

would allow vessels to temporarily retain catch for at-sea sampling.

Vessels would be required to comply with all other applicable regulations specified at 50 CFR part 648 and would not be exempt from any inseason quota closures. All catch would be attributed to the appropriate commercial fishing quota. For a vessel fishing on a groundfish sector trip, all catch of groundfish stocks allocated to sectors would be deducted from the vessel's sector's annual catch entitlement (ACE). If the ACE for a stock has been reached in a sector, participating vessels would no longer be allowed to fish in that stock area unless the sector acquires additional ACE for the stock in question. For participating common pool vessels, all groundfish catch would be counted toward the appropriate trimester total allowable catch (TAC). Common pool vessels would be exempt from the possession and trip limits, but would still be subject to trimester TAC closures.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "anonymous" as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

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

Dated: March 22, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2024-06492 Filed 3-26-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC937]

Pacific Island Fisheries; Marine Conservation Plan for Guam; Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund

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

ACTION: Notice of agency decision.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval of a Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for Guam.

DATES: This agency decision is effective from March 27, 2024 through August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the MCP, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2023-0059, from the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal, <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2023-0059>, or from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, 808-522-8220, <https://www.wpcouncil.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Kamikawa, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, 808-725-5177.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 204(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement (PIAFA). A PIAFA would allow foreign fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands. The Governor of the Pacific Insular Area to which the PIAFA applies must request the PIAFA. The Secretary of State may negotiate and enter the PIAFA after consultation with, and concurrence of, the applicable Governor.

Before entering into a PIAFA, the applicable Governor, with concurrence of the Council, must develop and submit to the Secretary a 3-year MCP providing details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA. NMFS is the designee of the Secretary for MCP review and approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires payments received under a PIAFA to be deposited into the United States Treasury and then conveyed to the

Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area for which funds were collected.

In the case of violations by foreign fishing vessels in the EEZ around any Pacific Insular Area, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties imposed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including sums collected from the forfeiture and disposition or sale of property seized subject to its authority, are deposited into the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area adjacent to the EEZ in which the violation occurred, after direct costs of the enforcement action are subtracted. The Pacific Insular Area government may use funds deposited into the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area for fisheries enforcement and for implementation of an MCP.

Federal regulations at 50 CFR 665.819 authorize NMFS to specify catch limits for longline-caught bigeye tuna for U.S. territories. NMFS may also authorize each territory to allocate a portion of that limit to U.S. longline fishing vessels that are permitted to fish under the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific (FEP). Payments collected under specified fishing agreements are deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, and any funds attributable to a particular territory may be used only for implementation of that territory's MCP. An MCP must be consistent with the Council's FEPs, must identify conservation and management objectives (including criteria for determining when such objectives have been met), and must prioritize planned marine conservation projects.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Council reviewed and concurred with the MCP. On November 27, 2023, the Governor of Guam submitted the MCP to NMFS for review and approval. The MCP contains the following six conservation and management objectives:

1. Fisheries resource assessment, research and monitoring;
2. Effective surveillance and enforcement mechanisms;
3. Promote ecosystems approach in fisheries management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and regional cooperation;
4. Public participation, research, education and outreach, and local capacity building;
5. Domestic fisheries development; and
6. Recognizing the importance of island cultures and traditional fishing practices and community based management.

Please refer to the MCP for projects and activities designed to meet each objective, the evaluative criteria, and priority rankings.

This notice announces that NMFS has reviewed the MCP and determined that it satisfies the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Accordingly, NMFS has approved the MCP for the time period from the publication of this notice through August 3, 2026. This MCP supersedes the one approved previously for August 4, 2020, through August 3, 2023 (85 FR 55642, September 9, 2020).

Dated: March 22, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-06495 Filed 3-26-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-C-2024-0008]

WIPO Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, requests public comments on negotiations at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) regarding a proposed Design Law Treaty (DLT). A diplomatic conference to finalize the DLT will be conducted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on November 11–22, 2024. Public comments are requested regarding the DLT.

