

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program Office will hold an organizational meeting of the NIDIS Executive Council on December 5, 2019.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, December 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. EST to 4:00 p.m. EST. These times and the agenda topics are subject to change.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hall of the States, Room 383/385, 444 North Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Veva Deheza, NIDIS Executive Director, David Skaggs Research Center, Room GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder CO 80305. Email: Veva.Deheza@noaa.gov; or visit the NIDIS website at www.drought.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was established by Public Law 109–430 on December 20, 2006, and reauthorized by Public Law 113–86 on March 6, 2014 and Public Law 115–423 on January 7, 2019, with a mandate to provide an effective drought early warning system for the United States; coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Federal research in support of a drought early warning system; and build upon existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships. See 15 U.S.C. 313d. The Public Law also calls for consultation with “relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector” in the development of NIDIS. 15 U.S.C. 313d(c). The NIDIS Executive Council provides the NIDIS Program Office with an opportunity to engage in individual consultation with senior resource officials from NIDIS’s Federal partners, as well as leaders from state and local government, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

Status: This meeting will be open to public participation. Individuals interested in attending should register at <https://cpaess.ucar.edu/meetings/2019/fall-2019-nidis-executive-council-meeting>. Please refer to this web page for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda. Seating at the meeting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special Accommodations: This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

special accommodations may be directed no later than 12:00 p.m. on November 26, 2018, to Elizabeth Ossowski, Program Coordinator, David Skaggs Research Center, Room GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder CO 80305; Email: Elizabeth.Ossowski@noaa.gov.
Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include the following topics: (1) NIDIS implementation updates and 2019/2020 priorities, (2) Executive Council member updates and 2019/2020 priorities, (3) Outcomes from the 2019 National Drought Forum, including Priority Actions where NIDIS and partners have a critical role to play, (4) Development of the reinsurance industry’s resilience solutions, (5) the U.S. Drought Portal 2020 Re-launch, (6) Opportunities related to the U.S. Drought Monitor and National Soil Moisture Network strategy, and (7) the National Drought Resilience Partnership.

Dated: November 8, 2019.

David Holst,

Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019–25050 Filed 11–18–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KB-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XV134

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold its 168th meeting in December to discuss the items contained in the agenda in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

DATES: The meetings will be held on December 10–11, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at Hilton Ponce Golf and Casino Resort, 1150 Caribe Avenue, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Miguel A. Rolón, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–1903, telephone: (787) 766–5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

December 10, 2019, 9 a.m.–12 Noon

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of 166th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions and 167th Webinar Meeting
- Executive Director’s Report
- SSC Report (October 29–31, 2019 meeting)
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan Update—Graciela García-Moliner

December 10, 2019, 12 Noon–1:30 p.m.

- Lunch break

December 10, 2019, 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

- Review of Pertinent State and Federal Management Regulations in USVI—Spiny Lobster Control Date—Spiny Lobster Project—Tony Iarocci
 - New Fishers Association St. Thomas/St. John—Ruth Gómez
- Public Comment Period—(5-minute presentations)

December 10, 2019, 5:15 p.m.–6 p.m.

- Administrative Issues
- Closed Session

December 11, 2019, 9 a.m.–12 Noon

- Highly Migratory Species Update—Randy Blankinship
- Red Hind Studies—Carlos Zayas
- Queen Triggerfish Biological Studies—Jesús Rivera Hernández
- Oceanographic Connectivity Studies USVI/PR—Jorge Capella
- Outreach and Education Report—Alida Ortiz

December 11, 2019, 12 Noon–1:30 p.m.

