



## GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 12, 2019

### Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Attendees

Michael Denmark, Chair  
Scott Noakes, Vice-chair  
Mona Behl, Secretary  
Peter Auster  
Bob Crimian  
Warren Hupman  
Mark Padgett  
Rick DeVictor  
Colby Harris  
Joseph Glenn  
Rachel Guy  
Kathy Knowlton  
Ben Hughes  
Lt. James Bruce  
Capt. Chris Hodge  
Mark Carson

### SAC Members Absent

Paulita Bennett-Martin  
Monique Gordon  
Carolyn Belcher  
Suzanne VanParreren

### Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) Staff

Stan Rogers, Superintendent  
Becky Shortland  
Matt Kuzemchak  
Kim Roberson  
Elliott Lam  
Michelle Riley  
Alison Soss  
LTJG Justin Miyano  
Kris Howard  
Benjamin Prueitt

### GRNMS Foundation (GRNMSF) Staff

Jody Patterson

### Public in Attendance

Tom Wright  
Simona Perry

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### **Council Business**

Welcome and Introductions – SAC Chair Michael Denmark welcomed everyone and called the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) Advisory Council meeting to order at 10:03. Denmark recognized the new Superintendent the GRNMS, Stan Rogers. Introductions throughout the room welcomed returning Council members, new and returning GRNMS staff, GRNMS Foundation staff, and public in attendance. Peter Auster (University of Connecticut) recognized the unique nature of the Council and GRNMS in general.

Superintendent Remarks – Denmark shared his excitement for GRNMS to have a full-time Superintendent and invited Stan Rogers to provide comments on his goals in the position and vision for the Sanctuary. Rogers' remarks recognized the great successes of GRNMS with help from the SAC and GRNMSF. Rogers' prioritizes the Sanctuary to strengthen the relationship with the SAC and work with the Council to be a portal to the community and create a 2-way dialogue. Rogers hopes to lean on the relationships of each of the Council members to gather feedback and

opportunities for GRNMS. Additional priorities of GRNMS are to broaden the scope of the region, focus on strategic communications, promote responsible fishing practices, garner wider interest in scientific research, build connectivity, foster support from educators, and revitalize a volunteer corps.

Review of Agenda & April Meeting Minutes Approval – Denmark reviewed the agenda and outlined the meeting objectives. The summary of minutes from the 30 April 2019 Council meeting were proposed for approval. Kathy Knowlton (Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources) requested a clarification on wording for the federal permit needed in charter vessels. April minutes were approved with clarification of federal permits for charter vessels.

SAC Officer Nominations – SAC Officer terms are up for nomination with their expiration looming on 1 January 2020. Michael Denmark, Scott Noakes (University of Georgia), and Mona Behl (Georgia Sea Grant). After Denmark, Noakes, and Behl left the room, Becky Shortland (GRNMS) led a brief nomination process. Mark Padgett (Citizen-at-Large) nominated Denmark for Chair, Noakes for Vice Chair, and Behl for Secretary. No position came to each of the nominations. Auster seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously. Denmark, Noakes, and Behl will serve their final two-year term from 2020-2022.

After this year, Capt. Warren Hupman (Charter/Commercial Fishing) will no longer be in his seat. Hupman has agreed to remain one additional year.

SAC Action Plan – Scott Noakes led an overview of the SAC Action Plan initiated at the April 2019 meeting. The overview focused on the 1a-1c priorities of the plan. Top priorities of the action plan included keeping the SAC fully staffed. Shortland provided an update on application status of the two vacant seats on the Council (University Education, and Charter/Commercial Fishing). Applications from the University Education seat are being reviewed, but no applications were submitted for the Charter/Commercial Fishing seat.

Additional priorities discussed included increasing SAC member diversity, which has continued to be a challenge. Assessing SAC membership was discussed between Denmark and Rogers asking “are there other groups which need to be recognized by the SAC?” The establishment of a task force to identify future groups was considered by Denmark. Assessing SAC working group needs is a priority. Emphasis on keeping working groups focused on a goal, staying on task, and Noakes suggested having an end date of their objectives (avoiding perpetual working groups). Current working groups for the SAC are the Science Advisory Group (SAG), Ecological Connectivity, Recreational Fishing, and Law Enforcement. Conducting more productive webinars within the SAC is considered a priority. Engaging the SAC of other National Marine Sanctuaries to entertain ideas from outside sources and create connections across Sanctuaries. Assessing visitor use of the sanctuary was deemed a priority in the action plan.

