

Number, and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, the social security number for an individual, may be made in the event NMFS takes action to exclude a person under the nonprocurement debarment and suspension system using the System for Award Management Exclusions, as described in 2 CFR part 180, subpart E.

(3) In accordance with the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, a person may not obtain any Federal financial assistance in the form of a loan (other than a disaster loan) or loan guarantee if the person has an outstanding debt (other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with any Federal agency which is in a delinquent status, as determined under standards prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(4) A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001 and an event of a security default. 50 CFR 253.12(c).

(5) Recipients of Federal loans are subject to the applicable lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions." Applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Lobbying."

(6) An applicant classified for tax purposes as an individual, limited liability company, partnership, proprietorship, corporation, or legal entity is required to submit a taxpayer identification number (TIN) (either social security number, employer identification number as applicable, or registered foreign organization number) on Form W-9, "Payers Request for Taxpayer Identification Number." Recipients who either fail to provide their TIN or provide an incorrect TIN may have funding suspended until the requirement is met.

(7) An audit of a Community Development loan may be conducted at any time; expenditures of or exceeding \$750,000 during a non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit for that year. 50 CFR 253.25(d); 2 CFR 200.501(a). Auditee responsibilities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.508. Auditors, selected pursuant to 2 CFR 200.509, shall have access to any and all personnel, accounts, books, documents, papers and records, supporting documentation and other information of the obligor or any other party to a financing, that the auditor(s) deem pertinent, whether written, printed,

recorded, produced or reproduced by any mechanical, magnetic or other process or medium.

### III. Regulatory Determinations

Neither the Administrative Procedure Act nor any other law requires prior notice and opportunity for public comment about this document (which concerns loans). Consequently, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis. This action is not a "regulation" for purposes of Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) nor does it constitute a policy that has federalism implications under Executive Order 13132 (Federalism).

This notification contains and refers to collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The application requirements contained in the notification have been approved under OMB control number 0648-0012. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This action is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. Pursuant to the NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A and the NOAA Companion Manual (CM), "Policy and Procedures for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Related Authorities" (effective January 13, 2017), NMFS has determined that this action is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment under Categorical Exclusion D.1, at CM Appendix E. The action does not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances provided in NOAA's NEPA procedures, and therefore does not require further analysis to determine whether the action may have significant effects (CM at 4.A).

Dated: March 22, 2022.

**Brian Pawlak,**

*Director, NMFS Office of Management and Budget.*

[FR Doc. 2022-06336 Filed 3-24-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB839]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; 2022 Research Fishery

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** On November 19, 2021, NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit applications to participate in the 2022 Shark Research Fishery. The Shark Research Fishery allows for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments and cooperative research with commercial fishermen to meet the shark research objectives of the Agency. Every year, the permit terms and permitted activities (*e.g.*, number of hooks and retention limits) specifically authorized for selected participants in the Shark Research Fishery are designated depending on the scientific and research needs of the Agency, as well as the number of NMFS-approved observers available. In order to inform selected participants of this year's specific permit requirements and ensure all terms and conditions of the permit are met, NMFS is holding a meeting via conference call and webinar for selected participants. The date and time of that meeting is announced in this notice.

**DATES:** A conference call will be held on March 31, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** A meeting will be conducted. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for information on how to access the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Guy DuBeck at (301) 427-8503 or Delisse Ortiz at (202) 930-1304.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as amended, is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635. Specifics regarding the commercial shark quotas and the shark research fishery can be found at §§ 635.27(b) and 635.32(f).

The final rule for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (73 FR 35778, June 24, 2008, corrected at 73 FR

40658, July 15, 2008) established, among other things, a shark research fishery to maintain time-series data for stock assessments and to meet NMFS' research objectives. The shark research fishery gathers important scientific data and allows selected commercial fishermen the opportunity to earn more revenue from selling the sharks caught, including sandbar sharks. Only the commercial shark fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery are authorized to land/harvest sandbar sharks subject to the sandbar quota available each year. The 2022 base annual sandbar shark quota is 90.7 mt dressed weight (dw). The selected shark research fishery participants also may fish using the research large coastal shark (§ 635.27(b)(1)(iii)(B)), small coastal shark (§ 635.27(b)(1)(i)(C) and (b)(1)(ii)(D)), and pelagic shark quotas (§ 635.27(b)(1)(iii)(D)) subject to the retention limits at § 635.24.

