

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 13, 2000, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 19878) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named individual to harass up to 120 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) annually in Florida waters during the conduct of capture, examination, sampling, marking, and release activities, over a 5-year period. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 7, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 00-15855 Filed 6-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060800E]

Marine Mammals; File No. 675-1563-01

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Graham A.J. Worthy, [Principal Investigator], Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University, 5001 Avenue U, Suite 105, Galveston, Texas 77551, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 675-1563.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before July 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Simona Roberts, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 675-1563, issued on June 6, 2000 (65 FR 36889) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act 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), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 675-1563 authorizes the permit holder to capture, mark, sedate, blood/biopsy sample 10 females and 20 pups Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*), incidentally harass 60 animals of all ages, and accidentally kill up to 2 seals on the Pribilof Islands for a one-year period.

The permit holder requests amendment to take by capture and sample, bleach mark an additional five female seals, increase accidental mortality to five, attach VHF radio tags to all females over a three-year period, and to incidentally harass, annually, up to 13,000 animals of all ages.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 00-15856 Filed 6-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

RIN 0651-AB20

Notice of Roundtable on Computer-Implemented Business Method Patent Issues

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of roundtable on computer-implemented business method patent issues.

SUMMARY: As part of the recently announced business method patent initiative, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is holding a roundtable, the purpose of which is to discuss the history behind computer-implemented business method patents and to identify ways to improve the USPTO's current examination approach to computer-implemented business method patent applications. Members of the public are invited to attend the roundtable, or to participate as a panelist in the roundtable discussion, on the topics outlined in the supplementary information section of this notice, or other related topics. Individuals who are not selected, or do not wish to apply for selection as panelists may request to attend the discussion as an audience member. The roundtable is an opportunity for an informal discussion. Panelists will be asked to provide their individual input; group consensus advice will not be sought.

DATES: The roundtable will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Self-nominations to participate as a panelist and requests for attendance at the roundtable must be received by no later than July 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES:

Location of the Roundtable

The roundtable will be held at the Crystal City Sheraton Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

Mailing Address for Self-Nominations and Requests for Attendance

Self-nominations to participate as a panelist and requests for attendance at

the roundtable should be addressed to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Elizabeth Shaw. Self-nominations may also be submitted by facsimile to (703) 305-7575, or by electronic mail through the Internet to elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Lucas by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by facsimile at (703) 305-8885, by electronic mail at jennifer.lucas@uspto.gov, or by mail addressed to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box Comments-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The number of patent applications related to computer-implemented business methods in Class 705 grew from 1,300 to 2,600 between FY 1998 and FY 1999. Much of this growth may be attributed to the decision in *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc.*, 149 F.3d 1368, 47 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1998), that held that computer-implemented business methods are eligible for patent protection under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Electronic commerce is an extremely significant component of today's technology-driven economy. While less than one percent of the 290,000 applications filed with the USPTO last year related to computer-implemented business methods in Class 705, computer-implemented business method patents play an important role in this growing industry. In an effort to enhance the quality of the examination of business method patent applications, the USPTO is interested in working together with the software, Internet, and electronic commerce industry to identify ways to improve current business operations and solve business methods-related issues, including access to software-related prior art.

On March 29, 2000, the USPTO announced the business method patent initiative, which includes industry outreach and quality programs. The industry outreach programs are intended to encompass the establishment of a customer partnership with industry, the convening of a roundtable forum, and an effort to obtain industry feedback on prior art issues.

The quality programs encompass steps to enhance the technical training of examiners, revise the examination guidelines and examples, and expand

current prior art search activities. This includes a review of mandatory search areas, the establishment of a new second-level review of all allowed applications in Class 705, and an expansion of the sampling size for quality review along with the introduction of a new in-process review of Office actions to focus on field of search and patentability issues involving novelty and nonobviousness.

As part of this initiative, the USPTO invites members of the public to attend the roundtable or to participate as a panelist in the roundtable discussion. Panelists will be asked to provide their individual input. Attendees will be invited to ask questions and provide comments. The intent of this roundtable is to offer an informal forum for a free and open discussion of issues relating to the topics outlined in the supplemental section of this notice. Group consensus advice will be avoided in the roundtable.

Participation as a Panelist in the Roundtable Discussion

The roundtable will be an open forum providing a fair and open opportunity for panelists to discuss major issues related to patent protection for computer-implemented business methods and for the public at large to observe and listen to the discussion, ask questions and provide comments. Panelists will be discussing the topics outlined in the supplemental section of this notice, or other related topics. During the roundtable discussion, the issues addressed by the panelists will be facilitated by a moderator. The USPTO will select panelists from self-nominations based on qualifications that will offer a broad range of expertise and perspectives on the topics listed in the supplemental section. In addition to selection of panelists from the self-nominations, the USPTO may also solicit participation from various members of the patent community and academia. The USPTO would like the panel to include a cross-section of various stakeholders, such as start-up and established e-commerce companies, corporations, attorneys, database managers and creators, academia representatives, and trade associations representatives.