Having fishers want to go fishing at GRNMS was a priority for recreational fishing engagement. Peter Auster addressed finding an attainable metric to measure success. Discussion continued with Stan Rogers asking what the purpose of GRNMS is, which Becky Shortland responding to promote recreation and sustainable use. Shortland continued describing that the metric of measuring success was the motivation behind the visitor use project and understanding the effects of use. Denmark reminded the council that the goal of the action plan’s point person is to distill the information into tactics and share with the council. Rogers concluded with the importance of ensuring the action plan is in line with the objectives of the SAC.

Engaging and building relationships with the diving community was addressed and Joseph Glenn added that advanced divers who diver on Gray’s Reef are respectful divers when on the reef. Building knowledge and understanding of GRNMS connectivity and compliance of GRNMS to regulations were mentioned as a continued priority.

Mentioned as a lower priority, adaptive management was addressed by Kathy Knowlton looking for clarification of 'what is the Gray's Reef component of adaptive management?' Becky Shortland explained that this entry is intended to explore what adaptive management means. Knowlton expressed the need for a key to read the document and its priorities, especially if made available to the public. Mona Behl said that the definition of "adaptive management" is open to discussion from the SAC. Peter Auster agreed with the clarity of defining adaptive management in the Action Plan but further expressed that the management comes from GRNMS staff rather than the SAC. Auster compared the GRNMS process with some experience in New England. Denmark stated that the council would explore the opportunity. Shortland concluded the discussion with the goal to integrate adaptive management with GRNMS staff suggestion.

Discussion of the Action Plan now addressed the outreach and communications of the sanctuary. Michelle Riley discussed the GRNMS Expo in May 2020, later. Building relationships with legislators was addressed by Stan Rogers as a priority of his as the new superintendent and plans to take advantage of in district site visits with representatives. Michael Denmark addressed the continuation of the Speaker's Bureau as an aid for the public to better understand GRNMS and suggested Georgia Southern Diving program as potential speakers. Peter Auster emphasized Gray's Reef as a *National* Marine Sanctuary and the potential integration into national curricula. Michelle Riley commented that Georgia Public Broadcasting starring Scott Noakes and Sarah Fangman. Lastly, Noakes identified the cooperation of the GRNMS Foundation as a key opportunity.

To summarize the review of the action plan, Denmark reiterated the need for an introduction and key for the document. Bob Crimian wanted to confirm the alignment between the GRNMS management plan and the SAC action plan. Becky Shortland mentioned what in the SAC action plan aligns with GRNMS management plan. Stan Rogers stated that the public version of the SAC action plan would reference the GRNMS management plan. Michael Denmark stated that the first status update on the action plan will be at the spring meeting, and that this review was the initial compilation of items to address. Mona Behl said that the SAC will work closely with GRNMS staff to simplify the document for public viewing. Bob Crimian suggested the addition of social science or human dimension to the list. Denmark asked for final comments on the action plan and it was approved with no opposition.

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

Mona Behl presented on the opportunities to explore diversity and inclusion with the SAC and across GRNMS. Behl has been working with Paulita Bennett-Martin to emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion (D.E.I.). The marine services are the least diverse field (racially, gender, ideological, science discipline). Georgia Sea Grant drafted a 10-year vision with National Sea Grant to address the D.E.I. shortcomings. Sea Grant engages D.E.I. communities through education, outreach and resource conservation with the goal of contextualizing D.E.I. for the sanctuary and creating a space where people feel belonged. These efforts were continued in a 2016 charter amendment to the 10-year vision. Behl opened the floor for comments of how D.E.I. can be improved at GRNMS.

Rick DeVictor stated that knowledge how other groups in ONMS and NOAA have increased D.E.I. would be useful. Bob Crimian stated that connecting with people and having them realize the connection between offshore and inshore is an important connection. Crimian also stated the possibility of international inclusion in D.E.I. Behl stated that it is important to dedicate resources to low-income communities. Michael Denmark concluded that the SAC will talk with other sanctuaries on how to be dedicated to increasing D.E.I. with the SAC. Michelle Riley made a final remark about the MATE ROV competition including all schools in the area and to include Rotary International in volunteer efforts.

