

Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); (2) endemic to Florida and protected under Florida law; (3) occur only on Federal land and are fully protected where they occur; (4) are not native to the United States, and are listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) where primarily commercial trade would be prohibited; or (5) are not native nor believed to be commercially imported into the United States. 56 FR 12026, 12028 (March 21, 1991). There have been no additions to Annex I since the adoption of the SPAW Protocol.

Annex II currently contains 117 species and 3 groups of species, including all sea turtles and all marine mammals in the region. Most of these animal species are either: (1) listed under the ESA or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*); (2) are not native to the United States and are listed in Appendix I of CITES; (3) are offered complete protection by domestic legislation in all range countries (whereby the Lacey Act, among other things, prohibits commercial trade in specimens taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of foreign law); or (4) are endemic to foreign countries and are not commercially imported into the United States. The most recent addition to Annex II by the SPAW Parties was in June 2019.

Annex III currently contains 43 species of plants and 42 species of animals in addition to species of corals, mangroves, and sea-grasses that occur in the region.

#### Composition of the Annexes

The plant and animal species included on each Annex can be found here: <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/The-SPAW-Protocol-769>.

#### Species Nominated To Be Added to the SPAW Protocol Annexes

##### ANNEX II

Species	Common name
<b>SHARKS</b>	
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark.
<i>Rhincodon typus</i> .....	Whale shark.
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i> .....	Scalloped hammerhead shark.
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> .....	Great hammerhead shark.
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> .....	Smooth hammerhead shark.
<b>RAYS</b>	
<i>Manta birostris</i> .....	Giant manta ray.

##### ANNEX II—Continued

Species	Common name
<b>REPTILES</b>	
<i>Iguana delicatissima</i> .....	Lesser Antillean iguana.

##### ANNEX III

Species	Common name
<b>FISH</b>	
<i>Scaridae spp. (16 species).</i>	Parrotfish (16 species).
<b>SHARKS</b>	
<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i> .....	Caribbean reef shark.

#### Circumstances of SPAW Species Nominations

Article 11(4) of the SPAW Protocol details the requirements for amending the Annexes and states, in part, that a Party may submit a nomination of a species for inclusion in or deletion from the Annexes; that the Party shall submit supporting documentation; and that the SPAW STAC shall review the nomination. At the January 2023 meeting, the SPAW STAC reviewed the species proposed by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol and made recommendations to the twelfth SPAW Conference of the Parties (COP12) meeting, expected to be held in April 2023. The STAC recommended that the oceanic whitetip shark and the Lesser Antillean iguana be uplisted from Annex III to Annex II, and that parrotfish (*Scaridae spp.*) and the Caribbean reef shark be added to Annex III. The STAC did not provide a consensus recommendation on the proposals to uplist the whale shark, giant manta ray, and three species of hammerhead sharks from Annex III to Annex II. The STAC referred these nominations to SPAW COP12, which will take a final decision on all species nominations at its meeting in April 2023.

#### Species Under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

Six species nominated to be added to Annex II at the January 2023 meeting fall under the jurisdiction of NMFS: the oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*S. mokarran*), and smooth hammerhead shark (*S. zygaena*). All six of these species are currently listed in Annex III of the SPAW Protocol. The oceanic whitetip shark, giant manta ray, and four distinct population segments of

the scalloped hammerhead shark are currently listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. All species nominated to be added to Annex III fall under the jurisdiction of NMFS, including all parrotfish (*Scaridae*) and the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*).

#### Species Under the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Lesser Antillean iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*), which the STAC recommended to be uplisted from Annex III to Annex II at the January 2023 meeting, falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Lesser Antillean iguana is a terrestrial species. As explained earlier in this notice, the United States has not designated any terrestrial area under the SPAW Protocol and the obligations under the SPAW Protocol do not apply in the United States with respect to terrestrial species. Accordingly, no obligations under the SPAW Protocol would apply to this species if it is added to SPAW Annex II.

#### Comments Solicited

The Department of State and NMFS solicit comments and information that will inform the United States' consideration of the potential listing of these species in the SPAW Annexes.

Dated: February 8, 2023.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023–03048 Filed 2–13–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC764]

##### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of hybrid meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate Change Taskforce (BSFEP CC) will meet March 1, 2023 through March 2, 2023.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be a hybrid meeting. The in-person component of the meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in the room 2039, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115, or join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2979>.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Diana Stram, Council staff; *phone:* (907) 271-2809 and *email:* [diana.stram@noaa.gov](mailto:diana.stram@noaa.gov). For technical support, please contact our administrative staff; *email:* [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Agenda**

*Wednesday, March 1, 2023 Through Thursday, March 2, 2023*

The agenda will include: (a) review changes to climate readiness synthesis from the SSC; (b) discuss concept of soliciting stakeholder input on climate resilient metrics; (c) review ongoing process for incorporating climate information into council process and future plans; (d) discuss and recommend agenda, format and goals and objectives for scenario planning workshop; (e) work plan for 2023–2024; and (f) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2979> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

#### **Connection Information**

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2979>.

#### **Public Comment**

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2979>.

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

Dated: February 8, 2023.

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

[FR Doc. 2023-03068 Filed 2-13-23; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **Patent and Trademark Office**

**[Docket No.: PTO-P-2022-0025]**

#### **Request for Comments on USPTO Initiatives To Ensure the Robustness and Reliability of Patent Rights**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending the comment period for the notice titled “Request for Comments on USPTO Initiatives to Ensure the Robustness and Reliability of Patent Rights” that was published in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2022. The notice’s comment period was previously extended until February 1, 2023. The comment period is now extended a second time; this will be the last extension of the comment period.

**DATES:** The comment period for the notice published at 87 FR 60130, which was extended at 87 FR 66282 on November 3, 2022, is further extended. Comments are due by February 28, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** For reasons of government efficiency, comments must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). This docket closed on February 1, 2023, but is now reopened to accept additional comments. To submit comments via the portal, enter docket number PTO-P-2022-0025 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 click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted as various file types, including Adobe® portable document format (PDF) and Microsoft Word® format. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information 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 (at **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) for special instructions.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Linda Horner, Administrative Patent Judge, at 571-272-9797; June Cohan, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents, at 571-272-7744; or Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents, at 571-272-7728.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 4, 2022, the USPTO published a notice titled “Request for Comments on USPTO Initiatives to Ensure the Robustness and Reliability of Patent Rights” to seek initial public comments on proposed initiatives directed at bolstering the robustness and reliability of patents to incentivize and protect new and nonobvious inventions while facilitating the broader dissemination of public knowledge, which will, in turn, promote innovation and competition. See 87 FR 60130. On November 3, 2022, the USPTO extended the written comment period until February 1, 2023. See 87 FR 66282. The USPTO is now extending the written comment period a second time until February 28, 2023, to ensure that all stakeholders have a sufficient opportunity to submit comments on the questions presented in the October 4, 2022, notice. This will be the last extension of the comment period.

Comments previously submitted to the docket through the Federal eRulemaking Portal do not need to be resubmitted. Any comments sent directly to USPTO after the close of the previous deadline of February 1, 2023, must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal before the newly extended deadline to be given full consideration. All other information and instructions to commenters provided in the October 4, 2022, notice remain unchanged.

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-03119 Filed 2-13-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **Patent and Trademark Office**

**[Docket No. PTO-P-2022-0045]**

#### **Request for Comments Regarding Artificial Intelligence and Inventorship**

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