

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gray's Reef advisory council to discuss research area and new management plan

NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 27, to hear an update of research projects underway in the new research area, and details of the sanctuary's draft management plan, along with other activities.

The meeting at the Marine & Coastal Science Research and Instruction Center in Savannah, on the campus of Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, will begin at 10 a.m. with a public comment period at 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Marine & Coastal Science Research and Instruction Center
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

WHO: NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council members

The Gray's Reef Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in August 1999 to insure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The volunteer council's twelve voting members represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and state and federal governmental jurisdictions.

The [meeting agenda](#) can be downloaded from the sanctuary's website, <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>. For further information, please contact Becky Shortland, council coordinator, by phone at 912-598-2381 or by email at <mailto:becky.shortland@noaa.gov>.

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 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 highly endangered North Atlantic right whale is occasionally seen in the sanctuary.

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On the Web:

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary: <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>