Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Charter

Establishment and Authority

Section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA or Act; 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish sanctuary advisory councils to provide advice to the Secretary of Commerce regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. This authority has been delegated to the director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). The director hereby establishes the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (council).

This charter describes the objectives and roles of the council's activities, procedural requirements regarding the appointment of council members and officers, requirements for the conduct of council members and meetings, and other requirements. All council activities must be conducted pursuant to this charter.

ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Statement

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) regards community involvement and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protecting sanctuary resources. One key way to achieve this involvement is the formation of sanctuary advisory councils.

Sanctuary Advisory Councils bring diverse community members together to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent (delegated from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere) on the management and protection of the sanctuary, or to assist the ONMS in guiding a proposed site through the designation process.

The ONMS is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of councils at all sanctuaries. In order for councils to achieve their full potential, the ONMS will:

- Provide sufficient support to allow councils to operate efficiently and effectively at each site;
- Provide support and guidance from the national office to help councils operate efficiently and at a basic level of consistency across the system;
- Promote coordination and communication among councils and among sanctuary staff that work closely with councils; and
- Develop training programs appropriate to council officers and members, and sanctuary superintendents and staff.

National Marine Sanctuary System

A National Marine Sanctuary is an area of the marine or Great Lakes environment of special national, and sometimes international, significance warranting protection and management under the National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA). As a steward of coastal and ocean resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) protects and manages sanctuaries through the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). The mission of the ONMS is to comprehensively protect and manage these marine or Great Lakes areas of special national significance to protect their ecological and cultural integrity for the benefit of current and future generations. NOAA uses ecologically sound principles of resource conservation and develops and implements stewardship, education, and research programs that foster public understanding, support, and participation. Use of sanctuary resources must be consistent with the primary objective of the program, which is resource protection.

Goals of the ONMS are to:

- Identify, designate, and manage sanctuaries to maintain the natural biological communities in sanctuaries and to protect and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes, through innovative, coordinated, and community-based measures and techniques.

- Build and strengthen the nation-wide system of marine sanctuaries, maintain and enhance the role of the system in larger marine protected area networks, and help provide both national and international leadership for marine protected area management and marine resource stewardship.

- Enhance nation-wide public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of marine and Great Lakes ecosystems and maritime heritage resources through outreach, education, and interpretation efforts.

- Investigate and enhance the understanding of ecosystem processes through continued scientific research, monitoring, and characterization to support ecosystem-based management in sanctuaries and throughout U.S. waters.

- Facilitate human use in sanctuaries to the extent such uses are compatible with the primary mandate of resource protection, through innovative public participation and interagency cooperative arrangements.

- Work with the international community to strengthen global protection of marine resources, investigate and employ appropriate new management approaches, and disseminate ONMS experience and techniques.

- Build, maintain, and enhance an operational capability and infrastructure that efficiently and effectively support the attainment of the ONMS's mission and goals.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

The *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary enjoys the distinction of being the nation's first national marine sanctuary, established in 1975. The *Monitor* rests upside down on a sand-covered seafloor 16 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 230 feet of water. The *Monitor* is recognized worldwide for its significance as the vessel that revolutionized nineteenth-century naval technology and warfare. In 1862, the turreted ironclad engaged the Confederate Ironclad, CSS *Virginia,* in battle. Less than a year later, the *Monitor* sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Since 1995, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and its partners have worked to stabilize the *Monitor's* hull and recover major components of the ship including the propeller, propeller shaft, skeg, and steam engine. Recovery of the *Monitor's* famous revolving turret and guns, along with the remains of two crewmen, was completed in August 2002.

The wreck and the waters above it are protected by an area one nautical mile in diameter. Sanctuary management includes minimizing further deterioration of the wreck, recovering important ship components and artifacts, as appropriate, and protecting the wreck from damage by human activities such as illegal vessel anchoring and illegal fishing practices (some types of commercial fishing - e.g. bottom trawling).

