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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Meeting Dates**

*May 20, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
and May 21, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

The Snapper Grouper and Controlled Access Committees will meet jointly with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel to review the draft options paper for Amendment 9 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and develop recommendations for options to be included in the amendment for public hearing.

*May 21, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
and May 22, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

The Snapper Grouper and Controlled Access Committees will meet jointly with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel to review a videotape on the Oculina Bank HAPC (Habitat Area of Particular Concern). They will then review the draft options paper for Amendment 8 to the Snapper Grouper FMP and develop recommendations for options to be included in the amendment for public hearing.

*May 22, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

The Executive and Finance Committees will meet jointly. The Executive Committee will review and develop recommendations for the Fiscal Year 1997 Council activities schedule. The Finance Committee will develop the Fiscal Year 1997 budget for presentation to the Council in June.

**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**) by May 14, 1996.

Dated: April 25, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries  
Conservation and Management, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-10844 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Notice of Hearing and Request for  
Comments on a Technical  
Documentation Strategy**

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office,  
Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a hearing and request  
for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold a public hearing and is seeking written comments to obtain views of the public on the effort of the PTO to make technical documentation accessible to patent examiners and the public while adhering to certain constraints on financial and personnel resources. Interested members of the public are invited to testify at a public hearing and to present written comments on the topics outlined in this notice or on any aspect of this effort.

**DATES:** A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 1996

Requests to present oral testimony at the public hearing should be received on or before May 30, 1996.

Any written comments by those persons offering testimony at the hearings and related to that testimony should be submitted on or before May 30, 1996.

Other written comments will be accepted until June 7, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be held in the Commissioner's Conference Room (Room 912), Crystal Park Two, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

Persons wishing to speak at the hearings must notify Mr. Lee Schroeder, in writing marked to his attention at Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone (703) 305-9300 or by telefax at (703) 305-8885, in order to be placed on a list of speakers for the hearing.

Persons wishing to offer written comments should address those comments to the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Mr. Lee Schroeder.

Written comments and transcripts of the hearing will be available for public inspection in Room 902 of Crystal Park Two, at 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lee Schroeder by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by telefax at (703) 305-8885 or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. Background

The PTO currently makes technical documentation (foreign and domestic patent and non-patent literature in many forms) available to persons within the PTO for use in the patent examination process. Much of the

documentation is accessible through use of the United States Patent Classification System (USPCS). The same documentation is made available to members of the public for use as a source of technical information or for other patent-related uses.

To better use the limited financial and personnel resources available to the PTO, certain changes have been made in the documentation area. Less emphasis is being placed on the continuing reclassification of the documentation in the USPCS and the classification of new foreign patent copies and more reliance is being placed on the classification efforts of other countries and the use of more sophisticated electronic search tools.

To be more specific, the PTO is placing increased reliance on the many commercial data bases of technical information as well as data bases maintained by the PTO. These data bases cover foreign and domestic patent and non-patent literature. The PTO is also placing increased reliance on the classifying, abstracting and summarizing efforts of documentation by both domestic and foreign private entities and also by foreign government or intergovernmental entities. Consequently, less reliance is being placed on the reclassification effort within the PTO. Also, the PTO no longer classifies new foreign patents in the USPCS.

The public's views are sought on the increased reliance on the work of others in the classifying, abstracting and summarizing of documentation and less reliance on the USPCS and classification efforts of persons within the PTO. Public views are also sought on the increased reliance on computerized searching aids, be they full text data bases or data bases of abstracted material, classified or not. Public views are also sought on placing increased reliance on data bases and other sources to at least identify such documents after which a full-text copy of the document could be obtained.

Written comments may be offered on the questions posed below. Comments will also be accepted on any other aspects of the approach of the PTO to make technical information available both to patent examiners and the public.

2. Questions for the Hearing

The public hearing will be held to receive comments on the following specific questions:

A. Are the classification efforts of others (using systems or data bases of classification different from the United States Patent Classification System) able to replace, or partially replace the

### United States Patent Classification System?

B. Are the public users of the classified technical information systems of the Patent and Trademark Office willing to contribute, or contribute more, toward ever increasing costs of maintaining these systems?

C. Since the usefulness of automated search tools is affected by the characteristics of the technology being searched, should the Patent and Trademark Office tailor the search system by technology rather than maintaining the USPCS for all technologies?

D. Since it is known that different search tools and techniques lead to different search results (e.g., different results from text or structure search vs. classified image search), are automated assisted searches acceptable if there is an overall improvement in the quality of the patentability search?

E. Advances contemplated in future search systems permit the examiner to add value to the data base while conducting a search by adding or changing classifications for a document, inserting markers and notes on a document, adding documents, etc. This value-added capability leads to search files that exist only in electronic form and which are constantly being upgraded.

1. Does the public need access to the examiner's search file?

2. For post-prosecution/litigation purposes, does the public need to know what is in the examiner's search file at the time the examiner made the search?

F. How should the Patent and Trademark Office approach the issue of classification and retrieval of prior art in view of the current state of the art in the electronic document search and retrieval area, and expected developments in this area, including fully paperless patent and non-patent data bases?

Dated: April 26, 1996.

Bruce A. Lehman,

*Assistant Secretary of Commerce and  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.*  
[FR Doc. 96-10930 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-M

## COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 3, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11104 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 10, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St. NW., Washington, D.C. 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11105 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 14, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Fl. Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**  
Enforcement Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11106 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 30, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 9th Fl. Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**  
Enforcement Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11107 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 31, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St. NE., Washington, DC. 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11108 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 24, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11109 Filed 4-30-96; 3:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**  
Commodity Futures Trading  
Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 17, 1996.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 96-11110 Filed 4-30-96; 3:30 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M