A late morning break was taken from 11:40 to 11:49.

## **Joseph Glenn Mooring Ball Presentation**

Following an introduction from Michael Denmark after the break, Joseph Glenn (Southern Dive Center, Georgia Southern University) shared his what it is like to be a recreational diver at Gray's Reef. He began his presentation stating that with the diving classes he teaches at Georgia Southern University, 97 new students know about Gray's Reef NMS, and 68 have dove at GRNMS since he began teaching. The presentation outlined what they have done at GRNMS, safety concerns, and possible solutions to these concerns. Glenn stated that Gray's Reef is not an easy dive. The biggest challenges are the limited visibility and the current that may be in one direction between 20-40 feet of seawater (fsw), and another direction below 60 fsw. People who dive GRNMS are Advanced Open Water Divers with deep diving and NITROX certifications.

The purpose of Glenn's presentation is to provide open opinions about a mooring ball project and provide an outline of phases of what is needed to possibly take action. Glenn explained what moorings are with diagrams, and explained the advantages and disadvantages of using them. He proposed three spots in GRNMS and thinks the "Manta Ray" design would be best suited for the live bottom habitat. He laid out three phases of what this project would include: (1) discussion and why have moorings been done this way, (2) budgeting, site selection, and planning, and (3) potential installation of the anchors and buoys. Glenn ended his presentation by opening discussion about the idea and taking questions from the Council.

Stan Rogers asked about determining the ball design is an important aspect of the project. Mark Padgett asked who would be paying for the mooring buoys, which Glenn responded that would be determined in phase II, budgeting and planning. Warren Hupman stated that this idea was explored in 2013 and at the time suggested sub-surface buoys to limit fishing. Glenn questioned the use of subsurface buoys and tides changing distance from buoy to sea surface. Alison Soss addressed the visitation to Gray's Reef and how many divers would benefit from these moorings. Rick DeVictor asked what the diving operations would be with these moorings. Glenn responded that drift diving would still be used and the most convenient location would be on a straight ledge. Stan Rogers stated that GRNMS staff is neutral on this position, but that placement should be on good sites rather than the best sites in order to minimize the impact of divers and potential marine debris. Mark Carson raised a concern of North Atlantic Right Whale entanglement but suggested a weak link like those found on crab traps. Hupman suggested seasonal buoy placement and detachment during Right Whale season in winter. Glenn responded with a reminder to make these moorings easy for a recreational person. Hupman stated that the divers he has seen going to GRNMS were not experienced enough for a drift dive. Michelle Riley asked how many boats would be allowed per buoy that Glenn responded one boat per buoy except if a boater daisy chains boats on one mooring. Becky Shortland asked what the permitting system would be if this is explored which Mark Padgett mentioned Section 10 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Stan Rogers asked if these moorings would be for private v. public use and Riley added a question about commercial v. sanctuary construction. Jody Patterson stated the designation at sites and the restoration at sites was discussed with Sarah Fangman. Glenn responded by saying the consideration of usage and construction could be determined in Phase II of budgeting and planning. Mona Behl recommended the opportunity to have a public education campaign focused on sport diving workshop collaborating with Sea Grant Extension. Glenn then mentioned divers will still throw anchor in GRNMS in order to be safe, but also that not many groups dive Gray's Reef. Officer Ben Hughes stated that it is crucial to reduce the likelihood of anchoring at GRNMS and that an assessment of a dragged anchor would be needed in that case. Lt. Bruce (USCG) stated that in the eyes of the USCG, increasing safety of boaters is a positive factor. Lt. Bruce continued addressed other considerations of these phases including an Environmental Impact Statement and National Environmental Protection Act assessment and said the biggest challenge will be construction of a buoy based on boat size, weather, and sea state. Glenn recommended that the buoy be built to hold larger boats.

Michael Denmark concluded the discussion by asking Glenn if he would like to put together a task force/working group to continue to phase II and explore buoy permitting obstacles, Section 10 permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Stan Rogers added that this task force should be independent with the SAC and GRNMS staff. Kim Roberson added that she feels the discussion should continue on what the intention of the sanctuary is from a management perspective. Denmark asked for additional support for this working group. The mooring buoy working

group consists of: Joseph Glenn, Mark Padgett, Dick DeVictor, Colby Harris, Lt. Bruce (USCG), and Ben Hughes. This working group was approved without objection and the group will report on their findings at the spring 2020 SAC meeting. Mark Padgett, Peter Auster, Stan Rogers, Joseph Glenn, and Michael Denmark will take on a discussion what a Yay/Nay process entails for a mooring buoy project. Mona Behl stated that she would look into public education workshops that could spread awareness to boaters at GRNMS. Discussion and action items were closed.

