

***Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary**

Dear Friend of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary:

We are in the process of establishing new Sanctuary Advisory Council seats on our sanctuary advisory council. Beginning immediately, we will accept applications and nominations for council membership. Applications are due by April 16, 2011.

The *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary.

Established in 1975 as the Nation's first marine sanctuary, the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary is managed by NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program. It is one of 14 marine protected areas and protects 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.

The advisory council consists of 18 members and six alternates: eleven non-governmental voting members, six governmental voting members, and one non-voting youth seat. The council seats represent a variety of regional interests and stakeholders, including: Citizen-at-Large, Conservation, Economic Development, Education, Heritage Tourism, Higher Education, Maritime Archaeological Research, North Carolina Maritime Museums, Recreational/Commercial Fishing, Recreational Diving, Science Research, the US Navy, Virginia and North Carolina Department of Historic Resources, the National Park Service, Youth, and the US Coast Guard. It is the combined expertise and experience of these individuals that creates an advisory council that is a valuable and effective resource for the sanctuary manager.

The council's objectives are to provide the sanctuary manager with advice on: 1) protecting natural and cultural resources, and identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving sanctuary use or resources; 2) identifying and realizing the sanctuary's research objectives; 3) identifying and realizing educational opportunities to increase public knowledge and stewardship of the sanctuary environment; and 4) developing an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the

purpose and value of the sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The council may serve as a forum for consultation and deliberation among its members and as a source of advice to the sanctuary manager regarding the management of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary advisory council holds open meetings to ensure continued public input on management issues and to increase public awareness and knowledge of the sanctuary environment. Public participation at these meetings is welcomed and encouraged.

Enclosed is our sanctuary advisory council application kit, which includes a copy of the charter for the council and an application sheet, as well as some information about the sanctuary. Council terms will be for two years.

We are looking forward to receiving completed applications at our office at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Applications will be reviewed by a preliminary review panel consisting of Jim Bunch (Recreational Diving Seat), Dave Crop (Mariners' Museum Alternate), Terri Kirby Hathaway (Education Seat), and Anna Holloway (Mariners' Museum Seat). The panel will help us narrow the number of candidates for each seat to the top three. Of these, a member will be chosen and officially notified of their selection. The steps and a timeline for the selection process are enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning the council, feel free to contact 1) Shannon Ricles at 757-591-7328 or Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov; or 2) myself, Dave Alberg, at 757-591-7326 or David.Alberg@noaa.gov

Sincerely,

Dave Alberg
Sanctuary
Superintendent

Enclosures