 8, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-07727 Filed 4-10-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2024-0013]

Guidance on Use of Artificial Intelligence-Based Tools in Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issues this guidance to inform practitioners and the public of the important issues that patent and trademark professionals, innovators, and entrepreneurs must navigate while using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in matters before the USPTO. The USPTO recognizes the possibility that AI will be used to prepare and prosecute patent and trademark applications, as well as other filings before the Office including filings submitted to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB). While the USPTO is committed to maximizing AI's benefits and seeing them distributed broadly across society, the USPTO recognizes the need, through technical mitigations and human governance, to cabin the risks arising from the use of AI in practice before the USPTO. At this time, based on the USPTO's engagement with stakeholders through the USPTO's AI and Emerging Technologies (ET) Partnership (AI/ET Partnership) and a review of existing rules, the USPTO has determined that existing rules protect the USPTO's ecosystem against such potential perils. This guidance reminds individuals involved in proceedings before the USPTO of the pertinent rules and policies, helps inform those same individuals of the risks associated with the use of AI systems, and provides suggestions to mitigate those risks. The USPTO will continue to engage with the public, including through the AI/ET Partnership, as the use of AI advances and evolves.

DATES: This guidance on the use of AI in practicing before the USPTO is applicable as of April 11, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent matters contact Matthew Sked, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-272-7627 or Nalini Mummalaneni, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-270-1647, both with the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents.

For matters regarding the PTAB contact Michael W. Kim, Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge, or Charles J. Boudreau, Lead Administrative Patent Judge, at 571-272-9797.

For trademark matters contact Robert J. Lavache, Senior Trademark Legal Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy, at 571-272-5881.

For matters regarding the TTAB contact Cheryl A. Butler, Senior Counsel and Editor of the Trademark Board Manual of Procedure, at 571-272-4259.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Recognizing that “[r]esponsible AI use has the potential to help solve urgent challenges while making our world more prosperous, productive, innovative, and secure,” while “[a]t the same time, irresponsible use could exacerbate societal harms such as fraud, discrimination, bias, and disinformation; displace and disempower workers; stifle competition; and pose risks to national security,” President Biden issued the Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence on October 30, 2023 (“Executive Order”).¹ The Executive Order calls upon the Federal Government to enact and enforce protections as to AI-related harms, including “in critical fields like healthcare, financial services, education, housing, law, and transportation” (emphasis added), while promoting responsible uses of AI.² This notice, which recognizes the ways in which the USPTO's existing protections address AI-related harms, is one of the USPTO's numerous efforts, such as the AI/ET Partnership and the Inventorship Guidance on AI-Assisted Inventions,³ to address AI considerations at the intersection of innovation, creativity, and intellectual property (IP).

As we see AI being increasingly integrated with and deployed into a variety of sectors including finance, manufacturing, healthcare, and transportation,⁴ we also see a growth in the use of AI in the legal field and in practice before the Office. With the advent of large language models and

¹ Executive Order 14110, 88 FR 75191 (November 1, 2023).

² *Id.* at 75193.

³ Events for the Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Partnership, 87 FR 34669 (June 7, 2022); Inventorship Guidance for AI-Assisted Inventions, 89 FR 10043 (February 13, 2024).

⁴ “Inventing AI—Tracing the diffusion of artificial intelligence with U.S. patents,” (October 2020). Available at www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OCE-DH-AI.pdf.