

Dated: April 4, 2012.

**Lisa Manning,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-8483 Filed 4-6-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB134

#### 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 meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Golden King Crab Price Formula Committee is meeting in Seattle, WA.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held April 26-27, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Pacific Seafood Processing Association, 1900 W. Emerson Place, Suite 205, Seattle, WA.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Fina, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee is meeting concerning the arbitration system that is part of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program. The Committee will give specific attention to the development of the price formula for golden king crab under the arbitration system. Additional information is posted on the Council Web site: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

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 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 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

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 4, 2012.

**William D. Chappell**

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

[FR Doc. 2012-8479 Filed 4-6-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

#### Patents External Quality Survey (formerly Customer Panel Quality Survey)

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this extension of a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before June 8, 2012.

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

- *Email:*

*InformationCollection@uspto.gov.* Include "0651-0057 Patents External Quality Survey comment" in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Martin Rater, Management Analyst, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-5966; or by email to [Martin.Rater@uspto.gov](mailto:Martin.Rater@uspto.gov) with "Paperwork" in the subject line.

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

[www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov) under "Information Collection Review."

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Abstract

For over the past 10 years, the USPTO has used surveys to obtain customer feedback regarding the products, services, and related service standards of the USPTO. The USPTO used the data to measure how well the agency is meeting established customer service standards, to identify any disjoints between customer expectations and USPTO performance, and to develop improvement strategies. Typically, these surveys ask customers to express their satisfaction with the USPTO's products and services based upon their interactions with the agency as a whole over a 12-month period.

In order to obtain further data concerning customer ratings of the USPTO's services, service standards, and performance, the USPTO developed the Patents External Quality Survey. This survey narrows the focus of customer satisfaction to examination quality and uses a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions and to identify key areas for examiner training and opportunities for improvement. The USPTO plans to survey patent agents, attorneys, and other individuals from large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-size businesses, and universities and other non-profit research organizations. In addition, the USPTO also plans to survey independent inventors. The USPTO does not plan to survey foreign entities.

The USPTO will draw a random sample of these customers from their database. Due to the rotating panel design, some sample members will be surveyed twice in order to measure change over a period of time. Each year of the survey will include two waves of data collection.

The Patents External Quality Survey is a mail survey, although respondents can also complete the survey electronically on the Web. The content of both versions will be identical. A survey packet containing the questionnaire, a separate cover letter prepared by the Commissioner of Patents, a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope, and instructions for completing the survey electronically will be mailed to all sample members. A pre-notification letter, reminder/thank you postcards, and telephone calls will be used to encourage response from sample members.

This is a voluntary survey and all responses will remain confidential. The

collected data will not be linked to the respondent and contact information that is used for sampling purposes will be maintained in a separate file from the quantitative data. Respondents are not required to provide any identifying information such as their name, address, or Social Security Number. In order to access and complete the online survey, respondents will need to use the username, password, and survey ID number provided by the USPTO.

**II. Method of Collection**

By mail or electronically over the Internet if respondents choose to complete the survey online.

**III. Data**

OMB Number: 0651-0057.

Form Number(s): No form numbers.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and non-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,500 responses per year, with an estimated 75 submitted by small entities. Out of a sample size of 2,750 for each wave of data collection, the USPTO estimates that 1,250 completed surveys will be received, for a response rate of 45%. This estimate was based on the response rates of the previous survey waves that the USPTO has conducted. Each year of the survey will include two waves of data collection with an estimated 2,500 completed surveys received annually (1,250 completed surveys x 2 waves of the survey). Of this total, the USPTO estimates that 20% (500) of the surveys

will be returned by mail and that 80% (2,000) of the surveys will be completed using the online option.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it takes the public approximately 10 minutes (0.17 hours) to complete either the paper or online version of this survey. This estimated time includes gathering the necessary information, completing the survey, and submitting it to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 425 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$144,500. The USPTO estimates that attorneys will be completing these surveys. Using the professional hourly rate of \$340 for attorneys in private firms, the USPTO estimates \$144,500 per year for the respondent cost burden for this collection.

Item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Customer Panel Quality Survey .....	10	500	85
Electronic Customer Panel Quality Survey .....	10	2,000	340
Totals .....	.....	2,500	425

*Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0. There are no annual (non-hour) costs for this information collection. The USPTO covers the costs of all survey materials and provides postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for the completed mail surveys.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 4, 2012.

**Susan K. Fawcett,**  
Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-8485 Filed 4-6-12; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees**

**AGENCY:** DoD.

**ACTION:** Renewal of Federal Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, (5 U.S.C. Appendix), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b), and 41 CFR 102-3.50(d), the Department of Defense (DoD) gives notice that it is renewing the charter for the Defense Science Board (hereafter referred to as "the Board").

The Board shall provide the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as requested, other Office of the Secretary of Defense

Principal Staff Assistants, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, and the Commanders of the Combatant Commands, independent advice and recommendations on science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD. Tasks assigned to the Board or its authorized subcommittees shall be determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The Board is not established to advise on individual DoD procurements, but instead shall be concerned with the pressing and complex technology problems facing the Department in such areas as research, engineering, and manufacturing, and will ensure the identification of new technologies and new applications of technology in those areas to strengthen national security. No matter shall be assigned to the Board for its consideration that would require any Board member to participate personally and substantially in the conduct of any specific procurement or place him or her in the position of acting as a contracting or procurement official.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics shall be authorized to act upon the