### **Matt Kendall (NOAA-NCCOS) Visitation Presentation**

A working lunch was taken during technical difficulties setting up a remote presentation from Matt Kendall's group at NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Joining Kendall remotely was Jim Batista, Brandon Guthrie, Bethany Wilkins, and Chris Jefferies. The visitor use project is about halfway through completion with collecting satellite based approach and buoy camera data. Providing background on the project, Kendall recognized the single most important data gap for at GRNMS is visitation playing a vital role in management decisions. The methods of the project involve WorldView satellites 1-3 which scan the same location ever 4-5 days and collect images at GRNMS from 11:00-16:00 ET. Cloud cover is an issue in some images and each satellite image must be custom processed for clarity.

Preliminary results of satellite imagery studies were broken down between temporal and spatial trends. Satellite imagery is used to ID boat size and type and view unknown floating objects. Temporally, seasonal patterns of visitation were seen at Gray's Reef with limited visitation in September. The main boat traveling to Gray's Reef is a center console boat, averaging 25 feet in length. 0% of the boats observed had AIS features present. Spatially, boats were often seen in a northeast to southwest alignment, coinciding with the ledge feature. 89% of boaters were in the correct area of the sanctuary, resulting in 11% of boats seen in the research area. Four of the boats found in the research area were drifting or slowly moving.

The 41008 buoy at Gray's Reef is outfitted with cameras capturing a 360° view of the reef seven times per day, image dimensions are 400 x 330 pixels). These images allow for a count of people on a boat and a high-resolution image can be captured in emergencies. Seabirds are using the buoy to nest and modeling teams are using the images for bird population models. Temporally, images observed seasonal patterns of heavy sanctuary use in June and July and daily patterns of peak times between 0900 and 1300 with the maximum visits per day fell on Sundays. A majority of these boats were center console. Predictors of the influence on visitation is based on environmental conditions and fishing tournaments. Deliverables of this project include a StoryMap of the findings. The presentation ended and was opened to questions from the SAC.

Bob Crimian asked about the spatial extent of the buoy camera and if it could be used to determine vessel size. Matt Kendall said that would be hard to determine without a reference for distance from buoy. Michael Denmark was impressed with the strides taken to identify visitor use. Stan Rogers thanked Kendall and his team for the presentation. Mona Behl asked if the images could estimate economic benefit of the sanctuary. Kendall said the estimates could be based on the number of people aboard, estimated fueling needs, and what gear was being used. Joseph Glenn asked if hotspots within Gray's Reef could be identified using the satellite data. Kendall provided a map of visitation efforts within the sanctuary, showing alignment of northeast to southwest. Becky Shortland asked if additional datasets would be incorporated into the study, to which Kendall responded that the final analysis would include ancillary datasets. Kathy Knowlton addressed that Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) begins on 12 June and ends 21 July, which coincides with busy visitation at Gray's Reef. Shortland asked what the continuation of satellite imagery would be once this particular project is complete. Kendall replied that it would continue only during the summer, the busy season of Gray's Reef. Shortland stated that winter is still a busy time based on reports from law enforcement. Alison Soss added that there might be a relationship between hunting (and fishing) seasons and visitation to GRNMS. Michael Denmark provided a final 'thank you' to the Kendall team and reiterated that he was amazed with the advancements in visitor data. This section of the meeting concluded at 13:53.

## Science and Technology Focus Area Strategy

Scott Noakes presented the findings of the discussions amongst the Science & Technology Focus Area of the SAC. The presentation provided three potential strategies: unmanned systems, artificial intelligence, and –omics. Addressing unmanned systems, Noakes provided examples of gliders to the likes of Dr. Catherine Edwards (UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography), sail drones, and unmanned aerial systems. These types of systems require fewer personnel, but more equipment to collect data. An additional benefit of these systems is data can be sent to a central location. Secondly, artificial intelligence (AI) like machine learning could be utilized to identify important data or utilize deep learning to suggest how to process unstructured data. AI is commonly used in aerial and underwater surveys, bathymetric mapping & habitat characterization, and satellite data to identify important information in large datasets. Lastly, omics and environmental DNA (eDNA) is an upcoming field, which could have some benefits for future research strategies. Using commercial cloud processing could provide greater access to NOAA datasets currently in strategy and vision phases. Noakes opened the floor to questions.

