species. The scientists combined this data using a life table to calculate the mid-point biological values between the species. They then used a state-space Bayesian surplus production model that implemented a Schaefer production model in a Bayesian framework. The peer reviewers found this model to be appropriate and robust. The reviewers noted issues could occur if the biology and population dynamics differed significantly but they did not believe this was an issue for the current assessment.

In addition to the base model, the assessment scientists ran a number of sensitivities. All sensitivities found that the number of sharks in 2012 ($N_{2012}$), which was the proxy used for biomass for this model, was greater than $N_{MSY}$ ($N_{2012}$/$N_{MSY}$ ranged from 1.68 to 1.83 vs. 1.78 in the base model) and the exploitation rate in 2012 ($H_{2012}$), which was the proxy used for fishing mortality in this model, was less than $H_{MSY}$ ($H_{2012}$/$H_{MSY}$ ranged from 0.07 to 0.35 vs. 0.18 in the base model). Projections under varying catch levels conducted with the base model and sensitivities reflecting plausible states of nature, except the low catch scenario which was not deemed plausible, indicated that the 2012 catch could be increased by a factor of 4 and still allow for less than a 30 percent probability of the stock being overfished during any of the 10 years in the projection horizon. Similarly, the projected scenarios indicated that the 2012 catch could be increased by a factor of 2, 3, or 4 and still allow for less than a 30 percent probability of overfishing occurring during any of the 10 years in the projection horizon.

The peer reviewers found the Gulf of Mexico smoothhound complex is most likely neither overfished, nor undergoing overfishing. The peer reviewers noted that the reliability of the stock status determination is dependent on the accuracy of the shrimp trawl bycatch estimates for these species and suggested that NMFS explore alternative catch streams to help assess this uncertainty. Nonetheless, the review panel believed that the model and associated sensitivities captured the main uncertainties associated with the assessment. The review panel considered the base model and corresponding sensitivity runs the best scientific information available. Based on these results, NMFS determined that the status of the Gulf of Mexico smoothhound shark complex is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Dated: June 23, 2015.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Permit No. 14809, issued on March 24, 2014 (79 FR 18526), authorizes the permit holder to conduct comparative research on 34 species/stocks of cetaceans in the North Atlantic, North Pacific and Southern Oceans. Authorized activities include suction cup tagging, acoustic playbacks, passive acoustics, biopsy sampling, photo-identification, behavioral observations, and incidental harassment during vessel surveys. The research objectives are to: (1) Document baseline foraging and social behavior of cetacean species under different ecological conditions; (2) place these behaviors in a population-level context; and (3) determine how these species respond to various natural sound sources. The permit is valid through March 31, 2019. A minor amendment (–01) was issued on December 4, 2014 to the permit to authorize another type of suction cup tag. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to authorize the use of dart/barb tags during authorized tagging efforts on Cuvier’s beaked whales (Ziphius cavirostris), short-finned pilot whales (Globicephala macrocephalus), Risso’s dolphins (Grampus griseus), Arnuox’s beaked whales (Berardius arnuxii), Antarctic minke whales (Balaenoptera bonaerensis) and endangered humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) during vessel surveys. No other changes to the permit are requested.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an Initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

2015 Application Period for the Patents for Humanity Program


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Patents for Humanity is an annual program through which the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recognizes patent holders who use their technology for humanitarian purposes. This year, the USPTO will accept applications for recognition under the program from July 1, 2015, to December 4, 2015. All other program terms remain the same as the terms of the 2014 program.

DATES: Effective Date: June 29, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Policy and International Affairs, by telephone at (571) 272–9300; by mail addressed to: Patents for Humanity Program, Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; or by email to patentsforhumanity@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Patents for Humanity is a program through which the USPTO recognizes patent owners who use their technology for humanitarian purposes. See Patents for Humanity Program, 79 FR 18670 (Apr. 3, 2014), for a description of the program.

In 2015, the USPTO will accept applications for recognition under the program from July 1, 2015, through December 4, 2015. The USPTO accepted applications for awards under the previous year’s program from April 15, 2014, to September 15, 2014. This year’s schedule will allow the USPTO to conduct outreach during the fall months and to administer the selection process during the winter. The USPTO expects to announce awards in the spring of 2016.


DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No. ED–2015–ICCD–0084]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 3501 et seq.), ED is proposing [insert one of the following: an extension of an existing information collection, new information collection, an extension of an existing information collection with a decrease in burden] to extend the collection of information from the Federal Register for the notice of proposed information collection request. ED is especially interested in the burden of this collection on the respondents, including the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

OMB Control Number: 1820–0030.

Type of Review: an extension of an existing information collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 60.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 840.

Abstract: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, signed on December 3, 2004, became Public Law 108–446. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a) a State is eligible for assistance under Part B for a fiscal year if the State submits a plan that provides assurances to the Secretary that the State has effect policies and procedures to ensure that the State meets each of the conditions found in 20 U.S.C. 1412. States will provide assurances that it either has or does not have in effect policies and procedures to meet the eligibility requirements of Part B of the Act as found in Public Law 108–446. Information Collection 1820–0030 corresponds with 34 CFR 300.100–176; 300.199; 300.640–645; and 300.705. These sections include the requirement that the Secretary and local educational agencies located in the State be notified of any State-imposed rule, regulation, or policy that is not required by this title and Federal regulations.