

Sea Turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Endangered Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)

Endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

The applicant requests a modification to Permit 1266. Permit 1266 authorizes the capture by trawl, handle, flipper tag and release of sea turtles while removing them from the path of hopper dredges. The Permit authorized the take of 30 loggerhead, 7 green, 5 Kemp's ridleys, 4 hawksbills and 4 leatherback sea turtles. These animals were measured, flipper tagged and released. Modification #1 would increase the authorized annual take to 350 loggerhead, 150 green, 150 Kemp's ridley, 10 hawksbill and 10 leatherback sea turtles for the purpose of moving them out of the path of hopper dredges and to tag the sea turtles for tracking purposes. The applicant would also begin passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging the sea turtles.

Dated: March 21, 2002.

Ann Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 02-7341 Filed 3-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

[I.D. 032102C]

Marine Mammals; File Application No. 1004-1656

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service is extending the comment period for the application submitted by Funtime, Inc. d/b/a Six Flags Worlds of Adventure, 1060 North Aurora Road, Aurora, OH 44202, to import two killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for the purposes of public display.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 11, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA, 01930-2298 (978/281-9116).

Written comments or requests should be submitted 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.

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 other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (301/713-2289).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

A notice of receipt of this application was published on November 30, 2001 (66 FR 59781) and the comment period closed on December 31, 2001. Based on substantive comments received during the initial comment period, NMFS requested additional information from the applicant and NMFS attempted to provide the additional information by mail to commenters who had expressed interest in the information. The comment period was reopened on February 25, 2002 (67 FR 8526) to close March 27, 2002. Due to an unforeseen delay with the mail, this information did not reach the intended recipients in a timely manner. NMFS reviewed the situation and has determined that in this case, there is cause to provide for an extension of the comment period, allowing the interested parties to review the additional information and provide comments. In extending this comment period NMFS finds that a public hearing is not warranted because the issues raised by the comments can be clarified in writing. However, NMFS is providing through this notice an opportunity for additional written comments.

Dated: March 22, 2002.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 02-7340 Filed 3-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office****Electronic Application for Patent Examiners—Job Application Rating System (JARS)**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of Data Management, Data Administration Division, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Washington, DC 20231; by telephone at 703-308-7400; by facsimile at 703-308-7407; or by e-mail to susan.brown@uspto.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Vivian Clark, Policy, Analysis & Automation Division, Office of Human Resources, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Washington, DC 20231; by telephone at 703-305-8227; or by e-mail to vivian.clark@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The Job Application Rating System (JARS) is a system by which the USPTO can rapidly review applications for employment of entry-level patent examiners. The Office of Human Resources (OHR), armed with a recommendation from a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) can, in turn, rapidly make an offer of employment and support hiring actions with necessary administrative action. Over the past three fiscal years, JARS has enabled the Patent Corps to hire more than 1,600 entry-level patent examiners.

Since the inception of JARS, upgrades have increased the flexibility of the system and the speed and ease with which the Office of Human Resources can support hiring recommendations. Specifically, JARS now allows applicants to update personal information without submitting a new application. Additional form letters and reports are now available, date tracking of previous employment is significantly improved; and status tracking improvements enable users to tell who has previously updated the record and when. Future JARS upgrades will be conducted to further enhance the system.

In the current employment environment, information technology professionals and engineering graduates are in great demand. The USPTO is in direct competition with private industry for the same caliber of candidates with the requisite knowledge and skills to perform patent examination work. Consequently, it is imperative that every available technology be employed if the USPTO is to remain competitive, meet the hiring goal, and fulfill the agency's congressional commitment to reduce the pendency rate for the examination of patent applications. The information supplied to the USPTO by an applicant seeking a patent examiner position with the USPTO assists the Human Resources Specialists and hiring managers in determining whether an applicant possesses the basic qualification requirements for the patent examiner position.

JARS provides the USPTO a user-friendly online employment application

process for applicants and enables the USPTO to process hiring actions in an efficient and timely manner. The online application provides an electronic real-time candidate inventory that allows the USPTO to review applications from potential applicants almost instantaneously. Given the immediate hiring need of the Patent Examining Corps, time consumed in the mail distribution system or paper review of applications delays the decision-making process by several weeks. The JARS system results in increased speed and accuracy in the employment process, in addition to streamlining labor and reducing costs.

The use of the JARS online application fully complies with 5 U.S.C. 2301, which requires adequate public notice to assure open competition by guaranteeing that necessary employment information will be accessible and available to the public on inquire. The JARS online application is fully compliant with section 508 (29 U.S.C. 794d), which requires agencies to provide disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

Since the JARS online application is used as an alternative form of employment application, the collection and use of the information requires OMB approval as outlined in Section 5.1 of the Delegated Examining Operations Handbook. The Handbook provides guidance to agencies under a delegated examining authority by OPM, under the provisions of Title 5, U.S. Code, Chapter 11, Section 1104.

II. Method of Collection

The application information is collected electronically from the applicant. The application form may be completed online and then transmitted to the USPTO electronically, via the Internet. For those applicants who do not have access to a personal computer, applications are available in the Personnel Office at the USPTO, or the applicant can go to the local library to complete an application.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0042.

Form Number(s): PTO-2041.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; farms; the Federal Government; and state, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000 responses per year.

Estimated Time Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 30 minutes to complete the employment application, depending upon the situation. There is one form associated with this information collection, Form PTO-2041.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 2,500 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: \$75,675. Using the median hourly rate for scientists and engineers of \$30.27, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the USPTO estimates \$75,675 per year for salary costs associated with respondents.

Item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Electronic Employment Application	30	5,000	2,500
TOTAL		5,000	2,500

Estimated Total Annual Nonhour Respondent Cost Burden: \$0. (There are no capitol start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.)

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the

agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or

included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 22, 2002.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of Data Management, Data Administration Division.
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