

SUMMARY: The Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 101 assessment process will consist of a Data Workshop, an internal agency led assessment stage, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 101 Post-Data Workshop Webinar will be held from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. EDT May 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405. *https://www.sedarweb.org*. *Meeting address:* The SEDAR 101 Post-Data Workshop Webinar will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Ott, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 302-8434. Email: *Emily.Ott@safmc.net*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with the NMFS 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 participatory process for developing, evaluating and reviewing information used for fisheries management advice. The process may include (1) a Data stage, and (2) an Assessment stage, and (3) a Review stage. The product of the Data stage is a report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment stage is a report which compiles and evaluates recommended model configurations that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks and projects future population conditions. The product of the Review Workshop is a Review Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the products reviewed. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species 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 non-governmental organizations; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and Federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Post-Data Workshop Webinar are as follows:

The Panel will finalize data decisions that were not completed at the in-person data workshop. 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: May 1, 2026.

Anna Michelle Harrison,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2020-0027]

Extension and Modification of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program, initiated on July 2, 2020, and previously extended on July 12, 2021, and October 4, 2022. The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program permits appellants with a docketed *ex parte* appeal before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB or

Board) to file a petition to expedite the review of the appeal. The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program previously set a target of reaching a decision on each *ex parte* appeal within six months from the date the appeal entered the program. Effective in this extension, the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program will set a target of reaching a decision on each *ex parte* appeal within four months from the date the appeal enters the program.

DATES:

Applicability Date: May 6, 2026.

Duration: The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program will run until May 6, 2028. After that date, the USPTO may temporarily or permanently extend the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (with or without modification) or discontinue the program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Megan Carlson, PTAB, by telephone at 571-272-9797 or by email at *fasttrackappeals@uspto.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Ex parte appeals to the Board are normally taken up for decision in the order in which they are docketed. See USPTO Standard Operating Procedure 1, Rev. 16, Assignment of judges to panels (June 12, 2024), available at *www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/resources*. Currently, average appeal pendency is about 8.5 months, down from 15 months in 2020, and 30 months in 2015. See the PTAB statistics available at *https://www.uspto.gov/dashboard/ptab/*. A small number of *ex parte* appeals are advanced out of turn, for example, because the appealed case is a reissue application or a reexamination proceeding, or because the appealed case was accorded special status in light of an inventor's advanced age or poor health.

On July 2, 2020, the PTAB adopted, on a temporary basis, the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program, where appellants may have an *ex parte* appeal to the Board advanced out of turn by filing a petition under 37 CFR 41.3 and paying the petition fee specified in 37 CFR 41.20(a). See Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (85 FR 39888, July 2, 2020) (Fast-Track Notice). The PTAB extended the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program on July 12, 2021. See Extension of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (86 FR 36530, July 12, 2021) (First Extension). The PTAB again extended the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program on October 4, 2022. See Extension of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (87 FR 60135, October 4, 2022) (Second Extension). The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program permits appellants to accelerate the Board's decision on an *ex parte* appeal, hastening patentability

determinations and the potential for commercialization of goods or services embodying those patented inventions. This helps contribute to follow-on innovation, economic growth, and job creation. The USPTO's form for the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program petition, Form PTO/SB/451, is available at <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/forms/>.

The Fast-Track Notice required, among other things, that appellant(s) file a petition before July 2, 2021, to participate in the program. The Fast-Track Notice also set a maximum number of 500 appeals that may be advanced through Fast-Track petitions. The First Extension required that a petition be filed before July 2, 2022, to participate in the program. The Second Extension required that a petition be filed before July 2, 2024, to participate in the program. The First and Second Extensions removed the maximum number of 500 appeals, but they maintained a maximum number of 125 Fast-Track petitions granted per quarter.

The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program is hereby extended to accept petitions for advancing *ex parte* appeals out of turn (*i.e.*, providing "Fast-Track status") through May 6, 2028. The requirements for the program remain the same as those established in the Fast-Track Notice (*see* 85 FR 39888), with the following modifications regarding the petition limit and the target timeframe to reach a decision.

Consistent with the First and Second Extensions, there is no upper limit of 500 total granted Fast-Track petitions. However, to maintain the Board's ability to provide this faster appeal option while timely resolving other appeals, the number of granted petitions in the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program remains limited to 125 granted petitions per quarter. If a quarterly limit is reached, the PTAB retains the flexibility to accept additional petitions, either for consideration in that quarter or in the next quarter.

Effective in this extension, the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program will set a target of reaching a decision on each *ex parte* appeal within four months from the date the appeal enters the program.

Although the previous extension expired on July 2, 2024, the PTAB has been processing petitions to join the program as if the Second Extension period remained in effect. The PTAB will continue to do so under the terms provided in this notice.

The USPTO tracks the number of petitions it grants, the average time it takes to answer petitions, and the average time for the Board to render a decision on the merits of the *ex parte*

appeal after a petition grant. These statistics may be viewed at www.uspto.gov/PTABFastTrack.

John A. Squires,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2026-08798 Filed 5-5-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of a new system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC or Commission) is establishing a new Privacy Act system of records titled "CFTC-59, Insider Risk Program Records." This system of records contains information that the Commission collects, maintains, and uses to administer its Insider Risk program and to detect, deter, and mitigate risks to individuals, facilities, information, equipment, networks, and systems within the CFTC. This newly established system of records will be included in the CFTC's inventory of record systems.

DATES: This system of records, including the routine uses, is effective June 15, 2026. Please submit comments on or before June 5, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified as pertaining to CFTC-59 Insider Risk Program, by any of the following methods:

- *Regulations.gov:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and press the "Search" button, then proceed as follows:

1. Under Refine Documents Results—check the box to "Only show documents open for comment";

2. Under Agency—select "See More" and check the box for "Commodity Futures Trading Commission," then press the Apply button;

3. Identify this proposal in the list of CFTC documents open for comment, press the "Comment" button to open the submission form, and follow the instructions on the form.

Alternatively, if you are viewing this proposal on www.federalregister.gov, click the "Submit A Public Comment" button at the top of the page to open the comment form. Follow the instructions

on the form to submit your comment to Regulations.gov.

- *Mail:* Send to—Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Address to—CFTC Comment Submission, Attn: Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

Please submit your comments using only one of these methods. To avoid possible delays with mail or in-person deliveries, submissions through Regulations.gov are encouraged.

All comments must be submitted in English or, if not, accompanied by an English translation. Do not include in your comment text or attachments any personal identifying information or business information that you do not want published online. Comments (regardless of submission method) will be published without review for, and without removal of, any personal identifying information or information your business may consider confidential.

If you wish to submit confidential information for the Commission's consideration, please contact the CFTC personnel listed in this Notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** before making any submission. Please also carefully review the Commission's procedures in 17 CFR 145.9 for requesting confidential treatment under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of information submitted to the Commission.

The CFTC reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, or redact all or any part of your comment submission. The CFTC also reserves the right, without further notification, to refuse to publish or to remove from public view all or any part of your submission to the extent it contains content inappropriate for publication in a comment file, such as—without limitation—obscene language, threats of violence, solicitations for commercial sales or illegal activity, or obvious spam. If a submission that is refused for or withdrawn from publication because of inappropriate content also contains comments on the merits of this proposal, such submission will be retained in the record for the matter and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under the FOIA.