

Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0682 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Jessica Kondel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, (240) 533–0647, or [Jessica.Kondel@noaa.gov](mailto:Jessica.Kondel@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This is a request for extension of an existing information collection.

National marine sanctuary regulations provide that the public can submit areas of the marine and Great Lakes environments for consideration by NOAA as a national marine sanctuary through the sanctuary nomination process (15 CFR part 922). Persons wanting to submit nominations for consideration should submit information on the qualifying criteria and management considerations for the site to be nominated. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries reviews the submissions, which could result in the nomination being added to an inventory of areas that NOAA may consider for sanctuary designation at some point in the future. Sanctuary designation is a separate public process that would be conducted pursuant to the requirements of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and all other applicable laws. This proposed information collection is for national marine sanctuary nominations received pursuant to NOAA regulations that provide that the public may nominate special places of the marine environment through the sanctuary nomination process (15 CFR part 922).

**II. Method of Collection**

Electronic applications submitted via email and paper nominations submitted via regular mail.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0682.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal government; Federal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 115 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 591.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$120.

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

*Legal Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

**IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2024–09313 Filed 4–29–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–NK–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD909]

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council's is convening its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) 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 Tuesday, May 14, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Webinar Registration information:* [https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xtQ5ngK\\_RHmKlIiFk8HgTw](https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xtQ5ngK_RHmKlIiFk8HgTw).

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Agenda**

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet to review roles and responsibilities of the SSC. Review SSC work plan for 2024. They will comment on the update to the Council's research priorities and data needs. They plan to receive an update on and discuss plans for the 8th national workshop of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee. Also, receive update on and discuss the Council's Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan. They will discuss other business as 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 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 24, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09230 Filed 4-29-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD919]

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The MAFMC will hold a public meeting (webinar) of its Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Monitoring Committee. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda details.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Webinar connection information will be posted to the MAFMC's website calendar prior to the meeting, at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The main purpose of the meeting is for the MSB Monitoring Committee to develop recommendations for future MSB specifications to ensure that annual catch limits are not exceeded. Public comments will also be taken.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 25, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09292 Filed 4-29-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2023-0044]

#### Request for Comments Regarding the Impact of the Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence on Prior Art, the Knowledge of a Person Having Ordinary Skill in the Art, and Determinations of Patentability Made in View of the Foregoing

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

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) seeks public comments regarding the impact of the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) on prior art, the knowledge of a person having ordinary skill in the art (PHOSITA), and determinations of patentability made in view of the foregoing. The increasing power and deployment of AI has the potential to provide tremendous societal and economic benefits and foster a new wave of innovation and creativity while also posing novel challenges and opportunities for intellectual property (IP) policy. Through the AI and Emerging Technologies Partnership (AI/ET Partnership), the USPTO has been actively engaging with the innovation community and AI experts on IP policy in view of AI. To build on these efforts, the USPTO is requesting written public comments on how the proliferation of AI could affect certain evaluations made by the Office, including what qualifies as prior art, the assessment of the level of skill of a PHOSITA, and determinations of patentability made in view of these evaluations. The USPTO expects that the responses received will help the Office evaluate the need for further guidance on these matters, aid in the development of any such guidance, and help inform the USPTO's work in the courts and in providing technical advice to Congress.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before July 29, 2024, to ensure consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** 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-2023-0044 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 document and select the "Comment"

icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format (PDF) 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven J. Fulk, Legal Advisor, at 571-270-0072; Nalini Mummalaneni, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-270-1647; or Matthew Sked, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-272-7627, all with the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The USPTO has held several stakeholder interaction sessions and has issued requests for comments (RFCs) to seek public feedback regarding AI's impact on patent policy issues.<sup>1</sup> In August 2019, the USPTO issued an RFC on patenting AI inventions.<sup>2</sup> Among the various policy questions raised in this previous RFC, the USPTO requested comments on AI's impact on a PHOSITA and prior art considerations unique to AI inventions.<sup>3</sup> In October 2020, the USPTO published a report titled "Public Views on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Policy," which provided a comprehensive look at the stakeholder feedback received in response to the questions posed in the August 2019 RFC.<sup>4</sup> That report explained that stakeholders had varying views on how AI would impact obviousness determinations and how to assess a PHOSITA's level of skill.<sup>5</sup> Some commenters stated that AI machines are not "persons," and therefore, AI would

<sup>1</sup> See USPTO Artificial Intelligence web page at [www.uspto.gov/initiatives/artificial-intelligence](http://www.uspto.gov/initiatives/artificial-intelligence).

<sup>2</sup> Request for Comments on Patenting Artificial Intelligence Inventions, 84 FR 44889 (August 27, 2019). Question 1 of this RFC noted, "Inventions that utilize AI, as well as inventions that are developed by AI, have commonly been referred to as 'AI inventions.'"

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> The full report is available at [www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTO\\_AI-Report\\_2020-10-07.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTO_AI-Report_2020-10-07.pdf) (October 2020 AI Report).

<sup>5</sup> October 2020 AI Report at 11-13.