



Contact: Lauren Heesemann
252-475-3663 x61

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NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Advisory Council Applicants

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for five seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council. The council ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

The sanctuary is accepting applications for seats representing: Citizen-at-Large, Recreational/ Commercial Fishing (2), Heritage Tourism, and Economic Development.

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 two-year terms, pursuant to the council's charter

"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 sanctuary managers in making informed and timely decisions on how best to protect our wildlife and habitats."

The advisory council consists of 18 members, including six government seats representing the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Applications are due April 29, 2011. To receive an application or for further information, please contact Shannon Ricles by phone at 757-591-7328 or by email at Shannon.ricles@noaa.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to Shannon Ricles, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Va., 23606.

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1975 as the Nation's first marine sanctuary in order to protect the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad, USS *Monitor*, best known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad, CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, Va., on March 9, 1862.

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On the Web:

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: <http://monitor.noaa.gov>

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