



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

May 6, 2015

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in serving as a representative on the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. We are currently recruiting representatives for the following community seat: **Recreational / Commercial Fishing**. Please see the enclosed listing of basic member requirements for this Council position.

The Sanctuary established the Advisory Council to provide advice on the following:

- Protecting underwater cultural heritage and resources, and identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving sanctuary use or resources;
- Developing an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the sanctuary and the National Sanctuary Program;
- Identifying and realizing the sanctuary's research objectives; and
- Identifying and realizing educational and media opportunities to increase public knowledge and stewardship of the sanctuary environment.

Since its establishment, the Council has played a vital role in advising on issues and decisions affecting the Sanctuary. Its members have become knowledgeable about and raised their voice on a variety of important issues, including but not limited to: the preservation of and access to the USS *Monitor* shipwreck; the conservation of its recovered artifacts; the remains of two sailors discovered in 2002; and most recently, the possible boundary expansion of the Sanctuary.

The Council's 20 members and 9 alternates represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, as well as local, state and federal governmental entities. Council representatives are appointed competitively by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and serve voluntary two-year terms. Alternates play an important role on the Council and often attend and participate in meetings alongside the primary member, although they only have voting privileges when the primary representative cannot be present at the meeting.

Council representatives are expected to attend the Advisory Council meetings held three to four times each year in full-day public sessions (usually 10:00 am to 3:00 pm) located at various locations on the Outer Banks and in Newport News, Virginia, or occasionally as a phone conference. The meeting dates for the year are agreed upon by the Council prior to each year, generally held on the first or second Thursday of the meeting month. The schedule for the remaining meetings in 2015 is as follows:

Thursday, July 9, 2015: Kill Devil Hills, NC
Thursday, November 5, 2015: Newport News, VA



Individual members may also participate in Working Groups, Subcommittees, or special task forces.

Your completed application form, addressing all of the short answer/essay questions, **must be received at our office no later than Tuesday, June 30, 2015**.

Completed applications can be submitted as follows:

By email to: Katherine.VanDam@noaa.gov

By fax to: 757-591-7353 (ATTN: Katherine Van Dam)

By mail to:

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
ATTN: Katherine Van Dam
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606-3759

Appointments are expected to be announced in late August or early September 2015. The intended first meeting for the new member will be November 5, 2015 in Newport News, Virginia.

Thank you for your interest in Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact me at (757) 591-7350.

Sincerely,



Katherine Van Dam
Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator

Enclosure: **2015 Sanctuary Advisory Council Recruitment: Member Expectations and Requirements**