



Dear Friend of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary:

Thank you for your interest in the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. The Advisory Council was established pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. Designated in 1981, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is one of the largest near-shore live-bottom reefs of the southeastern United States, encompassing approximately 22 square miles. The live bottom and ledge habitat 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 in the only known winter calving ground for the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Enclosed is our sanctuary advisory council application kit, which includes a copy of the council charter and an application form, along with other information relevant to the council and seats available. Please note that if you have been a federally-registered lobbyist in the two-year period before your potential appointment date to the council, you will not be eligible to serve as a member of the sanctuary advisory council. Please contact council coordinator Becky Shortland at 912-598-2381 (becky.shortland@noaa.gov) if you have any questions about this restriction.

We are looking forward to receiving completed applications. Feel free to contact me (912-598-2439) or council coordinator Becky Shortland (912-598-2381) if you have any questions about the sanctuary, the council or the council member selection process.

Sincerely,

George R. Sedberry, Acting Superintendent
Enclosures