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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem **Reserve Advisory Council** for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem **Reserve**

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.

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SUMMARY: The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem **Reserve (Reserve)** is seeking applicants and alternates for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary **Advisory Council (Council)**: (1) Conservation, (1) Research, (1) Commercial Fishing, (1) Ocean-Related Tourism, and (1) Native Hawaiian. 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 three-year terms, pursuant to the **Council's** Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by October 31, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Hoku Johnson, 6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy., Suite 300, Honolulu, HI 96825 (808) 397-2660 or online at <http://hawaiireef.noaa.gov>. Completed applications should be

sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aulani Wilhelm, 6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy., Suite 300, Honolulu, HI 96825 (808) 397-2660, [Aulani.Wilhelm@noaa.gov](mailto:Aulani.Wilhelm@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem **Reserve** is a marine protected area designed to conserve and protect the coral reef ecosystem and related natural and cultural resources of the area. The **Reserve** was established by Executive Order pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-513). The NWHI **Reserve** was established by Executive Order 13178 (12/00) and Executive Order 13196 (1/01).

The **Reserve** encompasses an area of the marine waters and submerged lands of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, extending approximately 1200 nautical miles long and 100 nautical miles wide. The **Reserve** is adjacent to and seaward of the seaward boundary of Hawaii State waters and submerged lands and the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, and includes the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge to the extent it extends beyond Hawaii State waters and submerged lands. The **Reserve** is managed by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Executive Orders. The Secretary has also initiated the process to designate the **Reserve** as a National Marine Sanctuary. The management principles and implementation strategy and requirements for the **Reserve** are found in the enabling Executive Orders, which are part of the application kit and can be found on the Web site listed above.

In designating the **Reserve**, the Secretary of Commerce was directed to establish a Coral Reef Ecosystem **Reserve Advisory Council**, pursuant to section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, to provide advice and recommendations on the development of the **Reserve** Operations Plan and the proposal to designate and manage a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary by the Secretary.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) has established the **Reserve Advisory Council** and is now accepting applications from interested individuals for **Council** Representatives and Alternates for each of the following citizen/constituent positions on the **Council**:

1. One (1) representative from the non-Federal science community (Research) with experience specific to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and with expertise in at least one of the following areas:

- A. Marine mammal science;
- B. Coral reef ecology;
- C. Native marine flora and fauna of the Hawaiian Islands;
- D. Oceanography;

E. Any other scientific discipline the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

2. One (1) representative from a non-governmental wildlife/marine life, environmental, and/or conservation organization (Conservation).

3. One (1) representative from the commercial fishing industry that conducts activities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Commercial Fishing).

4. One (1) representative from the ocean-related tourism industry (Ocean-Related Tourism).

5. One (1) representative from the Native Hawaiian community, with

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experience or knowledge regarding Native Hawaiian subsistence, cultural, religious, or other activities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Native Hawaiian).

Current **Reserve Council** Representatives and Alternates may re-apply for these vacant seats.

The **Council** consists of 25 members, 14 of which are non-government voting members (the State of Hawaii representative is a voting member) and 10 of which are government non-voting members. The voting members are representatives of the following constituencies: Conservation, Citizen-At-Large, Ocean-Related Tourism, Recreational Fishing, Research, Commercial Fishing, Education, State of Hawaii and Native Hawaiian. The government non-voting seats are represented by the following agencies: Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, Department of State, Marine Mammal Commission, NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, National Science Foundation, U.S. Coast Guard, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management **Council**, and NOAA's National Ocean Service.

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

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Daniel J. Basta,

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

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