

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606
757-591-7328



January 23, 2013

Susan Langley
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Commercial Fishing

William Morris, III
NC Dept. of Cultural
Resources

Robert Neyland
U.S. Navy

Wayne Smith
Conservation

Tyler Zminkowski
Youth Seat

The Honorable Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce
14012 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dan Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

RE: Reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site
Evaluation List

Dear Acting Secretary Blank, Dr. Lubchenco, and
Director Basta,

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recognizes the critical role played by the Site Evaluation List (SEL) not only for the establishment of national marine sanctuaries but for the vital involvement of local communities. The SEL provides an important mechanism for local communities to initiate and engage in discussion regarding the desirability of a marine sanctuary; its perceived benefits or detriments, and to voice questions or concerns.

Beyond the benefits of marine sanctuaries for the preservation and management of cultural and natural resources, their contributions to a region must be demonstrated holistically from the physical landscape through history and heritage to address present uses and economic advantages. The SEL will engender these conversations. In recognition of the significance of the SEL and its role in generating the crucial participation of local communities, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council supports and encourages the reactivation of the SEL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan B.M. Langley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Susan B.M . Langley, Ph.D.
Chair, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council