



## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 7, 2015

### **NOAA Gray's Reef Sanctuary Advisory Council will hear updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management regarding oil and gas leasing in the South Atlantic Ocean**

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The council will hear updates on science and management activities in Gray's Reef and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will share their plans for oil and gas leasing in the South Atlantic.

The meeting will be held via webinar and will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at 1:00 PM. Sanctuary advisory council meetings are open to the public for participation and comments will be accepted via webinar chat or VoIP during the scheduled public comment period at 12:45 PM.

**WHAT:** Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 21, 2015; 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**WHERE:** Webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2616748978634166273>

**WHO:** Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (open to the public)

The Gray's Reef Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in August 1999 to insure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. Council members represent a variety of volunteer and government stakeholders including fishing, diving, conservation, science, education, general public, and state and federal agencies.

Designated in 1981, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is one of the largest near-shore live-bottom reefs off of the southeastern United States, encompassing approximately 22 square miles. The live-bottom and ledge habitat support an abundant reef fish and invertebrate community. Threatened loggerhead sea turtles use Gray's Reef year-round for foraging and resting, and the sanctuary is located in the winter calving grounds of the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

**For more information, contact council coordinator Becky Shortland:  
[becky.shortland@noaa.gov](mailto:becky.shortland@noaa.gov); 912-598-2381.**

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Learn more about NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/> and at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue.html>.

Visit Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary on the web at <http://graysreef.noaa.gov> and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).