

exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

The applicant proposes three projects along the northwestern Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The first is to perform turtle relocation trawling for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer dredging projects. The purpose of this action is risk assessment or relocation of the turtles in the channels being dredged. All turtles captured will be handled, flipper and PIT tagged, and released away from the dredging hopper. The applicant requests to take 180 loggerhead, 25 Kemp's ridley, 2 Hawksbill, 20 green, and 2 leatherback turtles per year.

The second project is to perform relative abundance and habitat use surveys of near shore areas for green turtles. The turtles will be captured in tangle nets, measured, flipper and PIT tagged, and released. These turtles will also be tagged with both radio and sonic transmitters or time-depth recorders and radio transmitters. The applicant requests to take 75 green turtles per year.

The third project is to investigate large-scale movements and diving behavior. Turtles will be captured by trawling measured, flipper and PIT tagged, and released. A satellite transmitter will be attached. The applicant requests to take 20 loggerhead, 5 Kemp's ridley, and 5 green turtles per year.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713–0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2002–C–002]

Notice of Change in Publication Format for the Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—Patents

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will discontinue the publication of the paper version of the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—Patents*. Electronic publication via CD-ROM and Internet versions (the *eOG:P*) will replace the printed copy.

DATES: The last publication of the paper version will be September 24, 2002. The electronic publication of the CD-ROM will commence October 1, 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The USPTO has published the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—Patents* since 1872 and it has historically served as the official notification of patent issuance. The *Official Gazette—Patents* is published weekly in conjunction with the issuance of patents. Entries in the *Official Gazette—Patents* contain patent bibliographic information such as inventor name(s), assignee name (if applicable), patent number, patent title, and classification. The entry also contains a representative claim and drawing (if applicable). Each weekly issue also includes an alphabetical index of patentees.

Explanation and Advantages of Change

In view of the widespread access to computers and the Internet and in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the USPTO will discontinue the printed copy distribution of the *Official Gazette—Patents*, effective October 1, 2002. Weekly electronic publication via CD-ROM and Internet versions (the *eOG:P*) will replace the paper. Beginning with the July 2, 2002, issue, the *eOG:P* and

printed copy will be published on a concurrent basis until the paper version is discontinued.

The information provided by the electronic products will be unchanged from the traditional printed copy. Users will continue to browse patents by classification or patent type. However, the advantages offered by an electronic format will enable easier access to the information. Some of these advantages include: A cumulative patentee and assignee index regardless of patent type, in addition to the standard separate patentee indexes by patent type; direct links from the patentee index entry to the image of the patent; the addition of patentees by country to the geographical index by state; direct links to the patents by state or country; direct links to the patent from classification; and the addition of plant patent images. The electronic information can be easily printed or saved for future use.

The *eOG:P* on CD-ROM will be published and distributed close to issue date. The CD-ROM product will be available from the Information Products Division, Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, as an annual subscription for \$300 per year and as single copies for \$15 per issue.

The *eOG:P* will also be available on the USPTO Web site at www.uspto.gov/web/patents/patog/ each Tuesday, beginning July 2, 2002.

The USPTO will continue paper publication of the *Official Gazette—Trademarks, the Official Gazette Notices* and the *Consolidated Listing of Official Gazette Notices*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information Products Division at 703–306–2600.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

James E. Rogan,

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

[FR Doc. 02–18478 Filed 7–22–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; National Medal of Technology Nomination Applications

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on