

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Open Council Seats - September 2022

Qualifications and Expectations for Open Council Seats

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries regards the involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to the successful conservation of sanctuary resources. Advisory council members help accomplish this goal by serving as liaisons between sanctuary staff and various communities and users connected to the sanctuary environment. We are looking for highly motivated people willing and able to volunteer their time to help us connect and work constructively with the diverse interests, users, and communities that have a stake in the resources of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The descriptions below outline general expectations and qualifications for the open seats. Members of the council are expected to perform several activities in the fulfillment of their role. These general activities are as follows:

- Serve as a liaison between their represented community and the sanctuary, to include:
 - Inform their represented community about the sanctuary and its mission, and gather input from community members regarding their perspectives on sanctuary programs and initiatives;
 - Maintain and build frequent and routine communication with their constituency to effectively represent their views and perspectives;
 - Identify and forge relationships with potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working;
- Help to identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues, of which the sanctuary might not be aware;
- Review and provide input on sanctuary plans, proposals and products, including prioritizing issues;
- Participate in sanctuary events, activities and programs;
- Support sanctuary friends groups and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation; and
- Provide technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary.

In addition to the general activities conducted by council members, each open seat has specific qualification requirements. Member/Alternate qualification requirements for each open seat are listed below:

Fishing: Commercial Shell/Scale (member and alternate)

- Familiarity and affiliation with commercial fishing organization or business active in communities near the sanctuary;
- Knowledge of fishing (commercial, recreational, or both) activities within the sanctuary region;
- Breadth of experience and knowledge regarding fisheries law, policies, and practices affecting the sanctuary; and
- Ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the fishing (commercial, recreational, or both) industries.

Tourism: Lower Keys (alternate)

- Familiarity and affiliation with the tourism industry in the Lower Florida Keys;
- Understanding of the links between tourism, sanctuary resources, and human activities; and
- Ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the tourism industry.