

members, was allocated 371 mt of cod, which represented 12.587 percent of the total 2004 GB cod TAC.

NMFS provided interested parties an opportunity to comment on the Sector Agreement proposed for the 2005 fishing year through notification published in the **Federal Register** on April 1, 2005 (70 FR 16804); additional background and details of the Sector Agreement are contained in that notification and are not repeated here. No comments from the public were received.

After consideration of the proposed Sector Agreement, which contains the Sector Contract and Operations Plan, NMFS has concluded that the Sector Agreement is consistent with the goals of the FMP and other applicable law and is in compliance with the regulations governing the development and operation of a sector as specified under 50 CFR 648.87.

There are 49 members of the approved Sector. The calculation of GB cod TAC for the Sector was based upon historic GB landings under the following two regulatory scenarios: (1) The current regulations, as implemented by Amendment 13, that restrict GB cod landings to only hook gear; and (2) based upon the proposed Framework Adjustment 40-B (currently under review by the NMFS) that, if approved, would not restrict GB cod landings to certain gear types. The allocation percentages were calculated by dividing the sum of GB cod landings by Sector members for the FYs 1996 through 2001 by the sum of the accumulated landings of GB cod harvested by all NE multispecies vessels for same time period (113,278,842 lb or 51,383 mt) for each of the two regulatory scenarios described above. The resulting numbers are 10.79 percent and 11.12 percent for the two methods, respectively. Based upon the 49 Sector members, the Sector TAC of GB cod for FY 2005 is 441 mt, and would be 455 mt, upon approval of FW 40-B.

Letters of Authorization will be issued to members of the Sector exempting them, conditional upon their compliance with the Sector Agreement, from the requirements of the Gulf of Maine trip limit exemption program, limits on the number of hooks, and the GB Seasonal Closure Area, as specified in §§ 648.86(b), 648.80(a)(4)(v), and 648.81(g), respectively.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: April 29, 2005.

Anne M. Lange

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

[FR Doc. 05-8857 Filed 4-29-05; 2:59 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[042705A]

U.S. Climate Change Science Program Workshop: Climate Science in Support of Decisionmaking

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice, public workshop and opportunity for public discussion.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publishes this notice to announce the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Workshop: Climate Science in Support of Decisionmaking, addressing the capability of science to inform decisionmaking. This workshop will include discussion of decisionmaker needs for scientific information on climate variability and change, as well as expected outcomes of CCSP's research and assessment activities that are necessary for resource management, adaptive planning, and policy formulation.

DATES: The workshop will be held Monday, November 14, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday, November 16, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Marriott Crystal Gateway, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy MacCracken, Telephone: 202-223 6262, Fax: 202 223 3065, Email: smaccrac@usgcrp.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Climate Change Science Program, sponsored by 13 participating departments and agencies of the U.S. Government, coordinates and integrates scientific research on changes in climate and related systems. The CCSP Strategic Plan emphasizes the application of knowledge from CCSP to develop, improve, and disseminate products for use in decisionmaking related to climate variability and change. Many CCSP programs and activities address these needs—for example, the use of

observations and seasonal-to-interannual climate forecasts in the management of natural resources, or application of scientific knowledge in integrated assessments of global change.

The CCSP Strategic Plan calls for the development of 21 Synthesis and Assessment products that provide current evaluations of climate science issues, complementing other international assessments such as that prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). To maximize the effectiveness of all CCSP products, it is vital that these products account for the science information needs of their users. The workshop will be an opportunity for scientists and user communities to discuss future application and development of climate science, recognizing the multiple ways in which climate information will be utilized to address societal and scientific challenges.

Status: The times above may be subject to change. Refer to the website listed below for a final meeting agenda. Participation will be limited to the first 800 registrants. Webcast of the proceedings may be arranged if demand for participation exceeds this limit. Early registration is strongly encouraged. A registration form and other logistical information, including fees, are available at: <http://www.climate-science.gov/workshop2005>.

The workshop will include both plenary and breakout sessions. The plenary sessions will include presentations by leading figures from the international scientific community and the government, NGO, and private sectors. The breakout sessions will foster interactions among those involved in producing CCSP decision support resources, and representatives of the scientific, resource management, policy development, and other stakeholder communities. Abstracts for contributed presentations at the workshop that focus on development of scientific resources for decisionmaking are encouraged. Instructions on how to submit abstracts will be posted by June 1, 2005 at: www.climate-science.gov/workshop2005/contribpres.htm.

Dated: April 28, 2005.

James R. Mahoney,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Director, Climate Change Science Program.

[FR Doc. 05-8862 Filed 5-3-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042905A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Oversight Committee in May, 2005. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The 2-day meeting will held on May 23, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. and May 24, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (978) 465-0492. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Groundfish Oversight Committee will hold a 2-day meeting to identify measures for the biennial adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The schedule for this meeting is shown below. Members of the public are cautioned that the Committee may deviate from this schedule, if necessary, in order to complete its work. While the Committee will make every effort to adhere to the agenda, topics may be discussed at different times, or on different days, than planned.

Tentatively identified as Framework Adjustment 42, the biennial adjustment will consider a number of groundfish management issues, including any changes to measures necessary to achieve Amendment 13 mortality objectives, revisions to existing Special Access Programs (SAPs), a review of the days-at-sea (DAS) leasing program, a review of the Category B (regular) DAS Pilot Projects, and other issues. The Council will review Committee recommendations at an initial framework meeting that will be held at the June 21-23, 2005 Council meeting.

Final decisions by the Council will take place at the November 15-17, 2005 Council meeting. If approved, management measures are scheduled to be implemented on May 1, 2006.

Monday, May 23, 2005: Modifications to existing SAPs (such as changing the time, error, or haddock catch in the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP, changing measures in the Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP and the Closed Area II yellowtail flounder SAP, etc.), options for the DAS leasing program, receipt of a report on the recently held meetings to address safety in the groundfish fishery, and review of draft management measures already approved by the Council for inclusion in this action.

Tuesday, May 24, 2005: Consideration of options for addressing the concern that vessels fishing with handgear while using DAS could not meet the qualification criteria for DAS allocations under Amendment 13, recommendations to reduce bycatch of haddock, a proposal for a gillnet sector, and a preliminary review of landings statistics for calendar and fishing year 2005 (if available).

Other business may be discussed by the Committee if time is available.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: April 29, 2005.

Peter H. Fricke,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 05-8859 Filed 5-3-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office****Patent Examiner Employment Application—Job Application Rating System (JARS) (Formerly Electronic Application for Patent Examiners—Job Application Rating System (JARS))**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the submission of an extension of a currently approved collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 5, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: Susan.Brown@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0042 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 571-273-0221; marked to the attention of Susan Brown.
- Mail: Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Theresa Hall, Supervisor, Patent Branch, Office of Human Resources, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria, VA 22314; by telephone at 571-272-6144; or by e-mail to Theresa.Hall@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Job Application Rating System (JARS) is a system by which the USPTO can rapidly review applications for employment of entry-level patent examiners. The Office of Human Resources (OHR), armed with a recommendation from a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) can, in turn, rapidly make an offer of employment and support hiring actions with necessary administrative action. Over the past three fiscal years, JARS has enabled the Patent Corps to hire more than 1,600 entry-level patent examiners.

Since the inception of JARS, upgrades have increased the flexibility of the system and the speed and ease with which the Office of Human Resources can support hiring recommendations.