Rachael Guy stated that using mooring buoys to collect more data could be an option and that a drawback of eDNA is identifying the source of the genetic material. Mona Behl addressed if the SAC should think of a strategic use of the Science & Technology document. Peter Auster stated the importance of continued fieldwork rather than remote data collection. Noakes addressed Auster's comment stating that, to date, not much money has supported these new technologies but the comment period for NOAA is open until 16 December 2019.

Recreational Fishing Working Group Update – Bob Crimian provided an update on events regarding the Recreation Fishing working that included a summer meeting with University of Georgia, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources to be held in Atlanta. Fishing trips in and around the Savannah area have continued. Crimian is continuing to develop a relationship with the Atlanta Saltwater Sportsmen Club and is working on a collaborative effort to promote descending devices this April 2020. Additionally, a summer focus group will focus on barotrauma and produce products including an informative video and rack card to spread awareness of the effectiveness of descending devices. Additional efforts include a post-fishing charter survey and an effort to expand to groups outside of Atlanta.

Law enforcement working Group Update – Lt. Bruce (USCG) reported no significant incidents and attributes these numbers to a layered approach of surveys and surveillance. Ben Hughes (NOAA Law Enforcement) recapped the September incident where a boat had an emergency, tied to the 41008 buoy and capsized. There was no loss of life, but the boat was compromised and may remain adrift or sunk near the Sanctuary. Hughes elaborated that the vessel captain did not have insurance and would be personally responsible for damage to the reef. Kim Roberson added that there was some damage to the 41008 buoy which looked like someone had tied off to it. Hughes addressed the concern and continued with how this incident could have been avoided. Capt. Hodge and Mark Carson (Georgia Department of Natural Resources) stated that the response to the Brunswick car shipping container incident has been a majority of their recent efforts. Relevant to Gray's Reef, between July and September, GADNR officers visited Gray's Reef on 11 occasions and checked five vessels. One vessel check resulted in an undersized Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*). The law enforcement report ended with no questions from the SAC.

Michael Denmark addressed Matt Kuzemchak about general updates from the SAC. Kuzemchak stated that there are three working group meetings coming up, with the first one being the Law Enforcement group in Spring 2020. The Connectivity Working Group meeting will take place mid-2020. Rachel Guy requested to be added to that distribution list. Denmark addressed the SAC with a celebration of Becky Shortland's 20-year career with GRNMS and highlights the efforts she had in supporting resource conservation under her tenure (spearfishing, research area designation). The meeting took a break to take a group photo outside, led by Ben Prueitt (GRNMS) and cutting of cake for Becky's going away honors.

The meeting reconvened at 15:03 and Denmark encouraged the SAC to think about how meetings could be more engaging. Following this encouragement, Denmark assigned duties for working group reports to be addressed at the next SAC meeting, including include: recreational fishing (led by Bob Crimian, updates from what was discussed earlier), diving and mooring buoy working group (led by Joseph Glenn), and ecotourism (led by Mark Padgett).

Mission Blue Hope Spot – Dr. Simona Perry presented on the efforts to bring a special designation of Hope Spot to the South Atlantic Bight. This effort was motivated by the interconnection of the ocean and human value, particularly that of scientists and researchers. Less than 6% of the ocean is protected which Perry sees as a problem for future planning. The mission of this Hope Spot is to unite coalitions to explore and protect the ocean. The Hope Spot was designated on 10 October 2019 and has four main goals for conservation: (1) encourage geospatial planning and integrated ocean management plan for linked habitats within the Blake Plateau, (2) raise awareness to end destructive and illegal fishing practices, (3) educate audiences about marine debris sources and offshore citizen science efforts, and (4) eliminate the adverse impacts to the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Perry asked the SAC for ideas of how to build coalitions of users and how to be realistic of goals set for 2020 and opened the floor to ideas and questions.

