



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 216
Galveston, Texas 77551
(409) 621-5151

February 2, 2016

Dear Friend of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

We are in the process of filling four vacant seats on our sanctuary advisory council: **conservation, education, recreational fishing and research**. Beginning immediately, we will accept applications for council membership.

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The council provides advice to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Sanctuary Superintendent on the management of FGBNMS. The council also serves as an informal link between NOAA and the community. The council, which has been in existence since 2005, consists of 22 members. The Sanctuary Advisory Council membership includes two representatives from each of the following constituent groups: recreational diving, diving operations, oil and gas production, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, research, education and conservation. The council also includes six governmental, non-voting members that represent the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Enclosed is our sanctuary advisory council application kit, which includes a copy of the charter for the council and an application form, as well as some information about the sanctuary. Council terms will be for three years.

Please note that if you have been a federally registered lobbyist in the two year period before your potential appointment date to the council, you will not be eligible to serve as a member of a sanctuary advisory council. Please contact G.P. Schmahl, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX 77551; (409) 621-5151 extension 102; email George.Schmahl@noaa.gov if you have any questions about this restriction.

We are looking forward to receiving completed applications at our office at NOAA-Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U., Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX by February 29, 2016. Applications will be reviewed by a preliminary review panel consisting of three members of the current advisory council. The panel will help us narrow down the number of candidates for each seat to the top three. Of these, one member will be chosen, and officially notified of their selection.

If at any point you have a change in circumstance that will not allow you to serve on the council, please notify Kelly Drinnen at (409) 621-5151, extension 105. Also, feel free to contact Kelly if you have any questions about the sanctuary, the council or the council member selection process.

Sincerely,

Sanctuary Superintendent

Enclosures

