

Management Council, phone: 503-820-2280, fax: 503-820-2299 and email: john.devore@noaa.gov; or Ms. Yvonne de Reynier NMFS, Northwest Region, phone: 206-526-6129, fax: 206-526-6426 and email: yvonne.dereynier@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index/html.

Description of the Proposal

The proposed action with a description of the proposal was noticed in the **Federal Register** on November 21, 2005 (70 FR 70054).

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

A principal objective of this scoping and public input process is to identify potentially significant impacts to the human environment that should be analyzed in depth in the intersector allocation EIS. Concomitant with identification of those impacts to be analyzed in depth is identification and elimination from detailed study of issues that are not significant or which have been covered in prior environmental reviews. This narrowing is intended to allow greater focus on those impacts that are potentially most significant. Impacts on the following components of the biological and physical environment will be evaluated:

(1) Essential fish habitat and ecosystems; (2) protected species listed under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act and their habitat; and (3) the fishery management unit, including target and non-target fish stocks. Socioeconomic impacts are also considered in terms of the effect changes will have on the following groups: (1) those who participate in harvesting the fishery resources and other living marine resources (for commercial, subsistence, or recreational purposes); (2) those who process and market fish and fish products; (3) those who are involved in allied support industries; (4) those who rely on living marine resources in the management area; (5) those who consume fish products; (6) those who benefit from non-consumptive use (e.g., wildlife viewing); (7) those who do not use the resource, but derive benefit from it by virtue of its existence, the option to use it, or the bequest of the resource to future generations; (8) those involved in managing and monitoring fisheries; and (9) fishing communities. Analysis of the effects of the alternatives on these

groups will be presented in a manner that allows the identification of any disproportionate impacts on low income and minority segments of the identified groups, impacts on small entities, and cumulative impacts. Additional comment is sought on other types of impacts that should be considered or specific impacts to which particular attention should be paid within these categories.

Scoping and Public Involvement

Scoping is an early and open process for identifying the scope of notable issues related to proposed alternatives (including status quo and other alternatives identified during the scoping process). A principal objective of the scoping and public input process is to identify a reasonable set of alternatives that, with adequate analysis, sharply define critical issues and provide a clear basis for distinguishing among those alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative. The public scoping process provides the public with the opportunity to comment on the range of alternatives. The scope of the alternatives to be analyzed should be broad enough for the Pacific Council and NMFS to make informed decisions on whether an alternative should be developed and, if so, how it should be designed, and to assess other changes to the FMP and regulations necessary for the implementation of the alternative.

Written comments will be accepted at the Pacific Council office through August 23, 2006 (see **ADDRESSES**). The public comment period will be reopened as part of the public comment section under the intersector allocation agenda item at the Pacific Council meeting in Foster City, CA, the week of September 11, 2006. Additional information on the time and location for this meeting will be provided when the meeting is announced in the **Federal Register**. This information will also be posted on the Council website (www.pcouncil.org).

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

Dated: June 8, 2006.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6-9309 Filed 6-13-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-2005-0012]

RIN 0651-AB98

Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has, in response to recent case law, revised its guidelines to be used by USPTO personnel in their review of patent applications to determine whether the claims in a patent application are directed to patent eligible subject matter. The USPTO published a notice requesting comments from the public regarding these interim examination guidelines. The USPTO is extending the period for comment on these interim examination guidelines.

Comment Deadline Date: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before July 31, 2006. No public hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to AB98.Comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by facsimile to (571) 273-0125, marked to the attention of Linda Therkorn. Although comments may be submitted by mail or facsimile, the Office prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

Comments may also be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. See the Federal eRulemaking Portal Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov>) for additional instructions on providing comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the Office Internet Web site (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or

phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Therkorn, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at 571-272-8800, or Ray Chen, Office of the Solicitor, by telephone at 571-272-9035, by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by facsimile transmission to 571-273-0125, marked to the attention of Linda Therkorn or Ray Chen.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO has published a notice setting forth interim guidelines to be used by USPTO personnel in their review of patent applications to determine whether the claims in a patent application are directed to patent eligible subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. See *Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility*, 1300 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 142 (Nov. 22, 2005) (Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Interim Guidelines). The USPTO published a notice on December 20, 2005 requesting public comment on the interim guidelines. See *Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility*, 70 FR 75451 (Dec. 20, 2005) (Request for Comments).

A case currently awaiting decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings v. Metabolite Laboratories, Inc.*, S.Ct. No. 04-607 (*LabCorp*), may impact the question of patent subject matter eligibility under 35 U.S.C. 101. The December 2005

Request for Comments indicated that the USPTO expected that a decision in *LabCorp* would be rendered sometime before the end of June 2006, and that USPTO would publish a notice further extending the period for public comment on the USPTO's Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Interim Guidelines if necessary to permit the comments to take into account the Court's decision in *LabCorp*. See *Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility*, 70 FR at 75452. Therefore, the USPTO is further extending the period for public comment on the USPTO's Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Interim Guidelines until July 31, 2006 to permit the comments to take into account the Court's decision in *LabCorp* (still expected before the end of June 2006).

Dated: June 9, 2006.

John Doll,

Commissioner for Patents.

[FR Doc. E6-9300 Filed 6-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, June 16, 2006.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Enforcement Matters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eileen A. Donovan, 202-418-5100.

Eileen A. Donovan,

Acting Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 06-5438 Filed 6-12-06; 2:26 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 06-35]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/DBO/ADM, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 06-35 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: June 7, 2006.

C.R. Choate,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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