

May 15, 2015

Contact: Shannon Ricles, 757-591-7328 Katherine Van Dam, 757-591-7350

## NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary seeks advisory council applicants

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for one primary seat on its advisory council. The council ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

"The members of our advisory council represent an extremely important element of our community," said David Alberg, sanctuary superintendent. "Their input, experience and expertise assist the sanctuary in making informed and timely decisions on how to best manage our underwater heritage and resources."

The sanctuary is accepting applications for the following seat: commercial/recreational fishing.

Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve a two-year term.

The advisory council consists of 12 primary and alternate members representing community and other interest groups, and one non-voting youth seat. The council also includes eight related governmental seats representing the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, two North Carolina local government entities, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, National Park Service, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Coast Guard.

Applications are due June 30. To receive an application kit, or for further information, please contact Katherine Van Dam, sanctuary advisory council coordinator, via email at <u>Katherine.VanDam@noaa.gov</u>; by phone at 757-591-7350; or by mail at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-3759. Application kits can also be downloaded from the sanctuary's website at <u>http://monitor.noaa.gov</u>.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary became the nation's first marine sanctuary in 1975, protecting the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad, USS *Monitor*, best known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 9, 1862.

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 <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and our other <u>social media</u> <u>channels</u>.

On the Web: Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: <u>http://monitor.noaa.gov</u> NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <u>http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov</u>

###