Discussion; Impact Evaluation Tool Discussion; Pacific cod Management and recent Council action; Updates on SSL and Other Marine Mammal Research, SSL Genetics and Stock Structure; the Committee will discuss and deliberate on these issues.

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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, (907) 271–2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 11, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–7416 Filed 5–15–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050906G]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC) Impact Evaluation Tool Development Subcommittee will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 26, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4, Seattle, WA.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Wilson, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee's agenda includes the following issues: Introductions and opening remarks; purpose and need for Impact Evaluation Tool; work session to develop a Straw Man Impact Evaluation Tool; action items, closing remarks, adjourn.

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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, (907) 271–2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 11, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–7417 Filed 5–15–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050306D]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will hold a work session on May 30,2006, via telephone conference call, which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSMT work session will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 2006, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Pacific Time

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held via telephone conference call. Interested members of the public may contact Dr. Kit Dahl for information on how to participate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this HMSMT work session is to review any exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for HMS fisheries received by the Council for the 2007 fishing year (which begins April 1, 2007) that have not been reviewed to date. According to Council operating procedures, applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the June Council meeting and a deadline of 5 p.m. on May 26, 2006, has been set for such receipt. Based on their review and discussion at this meeting, the HMSMT will prepare a written report with advice to the Council. If no applications are received by this date the HMSMT teleconference meeting will be cancelled and no HMSMT report will be prepared.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 9, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–7418 Filed 5–15–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050306B]

Western Pacific Regional 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 Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold its 92nd meeting.

DATES: The meeting will convene on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 through Thursday, June 1, 2006. The meeting will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The SSC meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, May 30, 2006, 8:30 a.m.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Draft Agenda and Assignment of Rapporteurs
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 91st Meeting
4. Insular Fisheries
A. Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Issues
1. Report on Hawaii Monitoring and Research Plan
2. Update on Bottomfish Stock Assessment
3. Plan Team Recommendations
B. Precious Corals
1. Draft Report on Black Coral Workshop
2. Plan Team Report
C. Public Comment
D. Discussion and Recommendations
5. Ecosystem and Habitat
A. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Fishing Regulations (ACTION ITEM)
B. Public Comment
C. Discussion and Recommendations

Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 8:30 a.m.

6. Protected Species
A. 26th Sea Turtle Symposium
B. Public Comment
C. Discussion and Recommendations
7. Pelagic Fisheries
A. American Samoa and Hawaii Longline 2005 Reports
B. Bigeye-Yellowfin Overfishing Measures (ACTION ITEM)
C. Options for Swordfish Seasonal Closure (ACTION ITEM)
D. International Fisheries
a. International Scientific Committee
b. SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
c. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Annual Meeting
d. WCPFC Scientific Committee
e. Council South Pacific Albacore Workshop
E. Shark Bycatch in Longline Fisheries
F. Public Comment
G. Discussion and Recommendations

Thursday, June 1, 2006, 8:30 a.m.

8. Other Business
A. 93rd SSC meeting – Paul Callaghan
9. Summary of SSC Recommendations to the Council

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 Council's 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 11, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–7425 Filed 5–15–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2006–0026]

Request for Comments on Patents Search Templates

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has developed and published patent search templates. Search templates define the field of search, search tools, and search methodologies that should be considered each time a patent application is examined in a particular classification. The USPTO is inviting public comment on the search templates.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to *STIC-SearchTemplate@uspto.gov*. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Patents Search Template Comments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The comments will be available for public inspection via the USPTO's Internet Web site (address: *http://www.uspto.gov*). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristin Vajs, Manager, Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC), Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Resources and Planning, by telephone at (571) 272–3512.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Currently, patent applications filed in the USPTO, and the resulting United States patent application publications and United States patents, are classified into approximately 600 classes based upon technology and subject matter of the claimed invention. A patent examiner is responsible for reviewing prior patent documents, both domestic and foreign, and other printed literature related to an application's subject matter during the examination process. This review, called the search, is performed by consulting the appropriate classes, and their respective subclasses, in the United States classification system, other patent document databases, and any other printed media (also known as ''non-patent literature'' or ''NPL''), which might disclose the invention disclosed/claimed in a patent application under examination.

In determining the appropriate field of search for an invention, the examiner must consider three sources of information: (1) Domestic patent documents; (2) foreign patent documents; and (3) NPL. The current requirements for conducting that search are set forth in section 904.02 of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP). *See* MPEP § 904.02 (8th ed. 2001) (Rev. 3, August 2005). An examiner may not eliminate any of these resources from consideration unless the examiner can justify to a reasonable certainty that no more pertinent references will be found in a further search. *See* MPEP § 904.02. Although the general guidance set forth in the