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Goals:

- Continued scientific investigations, recovery, and dissemination of historical and cultural information preserved at the site.

- Careful review and monitoring of privately sponsored research activities in order to ensure that the site is protected and preserved and that the research results will have the maximum benefit toward management and conservation of the *Monitor*.

- Continued education and outreach activities designed to increase public understanding of, and involvement in the *Monitor* and her story.

Council Objectives and Roles

1. The council, in accordance with the Act, may provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent regarding the protection and management of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary; and the *Monitor* Collection (i.e., *Monitor* archaeological artifacts, including specimens and material remains and Associated Records), including implementation of the management plan, Curatorial Services Agreement between the ONMS and The Mariners' Museum; and the Programmatic Agreement among the ONMS, The Mariners' Museum, and the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Council may also provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on exhibit and collection issues related to the USS *Monitor* or

Monitor artifacts displayed at the Mariners' Museum, Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and other partner institutions.

2. The council shall draw on the expertise of its members and other sources in order to provide advice.

3. Council members shall serve as liaisons between their constituents and/or communities and the sanctuary, keeping the sanctuary staff informed of issues and concerns, as well as conducting outreach activities in their respective communities on the sanctuary's behalf.

4. The council may serve as a forum for consultation and deliberation among its members and as a source of advice to the sanctuary superintendent. Such advice shall fairly represent the collective and individual views of the council members. In formulating such advice, the council members shall recall that the primary objective of the sanctuary and the Act is resource protection.

5. The council is established to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent regarding the management of the MNMS. This does not constitute authority to perform operational or management functions, or to make decisions on behalf of the sanctuary.

Members, Alternates and Officers

1. The council shall be appointed by the director, consist of no more than 13 voting members, and shall be made up of persons employed by federal, state or local agencies with expertise in management of cultural resources, representatives of local user groups, conservation and other public interest organizations, scientific and educational organizations, and members of the public interested in the protection and multiple use management of sanctuary resources. The membership is designed to be balanced in terms of points of view represented, geographic diversity, and advisory functions the council will perform.

2. The sanctuary superintendent may sit on the council as a nonvoting member and shall work with the chair in scheduling each meeting and approving the agenda to ensure that topics of discussion are relevant to the sanctuary. Council meetings may not be conducted in the absence of the sanctuary superintendent or his/her designee.

3. A non-voting youth/student seat represents the youth segment of the community, defined as ages 14-17. The youth/student member shall be appointed for a term of two years, and may compete for reappointment unless the individual will exceed the age limit during the additional term.

   This seat is governed by the same application, nomination and appointment procedures as non-governmental voting seats on the council, and is also subject to the same grounds for removal.

The individual filling the youth/student seat must:

- Attend a school in the area affected by the sanctuary;
- Have proven ability to communicate and network with other students within the school and in other schools;
- Possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- Have experience and/or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary;
- Be able to travel to and attend council meetings and retreats;
- Have written permission from parent/guardian;
- Have written recommendation from one or more teachers;
- have written permission from school administration to participate on council; and
- Be accompanied by a chaperone (teacher/parent/guardian) who attends each meeting with the student and stays for the duration of the meeting.

4. There are two categories of seats for which voting members are appointed. The following procedures shall govern the application, nomination, and appointment of voting council members:

(a) (i) Governmental (4 members): By virtue of the shared functional responsibilities of federal, state, and local jurisdictions in the implementation of sanctuary-related management, each of the following government entities shall be requested to designate one individual to serve on the council. The following government agencies shall sit on the council as voting members:

United States Navy, Department of Defense
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
National Park Service

(ii) If a government entity decides to no longer participate as a member of the council, or fails to attend three consecutive council meetings and is formally removed by the director, the sanctuary superintendent, with the approval of the director, shall invite another appropriate government entity to replace that agency on the council.

