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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA'S Monitor National Marine Sanctuary seeks advisory council applicants

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

The sanctuary is accepting applications for the following seats: recreational diving, heritage tourism, and citizen-at-large.

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 or alternates should expect to serve a two-year term.

The advisory council consists of 11 primary members and one non-voting youth seat representing a variety of public interest groups. It also includes eight governmental seats representing N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, N.C. Local Government (2), Virginia Department of Historic Resources, National Park Service, U.S. Navy, and U. S. Coast Guard.

Applications are due Sept. 30. To receive an application kit, or for further information, please contact Shannon Ricles, advisory council coordinator, via e-mail at Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov; by phone at 757-591-7328; or by mail at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA. 23606. Application kits can also be downloaded from the sanctuary's website at <http://monitor.noaa.gov>.

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.

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 [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

On the Web:

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

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

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