

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Advisory Council Membership Application instructions

Background:

The Sanctuary Advisory Council (council) was established in March 1996 to assure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The council represents the coordination link between the sanctuary and the state and federal management agencies, user groups, researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the humpback whale and its habitat around the main Hawaiian Islands.

The council functions in an advisory capacity to the sanctuary management and is instrumental in helping to develop policies and program goals, and to identify education, outreach, research, long-term monitoring, resource protection and revenue enhancement priorities. The council works in concert with the sanctuary management by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding in achieving the goals of the sanctuary within the context of Hawai'i's marine programs and policies.

Membership Terms:

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is currently seeking interested individuals to fill 7 of 15 primary and alternate non-governmental seats on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Terms for non-governmental members are two (2) years in length and are staggered to establish continuity within the council. Governmental members of the council serve at the discretion of their agency or entity and do not have term limit.

Members of the council shall serve without pay but the sanctuary will cover travel expenses to and from official council meetings. The council shall meet as frequently as necessary, not to exceed once per month but at least once every six months. The current meeting schedule is set-up on a bi-monthly basis with members meeting every other month. Applicants should be residents of Hawai'i and must be able to attend monthly meetings, if needed.

Application Guidelines:

Applications should provide information regarding the candidate's particular interests, qualifications and experience and address the itemized topics to the best of their abilities. A description has been provided of the general expectations and qualifications for each of the seats:

Business/Commerce Representative: familiarity and affiliation with local businesses in communities near the Sanctuary; understanding of the links between local businesses, Sanctuary resources, and human activities; and ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from water-dependent and water-associated businesses.

Citizen-At-Large Representative: familiarity with communities near the sanctuary, experience and/or knowledge regarding marine or management and resources protection issues in the sanctuary; experience and/or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary; and freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated. Island and community representatives should be willing and able to meet with constituents to discuss sanctuary issues and ideas and be able to report these back to the Council as a whole.

Commercial Shipping Representative: familiarity and affiliation with commercial shipping businesses in communities near the sanctuary; understanding of the links between local commercial shipping, sanctuary resources, and human activities; and ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the commercial shipping industry.

Conservation Representative: familiarity with marine conservation issues and management approaches affecting the sanctuary; experience working with or representing conservation or environmental organizations, especially those involved with marine conservation; ability to communicate effectively with the broader conservation community in the sanctuary region; and commitment and availability of time to chair the Council's Conservation Committee.

Ocean Recreation Representative: familiarity and affiliation with the ocean recreation industry in communities near the sanctuary region; understanding of the links between ocean recreation, sanctuary resources, and human activities, and the ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the ocean recreation industry.

Tourism Representative: familiarity and affiliation with the tourism industry in communities near the sanctuary region; understanding of the links between tourism, sanctuary resources, and human activities; and the ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the tourism industry.

Whale Watching Representative: familiarity and affiliation with the whale watching industry in communities near the sanctuary region; understanding of the links between whale watching, sanctuary resources, and human activities; and the ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the whale watching industry.

Native Hawaiian Representative: knowledge and understanding of Native Hawaiian practices and culture related to ocean use and conservation. Affiliation with Native Hawaiian institutions or organizations desired but not required. Ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the Native Hawaiian community to promote understanding of the sanctuary's efforts to establish programs and activities that nurture cultural awareness for conservation of Hawai'i's ocean resources.

Fishing Representative: knowledge of fishing (commercial, recreation, 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 industries.

The Sanctuary Manager, the State Sanctuary Co-manager and a Council Selection Committee will review all completed applications. The panel will narrow down the number of candidates for each seat to the top three. Of these, a member and an alternate will be chosen, and officially notified of their selection.

Application must be received by: November 15, 2008

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