

Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Keeley Kent, (206) 247-8252 or [keeley.kent@noaa.gov](mailto:keeley.kent@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. The vessel identification requirement is essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing (or other activity) to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A vessel's official number is required to be displayed on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on a weather deck. It identifies each vessel and should be visible at distances at sea and in the air. Law enforcement personnel rely on vessel marking information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Vessels that qualify for particular fisheries are also readily identified, and this allows for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the vessel numbers to report suspicious or non-compliant activities that they observe in unauthorized areas. The identifying number on fishing vessels is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and other marine agencies in issuing regulations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions necessary to support sustainable fisheries behaviors as intended in regulations. Regulation-compliant fishermen ultimately benefit from these requirements, as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred, and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

**II. Method of Collection**

Fishing vessel owners physically mark vessels with identification numbers in three locations per vessel.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0355.  
*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,203.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 15 minutes per gear marking.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 901 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$25,701.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.  
*Legal Authority:* 50 CFR 660.12.

**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 Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021-01392 Filed 1-21-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**[Docket No. PTO-T-2020-0043]**

**Sovereign Immunity Study**

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

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice in the **Federal Register** on November 5, 2020, requesting information on the extent to which

patent or trademark rights holders are experiencing infringement by state entities without adequate remedies under state law, and the extent to which such infringements appear to be based on intentional or reckless conduct. With this new notice, the USPTO is supplementing the previous notice with additional questions.

**DATES:** *Comment date:* Written comments must be received on or before February 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** For reasons of government efficiency, 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-T-2020-0043 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 Request for Information and click on the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format 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 ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) 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 regarding how to submit comments by mail or by hand delivery, based on the public's ability to obtain access to USPTO facilities at the time.

**Submissions of Business Confidential Information:** Any submissions containing business confidential information must be marked "confidential treatment requested" and submitted through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Submitters should provide an index listing the document(s) or information they would like the USPTO to withhold. The index should include information such as numbers used to identify the relevant document(s) or information, document title and description, and relevant page numbers and/or section numbers within a document. Submitters should provide a statement explaining their grounds for objecting to the disclosure of the information to the public as well. The USPTO also requests that submitters of business confidential

information include a non-confidential version (either redacted or summarized) that will be available for public viewing and posted on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). In the event that the submitter cannot provide a non-confidential version of its submission, the USPTO requests that the submitter post a notice in the docket stating that it has provided the USPTO with business confidential information. Should a submitter either fail to docket a non-confidential version of its submission or to post a notice that business confidential information has been provided, the USPTO will note the receipt of the submission on the docket with the submitter's organization or name (to the degree permitted by law) and the date of submission.

**Anonymous submissions:** The USPTO will accept anonymous submissions. Enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Hammel, by telephone at 571-272-9300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the request of Senators Thom Tillis and Patrick Leahy, the USPTO is undertaking a study of the extent to which patent or trademark rights holders are experiencing infringement by state entities without adequate remedies under state law, and the extent to which such infringements appear to be based on intentional or reckless conduct.

On November 5, 2020, the USPTO published a notice in the **Federal Register** seeking public input on these matters. See 85 FR 70589 (Nov. 5, 2020). That notice set forth various questions relevant to the study. The USPTO appreciates the submissions received to date in response to that notice and will consider them in preparing the study. In addition, the USPTO now invites interested members of the public to respond to questions posed in that notice, and/or to the below questions. The public can also provide any other information it believes to be relevant.

1. If you are a patent or trademark right holder, has a state government or state entity ever used your patent or trademark without permission? If yes: (a) Did you pursue legal action for that use? Why or why not? (b) Were you able to seek relief under state law? (c) Did the availability of the defense of sovereign immunity deter you from litigating the matter in federal court?

2. As a state or state entity, do you believe that (a) your state or state entity has policies or practices that provide safeguards against the intentional or reckless infringement of patents and trademarks, and (b) relevant state laws

provide adequate remedies if infringement occurs?

**Andrei Iancu,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-01305 Filed 1-21-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0013]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Peer Reviewer Data Form

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 23, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2021-SCC-0013. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the PRA Coordinator of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208D, Washington, DC 20202-8240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Justin Hampton, (202) 245-6111.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in

accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

**Title of Collection:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Peer Reviewer Data Form.

**OMB Control Number:** 1820-0583.

**Type of Review:** Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Individuals or Households.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 350.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 88.

**Abstract:** The OSERS Peer Reviewer Data Form (OPRDF) is used by Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) staff to identify potential reviewers who would be qualified to review specific types of grant applications for funding. OSERS uses this form to collect background contact information for each potential reviewer; and to provide information on any reasonable accommodations that might be required by the individual. OSERS is requesting an extension of the expiration date with no changes to the form. The previous version of the OPRDF, 1820-0583, will expire on May 31, 2021.