



GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY - ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 21, 2015 – Webinar

Please sign in to the webinar at 8:30 AM so we can troubleshoot in time for the 9:00 AM start.

Agenda

(All times are subject to possible adjustment)

9:00 AM

Advisory Council Business

- Welcome, introductions and agenda review – Rick DeVictor, Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair; Sarah Fangman, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) Superintendent
- Approve February 2015 meeting summary (council action) – Rick DeVictor
- Advisory Council seats – Becky Shortland, GRNMS Resource Protection Coordinator
Several seats are currently being recruited – citizen-at-large, sport diving, conservation and university education; closing date is June 30.

9:15 AM

Working Group Reports

- Education & Outreach Assessment Working Group (possible council action) – Working Group Chair Emily Kroutil and Sarah Fangman
Since the February 2015 advisory council meeting, the working group has completed its charge. This report will share the working group's general findings, recommendations and actions that have taken place since then, including the development of a communications strategy.
- Connectivity Working Group Report – Peter Auster
Development of the process and initiation of the first phase – a working group of the advisory council tasked with gathering existing information - is ongoing.
- Law Enforcement Working Group Report – Doug Lewis, Al Samuels, Mike Mastrianni

Next meeting and agenda (proposed, in person, August 18 or 19) – Becky Shortland

10:15 AM

Presentation on BOEM Oil & Gas Leasing Program Planning

This presentation will be preceded by an update from GRNMS staff. Q&A at the conclusion of the presentation will go to Sanctuary Advisory Council members first and then to other public participants on the webinar.

Dr. Brad J. Blythe, Chief of the Branch of Biological and Social Sciences, Division of Environmental Sciences for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will give an introductory presentation on oil and gas leasing, the timeframe for the decision-making/planning process, and what might be expected after the leases are issued.

11:15 AM

Break

11:30 AM

Sanctuary Report

- Outreach:
 - St. Patrick's Day Parade and FareWhale Festival – Abby Murphy, GRNMS Education & Outreach Specialist

 - “Get into your Sanctuary” weekend – Amy Rath, GRNMS Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- Education
 - ROV competition – Jody Patterson, GRNMS Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator
- Gray's Reef NMS Foundation – Chris Hines, Executive Director, Gray's Reef NMS Foundation
- Research and Monitoring – Sarah Fangman
 - GRNMS summer field work

 - Unmanned aerial system/PUMA
- GRNMS staffing – Sarah Fangman
- Resource Protection
 - Soundscapes -Haley Haynes, Scott Noakes, Becky Shortland
Scott Noakes' student Haley Haynes has been working on data files from deployment of the hydrophone in GRNMS. The council will hear from Haley as well as Scott and Becky on soundscape-related updates.

 - Protected species update – Becky Shortland
Gray's Reef has a seat on the right whale recovery Southeast Implementation Team. The team held its spring meeting recently. The Georgia Sea Turtle Cooperative semi-annual meeting was also held recently, which staff attends.
- Office of National Marine Sanctuaries update
 - Sanctuary nominations and expansions - George Sedberry, SEGoM Region Science Coordinator

 - Special recognition – Sarah Fangman

12:15 PM

Council Members' Report

This session is intended for council members to report on news of GRNMS interest and how members are reaching out to their constituents and/or being involved in other ways.

- Tennessee Aquarium/Hollings Grant/NOAA visit – Anna George
- NOAA Fisheries update – Rick DeVictor
- ROV competition support – Emily Kroutil
- Support from former council members – Sarah Fangman

- Beneath the Waves Film Festival – Michael Denmark

- GRNMS 101 – Becky Shortland

12:45 PM Public Comment – Rick DeVictor

1:00 PM Adjourn