Rachel Guy stated that it is important to engage the private sector and suggested multiple presentations along the coast. Stan Rogers asked Perry for her thoughts on why the Hope Spot was designated along the Georgia Coast. Perry said the focus was on geologic formations on the Blake Plateau and was focused on states' decision-making (Atlanta). Michelle Riley asked what the capacity of the Georgia Ports Authority, which Perry responded that their involvement in integral for marine pollution and Right Whale protection. Bob Crimian asked 'what is the metric of success for the Hope Spot?' Success will be determined by the users of the Hope Spot, but for the organizers success is awareness of ocean pollution and challenging partners to understand what success looks like. Crimian suggested that a comparison of ideas among partners would be beneficial. Michael Denmark asked for final questions, thanked Perry and continued the SAC meeting.

Five-Year Research Area Report – Kim Roberson reviewed the research area report recently submitted to Marine Sanctuary Research. The report summarizes the past five years of research taken place in the research area (200 pages, 34 contributors, 16 projects). Examples of the research projects include sessile invertebrate distribution and abundance, predator-prey relationships of fishes, CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, and lionfish sightings. Roberson finished by stating the report is published online and opened to questions. Bob Crimian asked if there was a plan for public interpretation of the report. Roberson responded that she is working with GRNMS staff to develop a plan for public dissemination. Crimian stated that interpreting the report into what it means to the public is key for understanding the importance of the research area. Mona Behl suggested that knowing the priorities of the research area is important when crafting research funding proposals (RFPs). Roberson introduced Kris Howard who is establishing the Gray's Reef science plan. Michael Denmark thanked the council for questions and continued.

### **Council Member Reports**

Fisheries Regulation Update – Rick DeVictor provided updates from NOAA Fisheries affecting the sanctuary. DeVictor highlighted the use of descending devices and electronic reporting. Regarding descending devices, new regulations will require all fishers to have descending devices onboard for Grouper-Snapper fishing in federal waters. Regarding electronic reporting, a new requirement will require charter vessels to submit a weekly report about fish species; these reports will include socioeconomic data. No questions were asked from the SAC.

### **GRNMS Report**

Gray's Reef Staff Report – Michelle Riley (Communications & Outreach Coordinator) presented information about the Gray's Reef Expo (23-24 May 2020, River Street Savannah). The goal of the expo is to reintroduce Gray's Reef to Savannah and celebrate NOAA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The expo will include exhibits, demonstrations, research stations,

information about charismatic mega fauna. The Tybee Island seafood co-op will engage restaurants along River Street to encourage the sale of local seafood. The Gray's Reef Foundation will have a space to attract donations and support. The oral history of GRNMS will be presented during the expo with interviews from Jessie Hunt (the inspiration to rename Sapelo live-bottom to Gray's Reef). The expo will also feature virtual reality dives with 360° video from Peter Auster's research, a 120-foot long curvy exhibit about Gray's Reef, and the Hyatt Regency Ballroom will host a Science on a Sphere Explorer exhibit so visitors can explore ocean data and trends. Riley estimates attendance at 5,000 people over the two days and the communications team will be developing a social media plan and engage SAC members with their advanced knowledge and understanding of Gray's Reef and its processes. The expo will host over 20 stations about GRNMS and volunteers are needed to make the expo a community event. The floor was opened to questions and a clarification was made that partners will not have a booth, but can come to volunteer on behalf of GRNMS.

Michael Denmark thanked Riley and introduced Jody Patterson (Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, GRNMSF) to discuss updates on the foundation. Patterson highlighted the number of opportunities to work together with partners at GRNMS and provided updates on the GRNMSF chapter including a new operations plan for 2020-2022 and potential grants and grant writing. No questions were asked to Patterson and Denmark thanked her and proceeded with the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Wright offered to put together maritime and military organizations on the Georgia Coast to communicate GRNMS. Wright also recommended these communications work as a question and answer format with the government.

### **Next Meeting**

The next SAC meeting was planned for spring 2020 with dates TBD based on schedules.

### **Closing Remarks**

A recent story from the Associated Press highlighted Gray's Reef as a model for ocean conservation. An abbreviated version of the full video was shown to the SAC.

Associated Press Article: <https://apnews.com/af749f3ae21940b1b1f34114824487d5>

Associated Press Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsxPG8JPvls>

The meeting adjourned at 16:31.