(iii) If it is found that a governmental member of the council has violated one or more of the terms of this charter, the sanctuary superintendent may recommend to the director that the appropriate agency be notified and requested to replace the designee. The sanctuary superintendent may consult with the council prior to taking such action.

(iv) An alternate (from the same government entity) of a governmental council member may attend a council meeting on occasion if the chair and sanctuary superintendent are notified in advance of any meeting at which an alternate

will represent the council member, including the name, address and position of the individual designated. An alternate may not name another alternate.

(b)(i) Non-governmental Voting (9 members).

A representative of each of the following activities, which are integrally affected by the management goals of the sanctuary, shall be selected:

Recreational Diving
The Mariners' Museum
Maritime Archaeological Research
Conservation
Education
Citizen-At-Large
Heritage Tourism
Recreational/Commercial Fishing
North Carolina Maritime Museums

The non-governmental members shall be appointed for a term of two years, and may compete for reappointment. If necessary, subsequent terms of appointment may be changed to provide for balanced (staggered) expiration dates. Should a non-governmental seat become vacant, the vacated position shall be advertised and a replacement appointed as specified below. The newly appointed member shall serve for a full term beginning on the date of his/her swearing in by the sanctuary superintendent.

(ii) Members serve at the discretion of the director. The sanctuary superintendent may recommend to the director the removal of a non-governmental member of the council on any of the following grounds if that member:

- Is convicted of any felony offense;
- Is found to have violated any of the following laws or regulations promulgated thereunder: the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or another environmental law for which NOAA or another federal agency has jurisdictional responsibility;
- Is found to have violated state environmental laws or regulations promulgated thereunder in the state in which the sanctuary is located;
- Is found to have violated national or state regulations (in the state in which the sanctuary is located) protecting cultural resources;
- Is determined to have abused his or her position as a member of the council (including but not limited to use of council information for personal gain; use of council position to advance a personal agenda or harm another member of the council or of the community; misrepresentation of, or spreading misinformation about the council or the sanctuary; and/or refusal to recuse himself or herself if so requested by the

sanctuary superintendent and/or chair in a matter in which the member has a conflict of interest);

- Has a change to the professional affiliation(s) and/or personal circumstances that comprise a significant portion of that member's qualifications for being a member of the council;
- Misses a consecutive number of meetings (as defined by this charter) without reasonable justification;
- Disrupts on more than one occasion council meetings in a manner that interferes with the council conducting its business; or
- Violates any term of this charter.

The sanctuary superintendent may consult with the council prior to taking such an action.

5. As each non-governmental seat becomes vacant and the process for selection of a new member (described under Appointments) is conducted, the sanctuary superintendent shall recommend to the director the member from among the top three candidates resulting from the review process. The Mariners' Museum seat shall have both a member and an alternate, both of which shall be selected from among the top three candidates. The alternate shall have all the rights of the member at such times the alternate is officially substituting for the member. The chair and the sanctuary superintendent shall be notified by the member before an alternate officially attends a meeting. The alternate may also be appointed to complete a primary member's term if that member resigns or is removed.

6. (a) Council Officer Elections and Terms

   The council shall elect one member to serve as chair and one member to serve as vice-chair. The *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Communications Coordinator will act as council secretary. The vice-chair shall act as chair in the absence of the chair. Terms of the chair and vice-chair are two years, except that the initial term of the vice chair is one year. The chair and vice-chair may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms (four years) if reelected. The council may elect one member to serve as council secretary. The term of the council secretary is one year. The council secretary may serve consecutive terms if reelected.

   A chair or vice-chair may leave his/her term to run for another council officer position, if desired. If the chair or vice-chair is elected to a new position, the council shall nominate and elect a new representative for the vacated position. Election for all positions is by majority vote of all council members, including the non-voting members, and votes shall be made by written ballot. Members who will not be present at the time of election may submit their vote in writing to the sanctuary superintendent prior to the meeting. Following the first election, elections for chair and vice-chair shall be held in alternate years.

