



CONTACT: Amy Rath
912-598-2397

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Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary names new superintendent

Sarah Fangman has been named superintendent at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Fangman, program coordinator for the Southeast Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Region of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, succeeds George Sedberry, who served as interim acting sanctuary superintendent. Sedberry now returns to his role as science coordinator for the region.

Fangman has been working with the sanctuary program since 1998, with Gray's Reef since 2005, and she assumed additional duties as acting science coordinator and acting deputy superintendent in 2013. She brings to her new role more than a decade of experience in research, planning, and communications across the sanctuary system and internationally, and also in leading and conducting dive research at Gray's Reef.

"I've been very fortunate to have worked in different sanctuaries, at the regional level, and internationally," Fangman said. "I look forward to reflecting on lessons learned through these experiences and to discovering strategies for leading Gray's Reef in new directions."

"As a marine scientist and resource manager, Fangman possesses the knowledge and skills to help us understand how Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary fits into the Georgia-Carolina Bight ecosystem," said Billy Causey, southeast regional director for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. "Her scientific expertise, combined with the many management tools available at the sanctuary will help us better manage the reef and understand the role it plays in helping sustain the marine life that call it home."

Designated in 1981, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is one of the largest near-shore live-bottom reefs off the southeastern United States, encompassing approximately 22 square miles. The sanctuary consists of a series of sandstone outcroppings and ledge habitats that support an abundant reef fish and invertebrate community. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, also use Gray's Reef year-round for foraging and resting, and the reef is near the only known winter calving ground for the highly endangered North Atlantic Right Whale.

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