- Lunch Break

December 11, 2019, 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

- Portrait of Puerto Rico’s Commercial Fisheries Two Years After the Impact of Hurricane María—Daniel Matos Caraballo
 - SEAMAP–C PR Update with the Use of Underwater Video Images for Fish Counts and Habitat Description—Verónica Seda Matos
 - Histological Validation of Visual sex Determination for Reef Fish Species—Noemí Peña Alvarado
 - Ciguatera Studies Report
 - Enforcement Issues:—Puerto Rico-DNER—USVI-DPNR—U.S. Coast Guard—NMFS/NOAA
 - MREP Meeting—Graciela García-Moliner/Vanessa Ramírez
 - Other Business
- Public Comment Period—(5-minute presentations)

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the

completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on December 10, 2019 at 9 a.m. Other than the start time, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated. In addition, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 14, 2019.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-25051 Filed 11-18-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Deposit of Biological Materials

ACTION: Notice of renewal of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension of an existing information collection: 0651-0022 (Deposit of Biological Materials).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 21, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651-0022 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Branch, 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 Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by

telephone at 571-272-7728; or by email to Raul.Tamayo@uspto.gov with “0651-0022 comment” in the subject line.

Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection covers information from patent applicants who seek to deposit biological materials as part of a patent application. The information collected from such patent applicants consists of information and documentation demonstrating the applicant’s compliance with regulatory requirements, as well as information regarding the biological sample after it is deposited. This collection also covers applications from institutions that wish to be recognized by the USPTO as a suitable depository to receive deposits for patent purposes. The information collection requirements for these actions are separate, as further discussed below.

A. Deposits of Biological Materials

The deposit of biological materials as part of a patent application is authorized by 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2). The term “biological material” is defined in 37 CFR 1.801 as including material that is capable of self-replication, either directly or indirectly. When an invention involves a biological material, sometimes words and figures are not sufficient to satisfy the statutory requirement for patentability under 35 U.S.C. 112 (every patent must contain a description of the invention sufficient to enable a person (knowledgeable in the relevant science), to make and use the invention as specified by 35 U.S.C. 112). In such cases, the required biological material must either be: (1) Known and readily available (neither condition alone is sufficient) or (2) deposited in a suitable depository that has been recognized as an International Depository Authority (IDA) established under the Budapest Treaty, or a depository recognized by the USPTO to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Under the authority of 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2), the deposit rules (37 CFR 1.801-1.809) set forth examining procedures and conditions of deposit which must be satisfied in the event a deposit is required. The rules do not address the substantive issue of whether a deposit is required under any particular set of facts.

In cases where a deposit is necessary, the USPTO collects information to determine whether the depositor is in compliance with the deposit rules. This includes statements proving notification

to the interested public on where to obtain samples of the deposits and confirming that all restriction on access to the deposit will be irrevocably removed upon issuance of the patent. A viability statement also must be submitted to the USPTO showing that the biological material was tested by the depository or another, the conditions of the test, and that it is a viable or acceptable deposit. A viability statement is not required when a deposit is made and accepted under the Budapest Treaty.

This collection also covers additional information that may be gathered by the USPTO after a biological material is deposited into the recognized depository. For example, depositors may be required to submit verification statements for biological materials deposited after the effective filing date of a patent application or written notification that an acceptable deposit will be made. Occasionally a deposit may be lost, contaminated, or otherwise is not able to self-replicate, and a replacement or supplemental deposit needs to be made. In that event, this collection covers the requirement that the depositor submit a written notification to the USPTO concerning the particulars of the situation and request a certificate of correction by the USPTO authorizing the replacement or supplemental deposit.

There are no forms associated with the information collected by the USPTO in connection with the deposit of biological materials.

B. Depositories

Institutions that wish to be recognized by the USPTO as a suitable depository to receive deposits for patent purposes, are required by 37 CFR 1.803 to make a request demonstrating that they are qualified to store and test the biological materials submitted to them under patent applications. This collection covers the information gathered in the request to allow the USPTO to evaluate whether such an institution has demonstrated that its internal practices (both technical and administrative) and the technical ability of the staff and the facility are sufficient to protect the integrity of the biological materials being stored. For example, this collection covers documentation from depositories that verifies that their practices and procedures, the technical competence of their staff, and their facilities fulfill the stringent requirements spelled out under the rules.

This collection also covers additional information gathered by the USPTO that may be needed after a depository has