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NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary appoints new advisory council members

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary announced eight new primary members to serve on its advisory council. The new appointees bring a valuable range of experience to the council, a community-based body that provides sanctuary staff with input and recommendations on sanctuary programs and management.

"The sanctuary advisory council is an important link between sanctuary management and user groups and communities," said David Alberg, "sanctuary superintendent. "Through the council, varied and diverse communities have a voice in helping to staff manage our nation's first national marine sanctuary."

The newly appointed advisory council members and the seats they represent:

Citizen-At-Large: Jim Tobin of Manns Harbor, N.C. (previously held Heritage Tourism seat).

Conservation: Sarah Watkins-Kenney of Greenville, N.C. (new member).

Heritage Tourism: Andre Nabors of Mebane, N.C. (new member).

Maritime Archaeological Research: Nathan Richards of Manteo, N.C. (new member).

Recreational/Commercial Fishing: Anna Beckwith of Morehead City, N.C. (new member).

Recreational Diving: Debby Boyce of Beaufort, N.C. (third term in this seat).

Recreational Diving: Joe Poe of Durham, N.C. (previously held Citizen-At-Large seat).

Ocean Sports: Matt Landrum of Manteo, N.C. (new member).

The advisory council was established in 2005 to assure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary and to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on cultural resource protection, critical issues involving sanctuary use or resources, sanctuary research objectives, and education and outreach programs. The volunteer council represents a variety of local user groups, the general public and state and federal government agencies.

Managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1975 to protect the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor*, which sank during a storm 16 miles off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1862.

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