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Contact:

Mary Jane Schramm, 415-561-6622, ext. 205

Carolyn Gibson, 415-970-5252

NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary seeks advisory council applicants

NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for three seats on its advisory council. The council ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

"The members of our advisory council represent an extremely important element of our community," said Maria Brown, sanctuary superintendent. "Their input, experience and expertise assist the sanctuary in making informed and timely decisions on how to best manage our wildlife and habitats."

The sanctuary is accepting applications for the following seats: Mendocino/Sonoma County community-at-large (primary and alternate); and youth (primary). Applicants for the youth seat should refer to the supplementary information below. Students filling the youth seat must:

- Be between the ages of 14 and 17 when they apply;
- Attend a school, including home schools (or other alternative high school option), in the area affected by the sanctuary;
- Have proven ability to communicate and network with other students within their school, in other schools within his/her community, or with home schooled students and with adults;
- Possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- Have experience or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary;
- Be able to travel to and attend council meetings and retreats (parent/guardian or student provides transportation); and
- Provide written recommendation from one or more teachers.

Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve a three-year term.

The advisory council consists of 30 primary and alternate members, including community-at-large (Marin/Sonoma); community-at-large (Mendocino/Sonoma); community-at-large (San Francisco/San Mateo); conservation (two seats); education; maritime activities (commercial); maritime activities (recreational); youth; and research. There are also five governmental seats representing the California Environmental Protection Agency, California Resources Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA Fisheries.

Applications are due August 31. To receive an application kit, or for further information, please contact Carolyn Gibson, advisory council coordinator, via email at Carolyn.Gibson@noaa.gov or by mail at Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 991 Marine Drive, The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129. Application kits can also be downloaded from the sanctuary's web site at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html.

Designated in 1981, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 3,295 square miles of ocean and coastal waters beyond California's Golden Gate. The sanctuary's nutrient-rich waters provide vital nursery and spawning grounds for fish and shellfish and support the largest breeding seabird rookery in the contiguous United States. At least 36 marine mammal species have been observed within its borders, including 25 endangered species, such as blue and humpback whales.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

On the Web:

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary: <http://farallones.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

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