NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

GRAY'S REEF

GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER

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GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Charter

I. ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

Section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA or Act; 16 U.S.C.1431-1445c) 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 from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (director). The director hereby establishes the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (council).

This charter provides a background on the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and 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.

II. SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

The ONMS regards the involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protect sanctuary resources. One key way to achieve this involvement is the formation of sanctuary advisory councils. Sanctuary advisory councils bring members of a diverse community together to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent (authority delegated from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary of Commerce 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 within the limits of available resources 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;

- ❖ Develop training programs appropriate to council officers and members, and sanctuary superintendents and staff;

- ❖ Conduct an annual meeting for council chairs, council coordinators and other appropriate ONMS staff to promote information exchange, networking and cross-pollination among councils; and

- ❖ Conduct an annual meeting for council coordinators for training and internal discussions.

III. Office Of National Marine Sanctuaries

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 NMSA. As steward of coastal and ocean resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) protects and manages sanctuaries through the ONMS.

A. Vision of the ONMS:
The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is a world-class system of sanctuaries that protects the nation's natural and cultural marine resources for this and future generations and provides both national and international leadership for marine conservation.

B. Mission of the ONMS:
Identify, protect, conserve, and enhance the natural and cultural resources, values, and qualities of the National Marine Sanctuary System for this and future generations throughout the nation.

C. Goals of the ONMS:

- 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 supports attainment of the ONMS mission and goals.

IV. Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) was designated on January 16, 1981. The sanctuary is one of the largest near shore live-bottom reefs of the southeastern United States. GRNMS is a submerged hard bottom (limestone) area that, as compared to surrounding areas, contains extensive but scattered rock outcroppings. The rocky ledges can be as tall as six feet and lie beneath 60 to 70 feet of ocean water. The rocky places provide a firm base for a variety of invertebrates that live their lives permanently attached to the rock. Together these animals form a dense carpet of living creatures (live bottom) that can completely hide the rock. The ledges are structurally complex and provide a number of microhabitats for a variety of animals, including soft corals, non-reef building hard corals, bryozoans, ascidians, tunicates, sponges, barnacles, worms, shrimp and crabs.

The reef attracts numerous fish species that live on or near the substrate or that swim in the water above. These include black sea bass, snappers, groupers, and mackerels. Since GRNMS lies in a transition area between temperate and tropical waters, fish population composition changes seasonally. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, use GRNMS year-round for foraging and resting and the reef is within the only known winter calving ground for the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

The sanctuary is one of the most popular offshore recreational fishing destinations along the Georgia coast. Fishing for pelagic species is one of the most prevalent activities, particularly during king mackerel tournaments. For divers, access to the reef itself requires experience in open-ocean diving; currents can be strong and visibility varies greatly. For scientists, the sanctuary is a living laboratory for a variety of marine research and monitoring projects. For those who do not scuba dive or fish, the staff at GRNMS engages the public through extensive land-based education and outreach programs.

GRNMS is the only marine protected area in the region that focuses on protection and conservation of all natural marine resources. Although just a tiny part of the vast Atlantic Ocean, the sanctuary's value as a natural marine habitat is recognized both nationally and internationally.

V. Advisory Council Purpose and Scope

1. The council, in accordance with the NMSA, shall provide advice and recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent regarding the protection and management of GRNMS.

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

3. Council members shall serve as liaisons between their constituents and/or communities and the sanctuary, keeping sanctuary staff informed of issues and concerns, as well as providing information to 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 and recommendations 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 NMSA is resource protection.

5. The council is established to provide advice and recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent regarding the management of the GRNMS. Nothing in this charter constitutes authority to perform operational or management functions, or to make decisions on behalf of the sanctuary, NOAA or the Department of Commerce.

6. The council shall develop an annual work plan, in consultation with and approved by the sanctuary superintendent or the designee, to establish an agenda for specific issues and projects the council intends to address.

VI. Members and Officers

A. General

1. The council shall consist of no more than twelve (12) voting members and six (6) ex-officio (non-voting) members, who shall be appointed by the director from among persons with expertise in management of natural 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 management of the sanctuary. 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 Chair shall work with the sanctuary superintendent in scheduling each meeting and approving the agenda to ensure each topic is relevant to GRNMS. Council meetings may not be conducted in the absence of the sanctuary superintendent or his/her designee.

3. There are two categories of seats for which council members are appointed – governmental and non-governmental. The following procedures shall govern the application, nomination, and appointment of council members.