   (b) Roles of Council Officers:

   (i) Chair: The chair schedules and sets agendas for all council meetings with the approval of the sanctuary superintendent, presides over all meetings of

the full council and ensures that meetings are run according to accepted meeting practices, signs all correspondence and documents authorized by the council and generally represents the council's interests and concerns to the public.

(ii) Vice-Chair: The vice-chair serves as chair in the absence of the chair and assists as necessary in performing executive duties of the council.

(iii) Council Secretary: The council secretary assists sanctuary staff in performing administrative duties as directed by the chair or vice-chair.

Appointments

Public notice shall be provided as to the vacancy of constituent group seat(s) and at-large representatives. Applications for ensuing terms for vacant seats shall be submitted to the sanctuary superintendent directly. Copies of all applications and nominations for each seat will be submitted by the sanctuary superintendent to the preliminary review panel to obtain recommendations on selections. Any council member that has a conflict of interest (financial, personal, self nomination, etc.) shall recuse him/herself from making a selection for the vacant seat. Selection from those recommended by the council or other applicants or nominees shall be made by the sanctuary superintendent with the approval of the director. In all cases, submission of written statements of particular interest, qualifications, and experience shall be requested. Guidelines for applying shall be supplied at the appropriate time.

Administration

1. Members of the council shall serve without pay except that each member may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of Title 5, U.S.C., for travel to and from official council meetings. No members of working groups (defined below) may receive travel expenses for working group activities or meetings. Travel expenses for governmental members of the council may be provided by their own agencies.

2. The ONMS may make available such staff, information, administrative services or assistance as the sanctuary superintendent determines necessary to enable the council and its subcommittees/working groups to carry out their functions.

Operation

1. Meetings
   (a) Meetings are held at the call of the chair and the sanctuary superintendent.
   (b) Decisions (e.g., recommendations) made by the council shall be made by majority vote of those present, provided there is a quorum (more than half of the voting members). A recorded vote may be requested by the chair or the sanctuary superintendent.
   (c) Each meeting shall be open to the public.

(d) Interested persons shall be permitted to present oral or written statements on items on the agenda, or other pertinent topics.
(e) Emergency meetings may be held at the call of the chair or presiding officer and the sanctuary superintendent.
(f) Timely notice of each council meeting, including the time, place and agenda of each meeting, shall be provided to the local media and additional notice may be given by such other means as will result in appropriate publicity to interested groups. This requirement shall not apply to workshops scheduled by the council to address strategic planning, administration, or specialized technical issues. The council may not vote at any meeting for which the above public notice has not been issued or on any agenda item for which notice was not provided.
(g) The council shall meet as frequently as necessary, not to exceed once per month for voting meetings, but at least once every six months. The council meeting place may be rotated among various locations adjacent to the sanctuary and meeting sites shall be chosen to accommodate anticipated public attendance and be reasonably accessible to those interested in attending.
(h) Minutes of each meeting shall be kept by a person specified by the sanctuary superintendent and shall contain a summary of attendees and matters discussed; such minutes shall be available to the public.

2. Procedures for Providing Advice:
   (a) The council may provide advice on a relevant issue or topic to the sanctuary superintendent. Requests for information, assistance, or advice from the ONMS, other NOAA offices, or other agencies shall be made in writing and be coordinated through the sanctuary superintendent.
   (b) Any matter that a council member wishes to raise to the attention of the sanctuary shall be brought to the attention of either the sanctuary superintendent or the council chair so that it might be placed on the agenda as a discussion topic. The sanctuary superintendent and the council chair shall discuss topics for the agenda, and the sanctuary superintendent must approve a topic to be placed on the agenda.
   (c) The council shall provide advice directly to the sanctuary superintendent via written recommendation or a motion passed by the council and reflected in the minutes. Draft recommendations and verbal discussions shall be considered by the sanctuary superintendent as additional background information and shall be included in the minutes.
   (d) Any comments or observations that the council wishes to offer or express beyond the sanctuary superintendent shall be voted on and approved by the council. Because the council was established specifically to provide advice to the secretary, and operates through the sanctuary superintendent, the sanctuary superintendent must also approve the comments or observations that go outside the sanctuary.
   (e) The council shall base its advice on a vote of the council with negative votes, abstentions, and minority opinions noted. A quorum must be present when the vote is taken.

