

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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 11, 2023.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2023-10418 Filed 5-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD014]

#### 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 joint meeting (webinar) of its Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Committee and Advisory Panel to consider potential alternatives for a framework adjustment to the MSB Fishery Management Plan that could implement a volumetric vessel hold baseline requirement and vessel hold upgrade restriction for *Illex* limited access permits.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Webinar connection information will be posted to the 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:** In September 2022, NOAA Fisheries disapproved an Amendment to the MSB fishery management plan that would have reduced directed limited access permits to address excess capacity in the *Illex* fishery. The Council subsequently voted to initiate and develop a framework action to consider a volumetric vessel hold baseline requirement and upgrade restriction for all *Illex* limited access permits. This action is intended to control future increases in capacity.

#### 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: May 11, 2023.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 2023-10420 Filed 5-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD020]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 27233

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that David Portnoy, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, has applied in due form for a permit to import scalloped hammerhead shark parts for purposes of scientific research. **DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 15, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27233 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 27233 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore or Erin Markin, Ph.D., (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant is requesting authorization to import scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) parts for genetic analysis. Parts would be from animals that have been previously collected or opportunistically acquired from fish markets representing the following geographic locations: Mexico (Eastern Pacific Distinct Population Segment (DPS), up to 100 individuals), Sierra Leone (Eastern Atlantic DPS, up to 50 individuals), Cabo Verde (Eastern Atlantic DPS, up to 50 individuals), all other countries (Eastern Pacific DPS, up to 100 individuals), and all other countries (Eastern Atlantic DPS, up to 50 individuals). The requested duration of the permit is 6 years.

Dated: May 11, 2023.

#### Julia M. Harrison,

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023-10404 Filed 5-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC997]

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Correction

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

**ACTION:** Notice of correction of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council is convening an ad-hoc sub-panel of its Scientific and

Statistical Committee (SSC) via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This webinar will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, beginning at 1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

Webinar registration information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5510384372857768792>.

Call in information: 1 (415) 655-0060, Access Code: 723-991-313.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The original notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 2023 (88 FR 30300). The original notice stated that the webinar meeting would begin at 9 a.m. This notice corrects the start time of the meeting to 1 p.m.

All other previously-published information remains unchanged.

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

Dated: May 11, 2023.

**Key Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-10416 Filed 5-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO-P-2022-0027]

**Expanding Admission Criteria for Registration To Practice in Patent Cases Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) previously published a notice requesting comments on the scientific and technical requirements to practice in patent matters before the USPTO. Specifically, the Office sought input on whether it should revise the scientific and technical criteria for admission to practice in patent matters to require the USPTO to periodically review certain applicant degrees on a predetermined

timeframe, make certain modifications to the accreditation requirement for computer science degrees, and add clarifying instructions to the General Requirements Bulletin for Admission to the Examination for Registration to Practice in Patent Cases before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (GRB) for limited recognition applicants. The USPTO has considered the comments and, based on the support for the proposals, is implementing updates to the GRB. Expanding the admission criteria of the patent bar would encourage broader participation and keep up with the ever-evolving technology and related teachings that qualify someone to practice before the USPTO.

**DATES:** The new version of the GRB incorporating the proposed updates will be published and be applicable as of May 16, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Will Covey, Director for the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED), at 571-272-4097 or [oed@uspto.gov](mailto:oed@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Summary**

On October 18, 2022, the Office published a request for comments on four proposals on the scientific and technical requirements to practice in patent matters before the USPTO. The first proposal was to add commonly accepted Category B degrees to Category A on a predetermined timeframe, namely every three years. The Office received 10 comments responsive to this proposal. The second proposal was to remove the requirement that computer science degrees be accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in order to be considered under Category A, and instead, to propose that the USPTO would accept all Bachelor of Science in computer science degrees from accredited colleges or universities under Category A. The Office received 14 comments responsive to this proposal. The third proposal was to clarify the instructions for applicants who are applying for limited recognition. The Office received five comments responsive to this proposal. A majority of the comments were supportive of the suggested changes regarding these three proposals. The fourth proposal, whether to implement a design patent practitioner bar, and, if so, how to do so, will be addressed in a separate notice.

This notice provides information related to the implementation of the first three proposals. Based on the USPTO's evaluation and comments received, the USPTO is changing the criteria to: add

common Category B degrees to Category A on a predetermined timeframe, namely every three years, and remove the requirement that in order to qualify under Category A, Bachelor of Science in computer science degrees must be accredited by the Computer Science Accreditation Commission of the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, or by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the ABET, on or before the date the degree was awarded. Instead, all Bachelor of Science degrees in computer science from an accredited university or college will be accepted under Category A. Additionally, the instructions to limited recognition applicants to apply for recognition will be clarified to aid applicants in the application process.

**Background**

The Director of the USPTO is given statutory authority to require a showing by patent practitioners that they possess "the necessary qualifications to render applicants or other persons valuable service, advice, and assistance in the presentation or prosecution of their applications or other business before the Office." 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(D). The courts have determined that the USPTO Director bears primary responsibility for protecting the public from unqualified practitioners.

Pursuant to that responsibility, USPTO regulations provide that registration to practice in patent matters before the USPTO requires a practitioner to, *inter alia*, demonstrate possession of scientific and technical qualifications.<sup>1</sup> The role of patent practitioners with scientific and technical backgrounds in providing full and clear patent specifications and claims has long been acknowledged. The USPTO publishes the GRB, which sets forth guidance for establishing possession of scientific and technical qualifications. The GRB also provides applicants instructions on how to apply to become a patent practitioner. The GRB is available at [www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OED\\_GRB.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OED_GRB.pdf).

The GRB lists three categories of scientific and technical qualifications that typically make one eligible for admission to the registration examination in order to practice before the Office in all patent matters: (1) Category A for specified bachelor's, master's, and doctorate of philosophy degrees; (2) Category B for other degrees

<sup>1</sup> Legal representation before Federal agencies is generally governed by the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 500. That statute, however, provides a specific exception for representation in patent matters before the USPTO. 5 U.S.C. 500(e). See 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(D) (formerly 35 U.S.C. 31).