Those interested in participating in the roundtable discussion as a panelist should send their self-nominations to the attention of Elizabeth Shaw, addressed to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Self-nominations must include the participant's name, affiliation, title,

mailing address, telephone number, and a short resume reflecting the participant's knowledge of and/or interest in the USPTO business method patent initiative. Facsimile number and Internet mail address, if available, should also be provided. Individuals will be notified of accepted self-nominations by the USPTO approximately one week prior to the date of the roundtable. Non-accepted nominees will also be notified by the USPTO. No one will be permitted to participate as a panelist in the roundtable discussion without prior approval.

Individuals who would like to attend the roundtable discussion as an audience member in the event that they are not selected to participate as a panelist, must include a statement with their self-nomination explicitly requesting attendance. If such a statement is included with the self-nomination, a separate request for attendance is not required. As discussed below, these requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

Audience Attendance at the Roundtable Discussion

Attendees will be provided with audience-style seating to watch and listen to the panel discussions. Attendees will be given the opportunity to submit questions and comments during the question and answer periods.

Those interested in attending should send their requests for attendance, to the attention of Elizabeth Shaw, addressed to Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231; facsimile (703) 305-7575; or e-mail elizabethshaw2@uspto.gov. Requests for attendance must include the attendee's name, affiliation, title, mailing address, and telephone number. Facsimile number and Internet mail address, if available, should also be provided. Roundtable attendees will be accepted as requests are received. Requests for attendance will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis according to the time and date of receipt of each request. Because of space considerations, approximately 150 members of the public will be accepted as attendees. In order to ensure a broad cross-section of attendees, the USPTO reserves the right to limit the number of attendees from any single organization or law firm. Therefore, organizations and law firms must designate their official representatives. Individuals will be notified of accepted requests for attendance by the USPTO approximately one week prior to the date of the roundtable. Non-accepted

requesters will also be notified by the USPTO. No one will be permitted to attend without prior approval.

Topics for the Roundtable Discussion

The roundtable will begin with an overview and history of computer-implemented business method patents and the *State Street Bank* decision, as well as what is happening today on this issue. This portion will be followed by roundtable discussions on the examination and economic issues surrounding business method patents. The topics to be discussed by the roundtable participants will include:

A. How computer-implemented business method applications are examined.

- Eligibility for patenting
- Novelty and nonobviousness requirements, including automation of known processes

B. The impact of patent protection for computer-implemented business methods on the innovation, evolution and development of electronic commerce.

- Are computer-implemented business method patents encouraging or curbing growth in innovation?
- Are there empirical studies or evidence that support either conclusion?

C. Creation of a business methods prior art database for searching computer-implemented business method patent applications.

- Unique characteristics of business methods prior art
- Types of prior art in the new database and the accessibility of the prior art
- Challenges in creating the business methods prior art database

D. Discussion of the USPTO's Business Method Patent Initiative announced on March 29, 2000.

- Does the initiative adequately address concerns raised about the examination of computer-implemented business method patent applications?
- Are there other issues related to computer-implemented business methods on which the USPTO should be focusing?

Classification Section

It has been determined that this notice is significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This notice involves information collection requirements related to the filing and processing of a patent application and which are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

(44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). These information collections have been reviewed and previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the following control numbers: 0651-0031 and 0651-0032. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is not resubmitting information collection packages to OMB for its review and approval because the changes under consideration do not affect the information collection requirements associated with the information collections under these OMB control numbers. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

Q. Todd Dickinson,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 00-15813 Filed 6-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Indonesia

June 16, 2000.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota reopenings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing, special shift and the adjustment for folklore products.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999). Also see 64 FR 54870, published on October 8, 1999.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

June 16, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on October 4, 1999, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Indonesia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2000 and extends through December 31, 2000.

Effective on June 22, 2000, you are directed to adjust the limits for the categories listed below, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
Levels in Group I	
219	10,026,801 square meters.
300/301	4,788,617 kilograms.
313-O ²	12,833,569 square meters.
314-O ³	65,362,978 square meters.
315-O ⁴	37,140,992 square meters.
317-O ⁵ /326-O ⁶ /617	25,660,549 square meters of which not more than 4,530,430 square meters shall be in Category 326-O.
334/335	270,912 dozen.
336/636	807,170 dozen.
338/339	1,622,948 dozen.
340/640	1,741,313 dozen.
341	1,207,487 dozen.
342/642	458,342 dozen.
345	516,624 dozen.
347/348	2,198,572 dozen.
350/650	151,156 dozen.
351/651	680,360 dozen.
447	18,434 dozen.
613/614/615	25,048,494 square meters.