

Chukotka Natives in the Russian Far East.

This action by the IWC thus authorized aboriginal subsistence whaling by the AEWC for bowhead whales. This aboriginal subsistence harvest is conducted in accordance with a cooperative agreement between NOAA and the AEWC.

The IWC set a 5-year block quota of 280 bowhead whales landed. For each of the years 2008 through 2012, the number of bowhead whales struck may not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from any year, including 15 unused strikes from the 2003 through 2007 quota, may be carried forward. No more than 15 strikes may be added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2008 harvest, there were 15 unused strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota for 2009 is 82 (67 + 15).

This arrangement ensures that the total quota of bowhead whales landed and struck in 2009 will not exceed the catch limits set by the IWC. Under an arrangement between the United States and the Russian Federation, the Russian natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska Eskimos may use no more than 75 strikes.

Through its cooperative agreement with the AEWC, NOAA has assigned 75 strikes to the Alaska Eskimos. The AEWC will allocate these strikes among the 11 villages whose cultural and subsistence needs have been documented, and will ensure that its hunters use no more than 75 strikes.

Other Limitations

The IWC regulations, as well as the NOAA regulation at 50 CFR 230.4(c), forbid the taking of calves or any whale accompanied by a calf.

NOAA regulations (at 50 CFR 230.4) contain a number of other prohibitions relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling, some of which are summarized here. Only licensed whaling captains or crew under the control of those captains may engage in whaling. They must follow the provisions of the relevant cooperative agreement between NOAA and a Native American whaling organization. The aboriginal hunters must have adequate crew, supplies, and equipment. They may not receive money for participating in the hunt. No person may sell or offer for sale whale products from whales taken in the hunt, except for authentic articles of Native handicrafts. Captains may not continue to whale after the relevant quota is taken, after the season has been closed, or if their licenses have been suspended. They may not engage in whaling in a wasteful manner.

Dated: March 4, 2009.

James W. Balsiger,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-4904 Filed 3-6-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2008-0063]

Extension of Time for Comments on Deferred Examination for Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) conducted a roundtable to obtain public input on deferral of examination for patent applications, and invited the public to submit written comments on issues raised at the roundtable or on any issue pertaining to deferral of examination.

Comment Deadline Date: The deadline for receipt of written comments is May 29, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to AC6comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Robert W. Bahr. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The written comments and list of the roundtable participants and their associations will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web site (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert W. Bahr, Senior Patent Counsel, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-8800, by electronic mail message at robert.bahr@uspto.gov, or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA

22313-1450, marked to the attention of Robert W. Bahr.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO conducted a roundtable to determine whether or not there is support in the patent community and/or the public sector for the adoption of some type of deferral of examination. *See Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable on Deferred Examination for Patent Applications*, 74 FR 4946 (Jan. 28, 2009), 1339 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 153 (Feb. 24, 2009) (notice). The USPTO also invited written comments by any member of the public on the issues raised at the roundtable, or on any issue pertaining to deferral of examination. *See Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable on Deferred Examination for Patent Applications*, 74 FR at 4947, 1339 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 154. The USPTO Webcast the roundtable and a video recording of the roundtable is available on the USPTO's Internet Web site. The USPTO is extending the comment period to provide interested members of the public with an additional opportunity to view the Webcast before submitting comments to the USPTO.

Dated: March 3, 2009.

John J. Doll,

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

[FR Doc. E9-4897 Filed 3-6-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of intent to renew an existing collection.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected costs and burden; it includes the actual data collection instruments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or April 8, 2009.

For Further Information or a Copy Contact: David Van Wagner, Division of Market Oversight, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st

Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581, (202) 418-5481; FAX: (202) 418-5527; e-mail: dvanwagner@cftc.gov and refer to OMB Control No. 3038-0048.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Off-Exchange Agricultural Trade Options (OMB Control No. 3038-0048). This is a request for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Off-Exchange Agricultural Trade Options, OMB Control No. 3038-0048-Extension.

In April 1998, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Commission or CFTC) removed the prohibition on off-exchange trade options on the enumerated agricultural commodities subject to a number of regulatory conditions. 63 FR 18821 (April 16, 1998). Thereafter, the Commission streamlined the regulatory or paperwork burdens in order to increase the utility of agricultural trade options while maintaining basic customer protections. 64 FR 68011 (Dec. 6, 1999).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for the CFTC's regulations were published on December 30, 1981. See 46 FR 63035 (Dec. 30, 1981). The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on December 29, 2008 (73 FR 79452).

Burden Statement: The respondent burden for this collection is estimated to average 5.59 hours per response.

Respondents/Affected Entities: 36.

Estimated Number of Responses: 41.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 230 hours.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Send comments regarding the burden estimated or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the addresses listed below. Please refer to OMB Control No. 3038-0048 in any correspondence.

David Van Wagner, Division of Market Oversight, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581 and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for CFTC, 725 17th Street, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 3, 2009.

David Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. E9-4859 Filed 3-6-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of intent to renew an existing collection.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected costs and burden.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 8, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CONTACT: Mark H. Bretscher, Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight, CFTC, (312) 596-0529; Fax: (312) 596-0714; e-mail: Mbretscher@cftc.gov and refer to OMB Control No. 3038-0024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations and Forms Pertaining to the Financial Integrity of the Marketplace (OMB Control No. 3038-0024). This is a request for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The commodity futures markets play a vital role in the furthering of global commerce by providing commercial users and speculators with a price discovery mechanism for the commodities traded on such markets and by providing commercial users of the markets with a mechanism for hedging their goods and services against price risks. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is the independent Federal regulatory agency charged with providing various forms of customer protection so that users of the markets can be assured of the financial integrity of the markets and the intermediaries that they employ in their trading activities. Among the financial safeguards the Commission has imposed on commodity brokerages, technically futures commission merchants (FCMs) and introducing brokers (IBs), are minimum capital standards and, for FCMs, a requirement that they segregate and separately account for the funds they receive from their commodity customers. In order to monitor compliance with such financial standards, the Commission has required FCMs and IBs to file financial reports with the Commission and with the self-regulatory organizations (SROs) of which

they are members. (See Commission Rule 1.10, 17 CFR 1.10.)

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for the CFTC's regulations were published on December 30, 1981. See 46 FR 63035 (Dec. 30, 1981). The **Federal Register** notice with the 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection was published on December 29, 2008 (73 FR 79452).

Burden Statement: The respondent burden for this collection is estimated to average .50 hours per response. These estimates include the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Futures Commission Merchants, Introducing Brokers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,078.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 21,138.50 hours.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, monthly, annually, semi-annually.

Send comments regarding the burden estimated or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the addresses listed below. Please refer to OMB Control No. 3038-0024 in any correspondence.

Mark H. Bretscher, Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 525 W. Monroe Street, Suite 1100, Chicago, Illinois 60661 and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for CFTC, 725 17th Street, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 3, 2009.

David Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. E9-4860 Filed 3-6-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-P