The negotiations at the Diplomatic Conference will be the culmination of years of discussions at the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs, and Geographical Indications (SCT). The provisions of the DLT will pertain to formalities associated with applications for the protection of industrial designs, and its adoption may result in changes to requirements associated with filing these applications in the United States.

DATES: Written comments must be received by June 25, 2024 to ensure consideration.

ADDRESSES: For reasons of government efficiency, comments should be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. To submit

comments via the portal, enter docket number PTO-C-2024-0008 on the homepage and select “Search.” The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this request for information and select the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format or MICROSOFT WORD® format. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included.

Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<https://www.regulations.gov>) for additional instructions on providing comments via the portal. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please submit comments by First-Class Mail or Priority Mail to: Keith M. Mullervy, Patent Attorney, Mail Stop OPIA, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Keith M. Mullervy, Patent Attorney, Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), at 571-270-7079.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WIPO is a specialized United Nations agency based in Geneva, Switzerland. The WIPO SCT is a forum at which WIPO Member States¹ and accredited observers facilitate coordination and provide guidance on the development of international law on trademarks, industrial designs, and geographical indications, including the harmonization of national laws and procedures.

The draft DLT aims to help designers obtain easier, faster and cheaper protection for their industrial designs—both in domestic and foreign markets. The DLT would streamline the global system for protecting industrial designs, which are an integral part of many brands, by simplifying and aligning requirements associated with industrial design filings. If approved, these changes would benefit the community of designers, particularly for small-scale designers who may have limited access to legal support for registering their industrial designs. In particular, the DLT would make it significantly easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to obtain industrial design protection overseas as a result of simplified,

streamlined and aligned procedures and requirements.

Work on the simplification of procedures for the protection of industrial designs was initially started in the WIPO SCT in 2006 and gradually matured into an initial set of draft Articles (WIPO/SCT/35/2,² the “Industrial Design Law and Practice—Draft Articles”) and draft Regulations (WIPO/SCT/35/3,³ the “Industrial Design Law and Practice—Draft Regulations”) for a treaty. Similar treaties already exist in the area of patents (Patent Law Treaty of 2000) and trademarks (Trademark Law Treaty of 1994 and Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks of 2006).

In 2006 and 2007, the SCT requested the WIPO Secretariat to develop a set of questionnaires relating to the formalities of industrial design registration and to the differences between all types of marks and industrial designs, with a view to promoting a better understanding of the different design systems. In response, the Secretariat developed a set of questionnaires on industrial design law and practice and circulated them among SCT members. After receiving replies from the SCT members, the Secretariat compiled a summary of replies to the set of questionnaires (WIPO/Strad/INF/2 Rev.2).⁴ In addition, in 2011 and 2012, the SCT requested that the Secretariat prepare a study on the impact of the Draft Articles and Draft Regulations. In response, the Secretariat, with the involvement of the WIPO Chief Economist prepared the study (WIPO/SCT/27/4⁵ and WIPO/SCT/27/4 ADD).⁶

In addition, at its Fifty-Fifth (30th Extraordinary) Session, held in Geneva on July 14–22, 2022, the WIPO General Assembly decided to convene a diplomatic conference (to be held no later than 2024) to conclude and adopt a Design Law Treaty, based on: document WIPO/SCT/35/2; document WIPO/SCT/35/3; the 2019 proposal considered by the WIPO General Assembly, on draft Articles and Regulations on Industrial Design Law and Practice; and any other contributions by Member States. The General Assembly further decided to convene a Preparatory Committee in the second half of 2023 to establish the

² https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_35/sct_35_2.pdf.

³ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_35/sct_35_3.pdf.

⁴ https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/sct/en/meetings/pdf/wipo_strad_inf_2_rev_2.pdf.

⁵ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_27/sct_27_4.pdf.

⁶ https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sct/en/sct_29/sct_27_4_add.pdf.

¹ WIPO currently has 193 Member States. www.wipo.int/members/en/.