(f) Any information or advice resulting from discussions in subcommittees or working groups that is requested by the council shall be presented to and considered by the full council and, as appropriate, incorporated into the council's recommendation to the sanctuary superintendent. If the council does not incorporate information or advice of a subcommittee or working group, it shall inform the sanctuary superintendent and explain the reasons for not incorporating the subcommittee's or working group's advice or information.

3. Conduct of Individual Members
   (a) Other than for official purposes, council members may not use or allow the use of information obtained through or in connection with their council affiliation that has not been made available to the general public.
   (b) When speaking to the public or writing about any matter regarding the sanctuary in a document for distribution beyond council membership, the sanctuary superintendent, or sanctuary staff, a member shall clearly distinguish those recommendations, opinions, or positions officially adopted by the council as a body from those he or she may have as an individual. In no case shall a member represent individual opinions as those of the council, the sanctuary superintendent, sanctuary staff, or NOAA.
   (c) Any council member that has an interest (financial, personal or business) in any matter before the council, subcommittee, or working group shall identify such interest prior to discussion and voting on such matter. No member shall cast a vote on any matter that would provide a direct financial benefit to that member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest under federal law. An affected member who may not vote on a matter may participate in council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the council of the voting recusal and identifying the interest that would be affected. These same guidelines apply to members of working groups who are not members of the council.

4. Conduct of the Council as a Body
   Any correspondence or other written documents that are intended to speak for the council as a body shall be coordinated with, and approved by, the chair and the sanctuary superintendent. The following disclaimer shall be placed in all documents originating from the council: "The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

5. Council Letterhead
   The council shall, with the assistance and approval of the sanctuary superintendent, design and use its own letterhead. All correspondence from the chair or other members of the council, or the council as a body, shall be on this letterhead. The council shall not use official NOAA letterhead for any correspondence or other purpose.

6. Subcommittees and Working Groups
   (a) Subcommittees: The council and the sanctuary superintendent may establish such subcommittees as necessary to fulfill the council's duties. Subcommittees shall be composed solely of members of the council; at the superintendent's discretion, alternates may also serve on subcommittees. The subcommittees must be chaired by a primary member of the council, recognized as official subunits of the council, and are subject to all requirements of this charter. No members of subcommittees, including members who are also members of the council, may receive travel expenses for subcommittee meetings or other activities.
   (b) Working Groups: Working groups may be established by the council and the sanctuary superintendent for specific purposes or topics that need focused attention and cannot be accomplished by a subcommittee. Their work will be limited to functional areas and discrete issues relating to individual sanctuaries. Working groups may be composed of members of the council and persons outside the council, but shall be chaired by a primary member of the council and shall function under the purview of the council. At the sanctuary superintendent's discretion and if the full council approves, an alternate member may chair a working group; that alternate shall function under the purview of the council. Working groups established by the council to address specific issues shall disband once the final advice on the particular matter is submitted to the council. No members of working groups, including members who are also members of the council, may receive travel expenses for working group meetings or other activities.

Other Terms of this Charter

1. The council shall operate pursuant to the terms of this charter.

2. This charter shall remain in effect for a period of five years from the date of signature.

3. Six months prior to the expiration of this charter, the need for the council will be evaluated by the ONMS, with input from council members, to determine whether to renew the charter.

4. Revisions to the charter may be made as determined necessary by the ONMS with input from the council.

Daniel J. Basta
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

7/23/08
Date