

with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the SEDAR process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop, (2) A series of assessment webinars, and (3) A Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The assessment webinars produce a report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The product of the Review Workshop is an Assessment Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGOs; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the Pre-Assessment webinar are as follows: participants will review the data recommendations and the assessment modelling work to date.

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 identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: September 29, 2025.

**Becky J. Curtis,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025-19241 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

incidental catch, General Category access area trips, and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2026 and default specifications for fishing year 2027. They will also receive an update on ongoing 2025 scallop work priorities. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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. 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 Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 29, 2025.

**Becky J. Curtis,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025-19218 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

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**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee 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 meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: [https://nefmc.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/cuM0\\_wK-RmGgIKowakxOdg](https://nefmc.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/cuM0_wK-RmGgIKowakxOdg).

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at Merrill's on the Waterfront, 36 Homer's Wharf, New Bedford, MA 02740, Phone: (508) 997-7010.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Agenda

The Scallop Committee will meet to discuss Framework Adjustment 40: Receive an update on Plan Development Team tasking and provide input on the range of potential access area and days-at-sea (DAS) allocations for the 2026 and 2027 fishing years. Framework 40 will set specifications including Acceptable Biological Catch/Annual Catch Limits, DAS access area allocations, total allowable landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine management area, targets for General Category

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### Patent and Trademark Office

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patent and PTAB Pro Bono Programs**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0082 (Patent and PTAB Pro Bono Programs). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60

days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before December 1, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651–0082 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

• *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to:

**Patents:** Grant Corboy, Staff Attorney, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; 571–270–3102; or [Grant.Corboy@uspto.gov](mailto:Grant.Corboy@uspto.gov).

**PTAB:** Stacey G. White, Lead Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, Texas Regional Office, 207 S Houston St, Dallas, TX 75202; 469–295–9061; or [Stacey.White@uspto.gov](mailto:Stacey.White@uspto.gov).

Include “0651–0082 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), Public Law 112–29 § 32 (2011) directs the USPTO to work with and support intellectual property law associations across the country in the establishment of *pro bono* programs designed to assist financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses (also referred to as “regional hubs”). To support this, the USPTO works with and supports

various non-profit organizations to operate a series of autonomous regional hubs that endeavor to match under-resourced inventors with volunteer patent practitioners across the United States. The regional hubs comprise law schools, bar associations, innovation/entrepreneurial organizations, and arts-focused lawyer referral services that are strategically located to provide access to patent *pro bono* services across all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

To support the purposes described above, the Patent Pro Bono Survey collects information regarding the activity of the regional hubs. The USPTO works with the Pro Bono Advisory Council (PBAC) to determine what information is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of each regional hub’s operations. The PBAC is a well-established group of patent practitioners and thought leaders in intellectual property who provide support and guidance to the regional hubs across the country. The collected data provides the USPTO with valuable information, including the number of inventor inquiries, referral sources, number of *pro bono* applicants successfully matched with patent practitioners, and types of patent filings. The USPTO, PBAC, and the regional hubs, are responsible for the quarterly collection of this data.

The USPTO’s Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), collaborates with the PTAB Bar Association (PTAB Bar Assoc.), a non-profit organization that has taken up the task of helping secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of PTAB proceedings and serves the public by coordinating *pro bono* opportunities. The PTAB Bar Assoc. established a national clearinghouse that acts as a matchmaker connecting under-resourced inventors with volunteer patent practitioners across the United States for assistance in preparing and arguing *ex parte* appeals before the PTAB. The PTAB Bar Assoc.’s national clearinghouse provides nationwide access to legal representation for *pro bono ex parte* appeal services. The PTAB Pro Bono Program supports the purposes described above by facilitating the availability of *pro bono* services for proceedings before the PTAB, which the

USPTO believes can help reduce the financial burden on under-resourced inventors seeking *ex parte* appeal assistance.

This information collection covers the surveys used in the Patent and PTAB Pro Bono Programs. The surveys gather information about the effectiveness of the programs and how participants utilize the programs’ resources. The information, at its highest level, allows the USPTO to determine whether the regional hubs and national clearinghouse are matching qualified under-resourced inventors with volunteer patent practitioners and help estimate the total economic benefit derived by under-resourced inventors in the form of donated legal services. This information also helps the USPTO determine if the regional hubs and clearinghouse are effectively serving under-resourced inventors and whether they need additional support.

