



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Advisory Council Applicants**

NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for two seats on its advisory council. The vacant seats represent sport diving and charter/commercial fishing communities. The council ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and familiarity with the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve three-year terms, pursuant to the council's charter.

"The sanctuary advisory council provides a vital place for the community and sanctuary management to exchange ideas, discuss issues and share information," said George Sedberry, superintendent, Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary. "We are excited about the role our advisory council has played in the management of the sanctuary and we look forward to working with new members."

The Gray's Reef Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in August 1999 to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary.

Applications for the advisory council seat are due March 30, 2012. To receive an application kit, or for further information please contact council coordinator Becky Shortland via e-mail at [becky.shortland@noaa.gov](mailto:becky.shortland@noaa.gov), by phone at 912-598-2381, or by mail at 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411.

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 highly endangered North Atlantic right whales are occasionally seen in the sanctuary.

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. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

### **On the Web:**

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