

Director, Northwest Region, NMFS,  
7600 Sandpoint Way, NE BIN C15700,  
Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070  
(206/526-6150);

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

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501  
West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long  
Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-  
4001);

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, One  
Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA  
01930-2298 (508/281-9250); and

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721  
Executive Center Drive, St.  
Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-  
5301).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 15, 1995, a document was published in the Federal Register (60 F.R. 57401) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named individual. The request was to collect and import and/or export an unspecified number of specimen materials from dead individuals of all cetacean species, all pinniped species, all sirenian species, polar bears, sea and marine otters, worldwide, over a 5-year period for purposes of scientific research. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing endangered species permits (50 CFR parts 217-227), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*) and regulations (50 CFR 215).

Issuance of this Permit as required by the ESA of 1973 was based on a finding that the permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 16, 1996.

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

Dated: February 23, 1996.

Margaret Tieger,  
*Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of  
Management Authority, U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-5234 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Notice of Meeting To Provide Information to the Public About the Sequence Search Systems Utilized by the Patent and Trademark Office

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold a meeting to provide information to the public on the search systems used at the PTO to search nucleic acid sequences found in the patent applications. Interested members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and provide input to the PTO on other available search systems.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the PTO Patent Academy, Crystal Square 4, Suite 700, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Doll by telephone at (703) 308-1123, by facsimile transmission to (703) 308-4930, by electronic mail at seqmeet@uspto.gov, or by mail marked to his attention addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Comments-Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commission of Patents and Trademarks is authorized under 35 U.S.C. 131 to cause an examination to be made of patent applications. The PTO has received a small number of patent applications each of which claim thousands of nucleic acid sequences. The search and examination of these applications will require the dedication of human and computer resources far in excess of normal workloads. These relatively few applications alone will require a large share of resources from both the sequences searching staff of the PTO Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC) and the biotechnology examining staff for over a year. In an effort to get public suggestions on how the PTO can best meet this challenge, the PTO is establishing a dialog with its customers. On April 3, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the PTO will host an open house meeting to provide information about our current sequence search systems, including the hardware and software utilized, types of claims found in typical biotechnology applications, and the

search times and costs associated with the volume of sequences which have been filed. The meeting will take place in the PTO Patent Academy, Crystal Square 4, Suite 700, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. PTO would welcome recommendations from the public on available search systems, strategies, automated solutions or suggestions for efficiencies to address these search and examination challenges.

Space is limited and reservations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. Individuals interested in participating should contact John Doll, Director, Patent Examining Group 1800, by telephone at (703) 308-1123, by fax at (703) 308-4930, by mail marked to his attention addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Comments-Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 or over the Internet to seqmeet@uspto.gov. A request for participation should include the names and addresses of attendees, the number of spaces requested, affiliation, the area of expertise for each attendee and telephone number. PTO will confirm your participation by telephone.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Lawrence J. Goffney,  
*Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce and  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.*  
[FR Doc. 96-5245 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Army Science Board; Notice of Closed Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

*Name of Committee:* Army Science Board (ASB).

*Date of Meeting:* 6 & 7 March 1996.

*Time of Meeting:* 0900-1700, 6 March 1996; 0930-1700, 7 March 1996.

*Place:* Pentagon—Washington, DC.

*Agenda:* The Army Science Board (ASB) Ad Hoc Study Group on "Army Digitization Vulnerabilities" will meet to hear selected briefings relative to the subject under study. These meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c) of title 5, U.S.C., specifically subparagraph (4) thereof, and Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 2, subsection 10(d). The proprietary matters to be discussed are so inextricably intertwined so as to preclude opening any portion of these