#### **II. Method of Collection**

The items in this information collection are submitted electronically.

#### **III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0651–0082.

*Forms:*

- USPTO/550 (Patent Pro Bono Survey)
- USPTO/552 (PTAB Pro Bono Survey)

*Type of Review:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Private sector.

*Respondent’s Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*Frequency:* Quarterly; annually.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 22 respondents.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 85 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 1.75 hours (105 minutes) to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 149 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Hourly Cost Burden:* \$9,536.

TABLE 1—TOTAL BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents (a)	Responses per respondent (b)	Estimated annual responses (a) × (b) = (c)	Estimated time for response (hours) (d)	Estimated burden (hour/year) (c) × (d) = (e)	Rate <sup>1</sup> (\$/hour) (f)	Estimated annual respondent cost burden (e) × (f) = (g)
1 .....	Patent Pro Bono Survey (USPTO/550).	21	4	84	1.75 (105 minutes)	147	\$64	\$9,408
2 .....	PTAB Pro Bono Survey (USPTO/552).	1	1	1	1.75 (105 minutes)	2	\$64	\$128
Totals	.....	22	.....	85	.....	149	.....	\$9,536

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden:* \$0. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, recordkeeping costs, filing fees, or postage costs associated with this information collection.

#### IV. Request for Comments

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

(a) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

All comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. The USPTO will include or summarize each comment in the request to OMB to approve this information collection. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in a comment, be aware that the entire comment—including PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask in your comment to withhold PII from public view, the

USPTO cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

**Justin Isaac,**

*Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2025-19357 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

#### COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

##### Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act Guidance

**AGENCY:** Council on Environmental Quality.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** On September 29, 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a memorandum to the heads of Federal departments and agencies (agencies) to assist agencies with compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and with establishing or revising agency NEPA implementing procedures. This guidance updates and replaces initial guidance issued on February 19, 2025.

**DATES:** This guidance was issued on September 29, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jomar Maldonado, Director for NEPA, 202-395-5750,  
*Jomar.MaldonadoVazquez@ceq.eop.gov.*  
The guidance is available for viewing online at [www.nepa.gov](http://www.nepa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 29, 2025, CEQ issued a memorandum entitled Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act to provide guidance to Federal agencies regarding implementation of NEPA. This guidance updates and replaces guidance issued on February 19, 2025, also entitled Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, which CEQ published at [www.nepa.gov](http://www.nepa.gov). The updated memorandum includes an overview of NEPA, including a discussion of recent amendments to the statute and recent

case law as relevant to agency implementation of NEPA. The memorandum also provides guidance for agencies to use when establishing or revising agency-specific NEPA implementing procedures. As an appendix to the memorandum, CEQ has included a template that agencies are encouraged to use as an initial framework for establishing or revising their NEPA implementing procedures, to the extent consistent with agency authorities and applicable law. CEQ developed this template with the assistance of a Federal agency working group established pursuant to Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (90 FR 8353, Jan. 20, 2025).

The guidance and the associated template are not mandatory or binding on Federal agencies. Rather, they are intended to expedite and simplify the permitting process and promote consistency as to NEPA's implementation consistent with Section 5 of Executive Order 14154.

The guidance and template are available at [www.nepa.gov](http://www.nepa.gov).

**Katherine R. Scarlett,**

*Chairman.*

[FR Doc. 2025-19236 Filed 10-1-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3325-FC-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### Office of the Secretary

**[Transmittal No. 24-49]**

##### Arms Sales Notification

**AGENCY:** Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Arms sales notice.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD is publishing the unclassified text of an arms sales notification.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Urooj Zahra at (703) 695-6523,  
*urooj.zahra.civ@mail.mil*, or  
*dsca.nrc.rsrcmgmt.list.cns-mbx@mail.mil*.

<sup>1</sup> The USPTO uses the mean hourly wage (\$64) for administrators according to the data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' May 2024 Occupational Employment Statistics Profile (occupation code 11-1021); <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>.