

Qualifications and Expectations for Open Council Seats

The descriptions below outline general expectations and qualifications for the open Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council seats. For the purposes of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, the sanctuary region encompasses Georgia, South Carolina, northern Florida, southern North Carolina, and adjacent ocean waters.

Members of the council are expected to perform several activities in the fulfillment of their role. These general activities are as follows:

- ❖ Serve as a liaison between their represented community and the sanctuary;
- ❖ Inform their represented community about the sanctuary and its mission, and gather input from community members regarding their perspectives on sanctuary programs and initiatives;
- ❖ Maintain and build frequent and routine communication with their constituency to effectively represent their views and perspectives;
- ❖ Identify and forge relationships with potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working;
- ❖ Help to identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues, of which the sanctuary might not be aware;
- ❖ Review and provide input on sanctuary plans, proposals and products, including prioritizing issues;
- ❖ Participate in sanctuary events, activities and programs;
- ❖ Support sanctuary friends groups and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation;
- ❖ Provide technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary; and
- ❖ Validate the accuracy and quality of information that the sanctuary uses for decision-making purposes.

In addition to the general activities conducted by council members, each open seat has specific qualification requirements. Member qualification requirements for each open seat are listed below:

- ❖ Citizen-at-Large:
 - reside within the sanctuary region;
 - demonstrated ability to communicate with members of the general public from communities across the sanctuary region;
 - experience and/or knowledge of marine management and resource protection issues in the sanctuary;
 - experience and/or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary;
 - ability and availability to conduct outreach to the general public, consistent with the goals of the sanctuary and the mission of the advisory council;

- freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated;
- commitment and availability to prepare for and participate in advisory council meetings, review information, and provide input; and
- commitment and availability to chair and/or participate on council subcommittees or working groups as needed.

❖ Conservation

- demonstrated experience representing and/or working with conservation/ environmental organizations in the sanctuary region;
- ability to effectively communicate with multiple organizations and the broader community of conservationists and environmentalists;
- familiarity with marine conservation issues and management approaches affecting the sanctuary;
- ability and availability to conduct outreach to the conservation community, consistent with the goals of the sanctuary and the mission of the advisory council;
- freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated;
- commitment and availability to prepare for and participate in advisory council meetings, review information, and provide input; and
- commitment and availability to chair and/or participate on council subcommittees or working groups as needed.

❖ Research (Non-Living Resources):

- affiliation with scientific research institutions or organizations with activities and interests in or related to the sanctuary;
- ability to effectively communicate with multiple institutions and scientists;
- direct experience with marine research programs regarding non-living resources;
- ability, and availability to conduct outreach to the research community, consistent with the goals of the sanctuary and the mission of the council;
- freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated;
- commitment and availability to prepare for and participate in advisory council meetings, review information, and provide input; and
- commitment and availability to chair and/or participate on council subcommittees or working groups as needed.

❖ Sport Diving

- knowledge of recreational diving activities within the sanctuary region;
- familiarity and affiliation with sport diving organizations within the sanctuary region;

- ability and willingness to conduct sanctuary outreach to the recreational diving community, consistent with the goals of the sanctuary and the mission of the council;
- freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated;
- commitment and availability to prepare for and participate in advisory council meetings, review information, and provide input; and
- commitment and availability to chair and/or participate on council subcommittees or working groups as needed.

❖ Sport Fishing

- knowledge of recreational fishing activities within the sanctuary region;
- familiarity and affiliation with sport fishing organizations within the sanctuary region;
- experience and knowledge related to fisheries law, policies, and practices affecting the sanctuary;
- ability and willingness to conduct sanctuary outreach to the recreational fishing community, consistent with the goals of the sanctuary and the mission of the council;
- freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated;
- commitment and availability to prepare for and participate in advisory council meetings, review information, and provide input; and
- commitment and availability to chair and/or participate on council subcommittees or working groups as needed.