

CCS requests a five-year scientific research permit to harass right whales year-round to monitor demographics, life history traits, habitat use, and behavior in the Gulf of Maine; the majority of effort would be focused in Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and the Great South Channel during the season of right whale residency (December 15 - May 15). Annually, up to 400 right whales of all age classes would be approached by small plane for photo-identification and behavioral observation; up to 350 right whales of all age classes would be approached by vessel for photo-identification, direct observation, and collection of prey; and up to 20 attempts would be made to attach suction cup tags to adult or juvenile right whales from small vessels, with a maximum of 10 successful attachments. Up to 40 cetaceans of other species would be incidentally harassed annually during aerial and vessel surveys, and opportunistic sighting information and photographs would be collected. The results of this research will provide a better understanding of right whale population status, relationship to habitat conditions, distribution and abundance, movement patterns, and interactions with human activities. Data will be provided to management agencies, including NOAA Fisheries and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, for near-real-time dynamic management of right whale habitat, and long-term refinement of conservation and recovery plans.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a draft environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: October 21, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS or sanctuary) Advisory Council (council): Sport Diving. 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. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve three-year terms, pursuant to the council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by November 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Becky Shortland, Council Coordinator (becky.shortland@noaa.gov, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411; 912-598-2381). Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Shortland, Council Coordinator (becky.shortland@noaa.gov, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411; 912-598-2381).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The sanctuary advisory council was established in August 1999 to provide advice and recommendations on management and protection of the sanctuary. The advisory council, through its members, also serves as liaison to the community regarding sanctuary issues and represents community interests, concerns, and management needs to the ONMS and NOAA.

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

Dated: October 14, 2009.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applications for the following vacant seat on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: The Conservation/Environmental seat. ONMS is seeking both a primary member and an alternate for this seat. The selected applicants will serve out the remainder of the current terms which expire December 31, 2011. 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. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by November 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, 115 E. Railroad Ave., Suite 301, Port Angeles, WA 98362. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Palmer, 115 E. Railroad Ave., Suite 301, Port Angeles, WA 98362, e-mail Andrew.palmer@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Sanctuary Advisory Council members and alternates serve three-year terms, unless the member and alternate are selected to fill unexpired terms. In that case, the member and alternate will serve out the remaining time on the unexpired term. The Advisory Council meets bi-monthly