and written authorization, and therefore require EFH consultation if they may adversely affect EFH. The proposed General Concurrence would fulfill the EFH consultation requirement for these activities. Examples of Category II activities include minor maintenance dredging and installation of certain recreational docks and piers. The COE solicits comments on the appropriate categorization of activities covered by PGPs prior to reissuing each PGP, and at that time would be required to conduct a separate EFH consultation with NMFS on the anticipated effects of issuing each PGP.

The actions that would be covered by the proposed General Concurrence include all activities listed as Category II within PGPs issued by the COE for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920(f)(4), NMFS would request notification in advance of COE authorization of Category II activities so that NMFS can make a case-by-case determination on the applicability of this General Concurrence. Those actions that NMFS determines would result in more than minimal adverse effects to EFH would require individual EFH consultation and would not be covered by this General Concurrence. Although NMFS would continue to review all Category II actions, as it does presently, the General Concurrence would result in workload savings for NMFS and the COE for actions with no more than minimal adverse effects to EFH individually and cumulatively. For such actions, the General Concurrence would obviate the need for NMFS to provide EFH Conservation Recommendations and for the COE to provide written responses to those recommendations.

NMFS has coordinated with the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils regarding the development of the proposed General Concurrence. NMFS discussed the proposed General Concurrence with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils during public meetings, which afforded an opportunity for public review as required by 50 CFR 600.920(f)(5). However, since the published agendas for these meetings did not include a clear description of the scope and purpose of the proposed General Concurrence, NMFS is publishing this notice to allow an additional opportunity for public review.

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

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Andrew J. Kemmerer,

Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00–3857 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020900A]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will hold a work session which is open to the public.

DATES: The work session will be held on Monday, March 13, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and on Wednesday, March 15, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Holiday Inn Sea-Tac, Laguardia Room, 17338 International Blvd., Seattle, WA, 98188. Phone: 206–248–1000; Fax: 206–242–7089.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 503–326–6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the work session is to prepare and review draft sections of the fishery management plan (FMP) for highly migratory species (HMS) and related documents for HMS fisheries off the West Coast.

Management measures that may be adopted in the FMP for HMS fisheries off the West Coast include permit and reporting requirements for commercial and recreational harvest of HMS resources, time and/or area closures to minimize gear conflicts or bycatch, adoption or confirmation of state regulations for HMS fisheries, and allocations of some species to non-commercial use. The FMP is likely to include a framework management process to add future new measures, including the potential for collaborative management efforts with other regional fishery management councils with interest in HMS resources. It would also include essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern, including fishing and non-fishing threats, as well as other components of FMPs required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The proposed FMP and its associated environmental impact statement would be the Council's fourth FMP for the exclusive economic zone off the West Coast. Development of the FMP is timely, considering the new mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, efforts by the United Nations to promote conservation and management of HMS resources through domestic and international programs, and the increased scope of activity of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in HMS fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Comments regarding the draft FMP will not be accepted if sent via the e-mail or the Internet.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the HSMPDT meeting agenda may come before the HMSPDT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal HMSPDT action during these meetings. HMSPDT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the HMSPDT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. John Rhoton at 503–326–6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 9, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00–3859 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Grant of Certificate of Interim Extension of the Term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449; roboxetine mesylate

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Interim Patent Term Extension.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office has issued a certificate under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for a subsequent one-year interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karin Tyson by telephone at (703) 305–9285; by mail marked to her attention and addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Ext., Washington, D.C. 20231; by fax marked to her attention at (703) 872–9411, or by e-mail to karin.tyson@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 156 of Title 35, United States Code, generally provides that the term of a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years if the patent claims a product, or a method of making or using a product, that has been subject to certain defined regulatory review. Under Section 156(e)(1), a patent is eligible for term extension only if regulatory review of the claimed product was completed before the original patent term expired.

On October 9, 1998, patent owner Pharmacia & Upjohn, S.p.A., filed an application under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449. On November 12, 1999, a request for a second interim extension under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) was filed. The patent claims the active ingredient roboxetine mesylate. The application indicates that a New Drug Application for the human drug product roboxetine mesylate has been filed and is currently undergoing a regulatory review before the Food and Drug Administration for permission to market or use the product commercially. The original term of the patent expired on January 8, 1999, and has been previously extended under 35 U.S.C.. 156(d)(5) for a period of one year.

Review of the application indicates that except for permission to market or use the product commercially, the subject patent would be eligible for an extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 156. Since it is apparent that the regulatory review period will extend beyond the date of expiration of the patent, interim extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) is appropriate. Accordingly, an interim extension under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449 has been granted for a period of one year from January 8, 2000, the expiration date of the patent as previously extended.

Dated: February 10, 2000.

Q. Todd Dickinson,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

[FR Doc. 00–3836 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection, Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

In accordance with Section 3506(c) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed extension of 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 of the information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Considerations will be given to all comments received April 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to TRICARE Management Activity—Aurora, Office of Appeals and Hearings, 16401 E. Centretech Pkwy, ATTN: Donald F. Wagner, Aurora, CO 80011–9043.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection, please write to the above address or call TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Appeals and Hearings at (303) 676–3411.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Professional Qualifications Medical/Peer Reviewers, CHAMPUS Form 780, OMB Number 0720–0005.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain and record the professional qualifications of medical and peer reviewers utilized within CHAMPUS. The form is included as an exhibit in an appeal or hearing case file as evidence of the reviewer's professional qualifications to review the medical documentation contained in the case file.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Annual Burden Hours: 15.

Annual Number of Respondents: 60.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are medical professionals who provide medical and peer review of cases appealed to the Office of Appeals and Hearings, TRICARE Management Activity. CHAMPUS Form 780 records the professional qualifications of the medical/peer reviewers. The completed form is included as an exhibit in the appeal or hearing case file, and documents for anyone reviewing the file, the professional qualifications of the medical professional who review the case. If the form is not included in the case file, individuals reviewing the file will not have ready access to the qualifications of the reviewing medical professional. Having qualified professionals provide medical and peer review is essential in maintaining the integrity of the appeal and hearing process.

February 11, 2000.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 00–3736 Filed 2–16–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

In accordance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announced the proposed extension of a currently approved collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed extension of collection of information is