On November 19, 2021 (86 FR 64909), NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark directed and incidental permit holders to submit an application to participate in the 2022 shark research fishery. NMFS received seven applications and selected five participants. In order to inform selected participants of this year's specific permit requirements and to ensure all terms and conditions of the permit are met, per the requirements of § 635.32(f)(4), NMFS is holding a mandatory permit holder meeting via conference call and webinar.

#### Meeting Information

The meeting will be held on March 31, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m. (EDT). For conference call and webinar information, please go to <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/public-meeting-2022-shark-research-fishery>.

Selected participants are strongly encouraged to attend. Selected participants who are unable to attend will not be allowed to participate in the shark research fishery until they are able to discuss the terms and conditions of their shark research fishery permit with NMFS staff. Selected participants are encouraged to invite their captain, crew, or anyone else who may assist them in meeting the terms and conditions of the shark research fishery permit to the conference call. Other interested parties may call in and listen to the discussion.

Dated: March 22, 2022.

**Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,**  
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.  
[FR Doc. 2022-06354 Filed 3-24-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2021-0037]

#### Third Extension of the Modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program for Patent Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is extending the modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, which provides prioritized examination of certain patent applications. Requests that are compliant with the pilot program's requirements and are filed on or before June 30, 2022, will be accepted. The USPTO will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension period.

**DATES:** The COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program is extended as of March 25, 2022, to run until June 30, 2022.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert A. Clarke, Director, Office of Patent Legal Administration (571-272-7735; [robert.clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:robert.clarke@uspto.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 14, 2020, the USPTO published a notice on the implementation of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program. See COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 85 FR 28932 (May 14, 2020) (COVID-19 Track One Notice). On September 3, 2021, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to December 31, 2021, and modifying it by removing the limit on the number of patent applications that could receive prioritized examination. See Modification of COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 86 FR 49522 (September 3, 2021). On December 30, 2021, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to March 31, 2022. See Extension of the Modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 86 FR 74406 (December 30, 2021) (Second Extension Notice).

The COVID-19 Track One Notice indicated that an applicant may request prioritized examination without payment of the prioritized examination fee and associated processing fee if: (1) The patent application's claim(s) covered a product or process related to COVID-19, (2) the product or process was subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for COVID-19 use, and (3) the applicant

met other requirements noted in the COVID-19 Track One Notice. As of February 7, 2022, 225 patents had issued from applications granted prioritized status under the pilot program. The average total pendency, including time consumed by continued examination, from filing date to issue date for those applications was 298 days. The shortest pendency from filing date to issue date for those applications was 75 days.

The Second Extension Notice indicated that the pilot program would expire on March 31, 2022. In the current notice, the USPTO is further extending the pilot program by setting the expiration date as June 30, 2022. The Office will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this third extension period. If the USPTO determines that an additional extension of the pilot program is appropriate, the agency will publish a subsequent notice to the public.

Unless the pilot program is further extended by a subsequent notice, following the expiration of this extension, the pilot program will be terminated, and patent applicants interested in expediting the prosecution of their patent application may instead seek to use the Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program. Patent applications accorded prioritized examination under the pilot program will not lose that status merely because the application is still pending after the date the pilot program is terminated but will instead retain prioritized examination status until that status is terminated for one or more reasons, as described in the COVID-19 Track One Notice.

The Track One Program permits an applicant to have a patent application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination under 37 CFR 1.102(e) if the applicant timely files a request for prioritized (Track One) examination accompanied by the appropriate fees and meets the other conditions of 37 CFR 1.102(e). See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 708.02(b)(2). The current fee schedule is available at [www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/uspto-fee-schedule](http://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/uspto-fee-schedule).

The Track One Program does not have the restrictions of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program on the types of inventions for which special status may be sought, as the Track One Program does not require a connection to any particular technology. Moreover, under the Track One Program, an applicant can avoid delays associated with the determination of whether a patent application presents a