B. Governmental seats (7)

1. By virtue of the shared functional responsibilities of federal and state jurisdictions in the implementation of sanctuary-related management, government entities shall be requested to designate one individual to serve on the council.

2. To ensure that sanctuary plans and policies are well coordinated with State coastal programs and interests, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, shall be asked to designate one individual to serve on the council as a voting member.

3. To ensure relevant information exchange and consistent management, as appropriate, the following agencies shall be asked to designate one representative each to sit on the council as a non-voting (ex-officio) member:

    - U.S. Coast Guard
    - NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
    - Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
    - Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Region VII Law Enforcement
    - NOAA Office for Law Enforcement
    - NOAA Sea Grant office from either Georgia, South Carolina, or Florida

4. Governmental members are appointed by their agencies and are not subject to term limitations or the competitive application process.

5. An alternate (from the same government entity) of a governmental member may be appointed by the agency and in the absence of the Council member have full voting rights that apply to that seat. An alternate may not name another alternate.

6. If a government entity decides to no longer participate as a member of the council, or fails to attend three (3) consecutive council meetings without reasonable justification 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.

7. 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.

C. Non-governmental seats (11)

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

- Living resources research
- Non-living resources research
- K-12 education
- University education
- Conservation – two (2) seats
- Sport fishing (anglers, fishing clubs, tackle shops, etc.)
- Sport diving (divers, dive operators, dive clubs, and dive shops)
- Charter/commercial fishing (for-profit fishing)
- Citizen At-large – two (2) seats

2. The non-governmental citizen at-large members are appointed for two-year terms with staggered appointments and expiration dates. Citizen-at-large members may compete for reappointment subject to term limits as specified below. Should a citizen at-large seat become vacant, the vacated position should 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 approval by the sanctuary superintendent.

3. All other non-governmental members are appointed for three-year terms and may compete for reappointment subject to term limits as specified below. Should a non-governmental seat become vacant, the vacated position should 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 approval by the sanctuary superintendent.

4. Non-governmental members accept the responsibility of attending council meetings and may not designate alternates to serve in their place or to represent them in meetings or at other council activities.

5. 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:

   a. Is convicted of any felony offense;

   b. Is found to have violated any of the following laws or regulations promulgated hereunder: 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;

   c. Is found to have violated state environmental laws or regulations promulgated hereunder in a state in the sanctuary region;

   d. Is found to have violated national or state laws or regulations (in a state in the sanctuary region) protecting cultural resources;

   e. 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 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);

f. 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;

g. Misses three (3) consecutive meetings without reasonable justification;

h. Disrupts on more than one occasion council meetings in a manner that interferes with the council conducting its business; or

i. Violates any term of this charter.

6. The sanctuary superintendent may consult with the council prior to removal of a non-governmental member.

D. Non-governmental seat term limits policy

1. Non-governmental council members will not be selected to serve more than three consecutive terms on the council. On the date when this charter is approved, each council member will be considered to be serving in his/her first term for purposes of computing term limits. This policy applies to the seat (e.g., Conservation seat). If qualified, the same individual may apply for another seat on the council (e.g., Citizen-at-large) once they are term-limited on another seat (e.g., Conservation).

2. The ONMS Director may waive the limit on the number of consecutive terms for non-governmental council members in the following two circumstances. The waivers and the process as it relates to the Council member recruitment and selection process are as follows:

a. Waiver #1: It is determined that continuity of membership is deemed critical by the sanctuary superintendent (e.g., at a critical juncture in the management plan review process). The request for this waiver should be made at least two months prior to the expiration of the subject seat/s.

Process: This waiver applies to the entire council, not a specific seat. The Sanctuary Superintendent will be aware of this situation well in advance of recruitment and should send a memo to the Director requesting the waiver for a certain length of time and providing a justification as to the need. The signed memo should be provided to the AC and posted on the website.

b. Waiver #2: It is a seat that is historically challenging to fill due to the remote location of the sanctuary and distance from population centers, or a limited applicant pool for a particular seat has been shown to limit the number of available candidates to fill a vacancy in a timely and efficient manner and may disrupt or prevent a Council from fulfilling its responsibilities.

Process: The term-limited individual should be advised of the situation and advised not to apply during the first round of recruitment. If after adequate advertising there are no qualified applicants in the first round of recruitment, the superintendent will send a memo to the Director requesting the waiver and providing justification as to the need. The signed memo should be posted to the website. The term-limited individual will then be allowed to submit an application during the second round of recruitment (re-advertising). The application will then be reviewed by the preliminary review panel on an equal footing with any other applications submitted during the second round; the signed memo should accompany the application through the entire process from the preliminary review subcommittee to the regional director and ONMS. See Part II, C Selection of Council Members section in the Handbook for a full description of the recruitment and selection process.

