

Dated: April 24, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09230 Filed 4-29-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD919]

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The MAFMC will hold a public meeting (webinar) of its Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Monitoring Committee. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda details.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Webinar connection information will be posted to the MAFMC's website calendar prior to the meeting, at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The main purpose of the meeting is for the MSB Monitoring Committee to develop recommendations for future MSB specifications to ensure that annual catch limits are not exceeded. Public comments will also be taken.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 25, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-09292 Filed 4-29-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2023-0044]

#### Request for Comments Regarding the Impact of the Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence on Prior Art, the Knowledge of a Person Having Ordinary Skill in the Art, and Determinations of Patentability Made in View of the Foregoing

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

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) seeks public comments regarding the impact of the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) on prior art, the knowledge of a person having ordinary skill in the art (PHOSITA), and determinations of patentability made in view of the foregoing. The increasing power and deployment of AI has the potential to provide tremendous societal and economic benefits and foster a new wave of innovation and creativity while also posing novel challenges and opportunities for intellectual property (IP) policy. Through the AI and Emerging Technologies Partnership (AI/ET Partnership), the USPTO has been actively engaging with the innovation community and AI experts on IP policy in view of AI. To build on these efforts, the USPTO is requesting written public comments on how the proliferation of AI could affect certain evaluations made by the Office, including what qualifies as prior art, the assessment of the level of skill of a PHOSITA, and determinations of patentability made in view of these evaluations. The USPTO expects that the responses received will help the Office evaluate the need for further guidance on these matters, aid in the development of any such guidance, and help inform the USPTO's work in the courts and in providing technical advice to Congress.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before July 29, 2024, to ensure consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** 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-P-2023-0044 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 select the "Comment"

icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format (PDF) 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 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven J. Fulk, Legal Advisor, at 571-270-0072; Nalini Mummalaneni, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-270-1647; or Matthew Sked, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-272-7627, all with the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The USPTO has held several stakeholder interaction sessions and has issued requests for comments (RFCs) to seek public feedback regarding AI's impact on patent policy issues.<sup>1</sup> In August 2019, the USPTO issued an RFC on patenting AI inventions.<sup>2</sup> Among the various policy questions raised in this previous RFC, the USPTO requested comments on AI's impact on a PHOSITA and prior art considerations unique to AI inventions.<sup>3</sup> In October 2020, the USPTO published a report titled "Public Views on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Policy," which provided a comprehensive look at the stakeholder feedback received in response to the questions posed in the August 2019 RFC.<sup>4</sup> That report explained that stakeholders had varying views on how AI would impact obviousness determinations and how to assess a PHOSITA's level of skill.<sup>5</sup> Some commenters stated that AI machines are not "persons," and therefore, AI would

<sup>1</sup> See USPTO Artificial Intelligence web page at [www.uspto.gov/initiatives/artificial-intelligence](http://www.uspto.gov/initiatives/artificial-intelligence).

<sup>2</sup> Request for Comments on Patenting Artificial Intelligence Inventions, 84 FR 44889 (August 27, 2019). Question 1 of this RFC noted, "Inventions that utilize AI, as well as inventions that are developed by AI, have commonly been referred to as 'AI inventions.'"

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> The full report is available at [www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTO\\_AI-Report\\_2020-10-07.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTO_AI-Report_2020-10-07.pdf) (October 2020 AI Report).

<sup>5</sup> October 2020 AI Report at 11-13.