



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 8, 2021

Dear Friend of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

We are in the process of filling **two** vacant seats on our sanctuary advisory council: **conservation and commercial fishing**. 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, dive operations, oil and gas industry, 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) 356-0383; 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 **March 15, 2020**. 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 **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 Leslie Clift at (409) 356-0386. Also, feel free to contact Leslie if you have any questions about the sanctuary, the council, or the council member selection process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George P. Schmahl".

Sanctuary Superintendent

Enclosures

