

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF928]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. EDT. Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/7pSbK5LbvyxdDkIQ>.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; Phone (603) 431–2300.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Groundfish Committee will meet to discuss Framework 68/Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules—progress report, including update on contract work to evaluate integration of risk policy with ABC control rules. The Committee will also have a follow-up discussion on final report on the Amendment 23 Monitoring Review. They will also discuss Framework 74/Specifications and Management Measures that include a progress report on development of the action. They will discuss other business, as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 7, 2026.

Anna Michelle Harrison,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO–C–2026–0364; XRIN 0651–XA007]

Administrative Updates to the General Requirements Bulletin for Admission to the Examination for Registration To Practice in Patent Cases Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) announces that, after reviewing and evaluating the scientific and technical criteria for admission to practice in all patent matters, it is moving one Category B degree, Biomedical Science, to Category A, thereby expanding the admission criteria of the patent bar. In keeping pace with ever-evolving technology and related teachings that qualify someone to practice before the USPTO, this update will encourage broader participation of prospective patent practitioners. This action is being taken pursuant to the USPTO’s periodic review of Category B degrees and the transition of commonly accepted Category B degrees to Category A on a predetermined timeframe, namely every three years.

DATES: The General Requirements Bulletin for Admission to the Examination for Registration to Practice

in Patent Cases Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office incorporating the proposed updates will be published and become effective as of August 11, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kimberly C. Kelleher, Deputy General Counsel for Enrollment and Discipline and Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline, by telephone at 571–272–4097 or by email at oed@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Director of the USPTO has statutory authority to require a showing by patent practitioners that they possess “the necessary qualifications to render applicants or other persons valuable service, advice, and assistance in the presentation or prosecution of their applications or other business before the Office.” 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(D). The courts have determined that the USPTO Director bears primary responsibility for protecting the public from unqualified practitioners.

Pursuant to that responsibility, USPTO regulations provide that registration to practice in patent matters before the USPTO requires a practitioner to, *inter alia*, demonstrate possession of scientific and technical qualifications.¹ The role of patent practitioners with scientific and technical backgrounds in providing full and clear patent specifications and claims has long been acknowledged. The USPTO publishes the General Requirements Bulletin (GRB) that sets forth guidance for establishing possession of scientific and technical qualifications. The GRB also provides applicants with instructions on how to apply to become a patent practitioner. The GRB is available at: www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OED_GRB.pdf.

As established in the GRB, prospective patent practitioners must, among other things, successfully complete the registration examination in order to practice before the Office in all patent matters. The GRB lists three categories of scientific and technical qualifications that typically make one eligible for admission to the registration examination: (1) Category A for specified bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor of philosophy degrees, (2) Category B for other degrees with technical and scientific training, and (3)

¹ Legal representation before Federal agencies is generally governed by the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 500. That statute, however, provides a specific exception for representation in patent matters before the USPTO. 5 U.S.C. 500(e). See 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(D) [formerly 35 U.S.C. 31].