E. Council Officers

1. Council Officer Elections and Terms

a. The council shall elect one member to serve as chair, and one member to serve as vice-chair. The vice-chair shall act as chair in the absence of the chair. Terms of the chair and vice-chair are two years. The chair and vice-chair may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms (four years) if reelected.

b. The council may elect one member to serve as council secretary. The term of the council secretary is two years. The council secretary may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms (four years) if reelected.

c. A chair, vice-chair or secretary may leave his/her term to run for another council officer position if desired. If the chair, vice-chair or secretary is elected to a new position, the council shall nominate and elect a new representative for the vacated position. Council members, including non-voting members, may nominate individuals for the council officer positions. Any primary member of the council, including governmental seats and non-voting seats (with the exception of a youth seat representative), may be nominated and elected as a council officer. Election for all positions is by majority vote of all council members, including the non-voting members. If more than one nominee is available for a position, votes shall be made by written ballot. Members who will not be present at the time of the election may submit their vote in writing to the sanctuary superintendent prior to the meeting.

d. If a council officer resigns, the council should hold an election at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. If the newly elected individual feels comfortable, they may begin serving in their position immediately upon being elected; otherwise, they may begin serving at the next meeting. If the chair resigns, the vice chair acts on their behalf until the new chair assumes their position. If the vice chair resigns, the secretary acts on their behalf until the new vice chair assumes their position. If the secretary resigns, the position may remain vacant until the new secretary assumes their position.

e. In extraordinary circumstances, if all council officers resign at the same time, the council can agree to allow another council member to serve as interim chair until the new officers are elected; new officers should be elected at the next scheduled council meeting.

F. Roles of Council Officers

1. 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. The chair also continues to fulfill the general roles that council members fill, including representing the interests of their constituents.

2. 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. The vice-chair also continues to fulfill the general roles that council members fill, including representing the interests of their constituents.

3. Council Secretary: The council secretary assists sanctuary staff in performing administrative duties (e.g., recording minutes, tracking action items, drafting correspondence, preparing the annual council report) as directed by the chair or vice-chair. The secretary also continues to fulfill the general roles that all council members fill, including representing the interests of their constituents.

VII. Appointments

A. Recruitment and appointment of non-governmental council members shall follow the process outlined in the ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Implementation Handbook (currently Part II, section C.2, Selection of Non-governmental Members). Public notice shall be provided as to the vacancy of non-governmental seat(s) and recruitment of new council members. In all cases, submission of written statements of particular interest, qualifications, and experience shall be requested. Guidelines for applying shall be available at any time on the GRNMS web site or by mail upon request. Council members should be encouraged to recruit potential candidates. Applications shall be submitted to the sanctuary superintendent directly.

B. Copies of all applications and nominations for each seat will be shared by the sanctuary superintendent with the preliminary review panel (i.e., executive committee) to obtain recommendations on selections. Any council member that has a conflict of interest (i.e., clear potential for financial, personal, or political benefit) shall recuse himself/herself from assisting with selection for the vacant seat.

C. Selection from among those candidates recommended by the preliminary review panel (i.e., executive committee) shall be made by the sanctuary superintendent with the approval of the director. The sanctuary superintendent may choose to re-advertise the vacant seat(s) if adequate candidates are not available after the first recruitment process.

VIII. Administration

A. Members of the council, its subcommittees, and working groups shall serve without pay. Each member may receive council meeting travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence (in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of Title 5, U.S.C.). Reimbursement is at the discretion of the sanctuary superintendent and dependent upon budgetary (or financial) considerations and constraints. Travel expenses for government members of the council may be provided by their own agencies.

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

IX. Operation

A. Meetings

1. Meetings are held at the call of the chair and the sanctuary superintendent.

2. 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. The council may not vote at any meeting for which the above public notice has not been issued.

3. Each meeting shall be open to the public and interested persons shall be permitted to present oral or written statements on items on the agenda, or other pertinent topics. 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 on any agenda item for which public notice was not provided.

4. Emergency meetings may be held at the call of the chair or presiding officer and the sanctuary superintendent.

5. 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.

