

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Availability of Seats for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Research alternate, Recreation (non-consumptive), Recreation (non-consumptive) alternate, Public At-Large, Public At-Large alternate, Business, Conservation, and Commercial Fishing. 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 2-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by December 4, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Jacklyn Kelly, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109-2315. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacklyn Kelly, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109-2315, 805-966-7107, extension 371, jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CINMS Advisory Council was originally established in December 1998 and has a broad representation consisting of 21 members, including ten government agency representatives and eleven members from the general public. The Council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Manager. The Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Manager by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Manager in achieving the

goals of the Sanctuary program. Specifically, the Council's objectives are to provide advice on: (1) Protecting natural and cultural resources, and identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving Sanctuary use or resources; (2) identifying and realizing the Sanctuary's research objectives; (3) identifying and realizing educational opportunities to increase the public knowledge and stewardship of the Sanctuary environment; and (4) assisting to develop an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429, Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: November 10, 2004.

Daniel J. Basta

Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Availability of Seats for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS or Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Maritime Heritage; South Florida Ecosystem Restoration; South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (alternate); Citizen-at-Large, Upper Keys (alternate); Commercial fishing, Marine/Tropical (alternate); Charter Fishing, Sports (alternate) and Conservation & Environment (2). 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 the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. The Conservation & Environment seat has the additional requirement that the applicants are employed by accredited

non-profit organizations and live in Monroe County or Dade County. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by December 3, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Fiona Wilmot, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, P.O. Box 500368, Marathon, FL 33050. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fiona Wilmot at the above address or (305) 743-2437, ext. 27 or Fiona.Wilmot@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council provides information for Sanctuary Managers on a wide variety of issues. The 20 member Council of stakeholders reflects the larger community from which it is drawn and meets bimonthly. Smaller working groups meet as necessary on specific topics.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429, Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: November 10, 2004.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 012903A]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Oil and Gas Exploration Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; notice of public meetings; and request for scoping comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS), U.S. Department of the Interior, for regulations to authorize the take, by harassment, of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to seismic surveys during oil and gas exploration activities by the U.S. oil and