

open to using European standards and facilitates two-way trade between these markets. Ties between the EU and specific markets in the region are also being solidified through partnership agreements with CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, and through affiliate membership in CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization. CEN's Partner Standardization Body (PSB) agreements, which some Middle Eastern and North African countries are considering signing, typically have a clause that requires signatories to withdraw conflicting national standards from the market. Israel is considering a partnership agreement with CEN and an affiliation with CENELEC. Egypt and Tunisia are the only other Middle East or North African countries known to have signed a partnership agreement with CEN. Tunisia is also an affiliate of CENELEC.

The Department of Commerce cordially invites all interested stakeholders to attend a public meeting on the presence of European standards in the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting is an opportunity for interested parties to provide information and input to the U.S. government on how this trend in standardization affects market access for U.S. goods in the region. Key government officials working directly on this issue from various agencies will be in attendance.

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Time: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Where: U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW.

To gain access to the Department of Commerce, please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, February 14, 2007, to Jennifer Derstine at (202) 482–1870 or Jennifer.Derstine@mail.doc.gov.

The agenda will be provided at the meeting. Further information is available on the Department of Commerce Standards Initiative Web site at: <http://www.trade.gov/standards>.

Dated: January 25, 2007.

Jennifer Derstine,

Senior International Trade Specialist.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seat on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (council): Education Primary. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. The Education Primary seat, which was vacated by the previously appointed representative before the end of the term, should expect to serve until February 2008.

DATES: Applications are due by February 23, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from the following Web address; <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2007/recruit07v1/011607covlet.html>, or through the Sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA 93940. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Chetirkin, 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA 93940, (831) 647–4210, paul.chetirkin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MBNMS Advisory Council was established in March 1994 to assure continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. Since its establishment, the Advisory Council has played a vital role in decisions affecting the Sanctuary along the central California coast.

The Advisory Council's twenty voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus seven local, State and Federal governmental jurisdictions. In addition, the respective managers or superintendents for the four California National Marine Sanctuaries (Channel

Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve sit as non-voting members.

Four working groups support the Advisory Council: The Research Activity Panel ("RAP") chaired by the Research Representative, the Sanctuary Education Panel ("SEP") chaired by the Education Representative, the Conservation Working Group ("CWG") chaired by the Conservation Representative, and the Business and Tourism Activity Panel ("BTAP") chaired by the Business/Industry Representative, each dealing with matters concerning research, education, conservation and human use. The working groups are composed of experts from the appropriate fields of interest and meet monthly, or bi-monthly, serving as invaluable advisors to the Advisory Council and the Sanctuary Superintendent.

The Advisory Council represents the coordination link between the Sanctuary and the state and federal management agencies, user groups, researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the central California coastal and marine ecosystems.

The Advisory Council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Superintendent and is instrumental in helping develop policies, program goals, and identify education, outreach, research, long-term monitoring, resource protection, and revenue enhancement priorities. The Advisory Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Superintendent by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Superintendent in achieving the goals of the Sanctuary program within the context of California's marine programs and policies.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431, *et seq.* (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: January 23, 2007.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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