6. A summary of each meeting shall be kept by the council secretary and/or a person specified by the sanctuary superintendent. The summary shall contain a list of attendees, the matters discussed, and decisions/votes. Such meeting summary shall be available to the public upon approval by the council.

B. Procedures for Providing Advice

The following procedures shall be used to provide advice:

1. The council may provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on a relevant issue or topic. 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.

2. 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. The sanctuary superintendent approves a topic to be placed on the agenda.

3. The council shall provide advice directly to the sanctuary superintendent via a written recommendation or a motion passed by the council and reflected in the meeting summary. Draft recommendations and verbal discussions shall be considered by the sanctuary superintendent as additional background information and shall be included in the meeting summary.

4. Any advice, correspondence, or information the council wishes to offer or express beyond the sanctuary superintendent shall be voted on and approved by the council prior to sending. Because the council was established specifically to provide advice to GRNMS, and operates through the sanctuary superintendent, the sanctuary superintendent must also approve any advice, correspondence, or information that goes outside the sanctuary prior to sending.

5. The council shall base its decisions (e.g., advice/recommendations) on consensus or by majority vote of those present, provided there is a quorum (more than half of the voting members). When there are minority opinions, they should be captured in the meeting summary at the request of those abstaining or providing a negative vote. A recorded vote may be requested by the chair or the sanctuary superintendent.

6. 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 in its advice or information the reasons for not incorporating the subcommittee's or working group's advice or information.

C. Conduct of Individual Members

1. Council members are expected to be familiar with the processes and regulations governing the sanctuary and to keep themselves informed of sanctuary-related events and issues. Expectations include regular meeting attendance and familiarity with the council charter and the ONMS Council Implementation Handbook.

2. 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.

3. Any council member that has an interest (financial, personal or business interest) in any matter before the council or a 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. All council members are expected to conduct themselves in a civil fashion, showing courtesy and respect to other council members, sanctuary staff and any other individuals present at the meeting.

D. Conduct of the Council as a Body

1. 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 prior to sending.

2. The following disclaimer shall be placed in all documents and communications 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 Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."*

E. 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 or DOC letterhead for any correspondence or other purpose.

F. Subcommittees and Working Groups

1. Subcommittees:

a. The chair, in consultation with the council as a whole and with the concurrence of 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 (for governmental seats) may also serve on subcommittees. The subcommittee must

be chaired by a primary member of the council. Subcommittees shall be recognized as official subunits of the council. Subcommittees are subject to all requirements of this charter.

b. Subcommittee members shall serve without pay. Each member may receive subcommittee meeting travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence (in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of Title 5, U.S.C.). Reimbursement is at the discretion of the sanctuary superintendent and dependent upon budgetary (or financial) considerations and constraints. Travel expenses for government members of the council may be provided by their own agencies.

c. A standing subcommittee, the executive committee, will serve as the administrative body of the advisory council and handle such administrative activities as may be appropriate, including, but not limited to, setting time and place of meetings, selecting agenda items, and reviewing meeting conduct. The executive committee consists of the council chair, council vice-chair, council secretary and sanctuary superintendent. The council coordinator will work very closely with the executive committee. The chair, with concurrence from the superintendent, may also appoint one additional member from the members of the advisory council. Meetings of the executive committee are not subject to public meeting requirements.

d. The executive committee (the council chair, vice-chair, secretary, and one additional council member if appointed by the chair) shall also serve as the preliminary review panel for council member selection.

e. The membership/charter subcommittee will work with sanctuary staff and the council to help identify council membership needs and means to address those needs. The subcommittee will also periodically review the council charter and advise staff on revisions to the charter.

2. Working Groups:

a. The chair, in consultation with the council as a whole and with the concurrence of the sanctuary superintendent, may establish working groups for specific purposes or topics that need focused attention that cannot be accomplished by a subcommittee. Their work will be limited to functional areas and discrete issues relating to GRNMS. Working groups may be composed of members of the council and persons outside the council. Working groups shall be chaired by a primary member of the council and shall function under the purview of the council. At the superintendent's discretion, alternates (for governmental seats) may also chair or serve on a working group. 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.

Working group members shall serve without pay. Each member may receive working group meeting travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence (in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of Title 5, U.S.C.). Reimbursement is at the discretion of the sanctuary superintendent and dependent upon

budgetary (or financial) considerations and constraints. Travel expenses for government members of the council may be provided by their own agencies.

X. Other Terms Of This Charter

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

B. This charter shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from the date of signature.

C. 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.

D. 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

Date