

Sanctuary Advisory Council Facts 2004/2005

- Sanctuary Advisory Councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice to the manager of a national marine sanctuary. There are about 210 members currently serving on Advisory Councils.
- There are eleven Advisory Councils that meet all year round. The oldest Advisory Council has been around since 1990, the youngest since 2001. Three new Advisory Councils are expected to be established in 2005. At that point, every site in the sanctuary system will have an Advisory Council.
- Members of Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees donated over 25,000 hours to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in 2004. That's worth more than \$450,000 dollars and equal to about five full-time staff members.
- The National Marine Sanctuary Program spent about \$1.3 million dollars in 2004 supporting the Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees, including staff time.
- In 2004, over 800 individuals from all walks of life served their communities and sanctuary as members of Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees, including fishermen, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, activists, protected area managers, artists, scientists, and elected officials.
- Advisory Councils provide advice about everything in sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. They are particularly critical in helping a sanctuary during its designation or management plan review process.
- Advisory Councils create working groups and subcommittees to help them get their work done. In 2004, there were about 25 of these kinds of groups. The most common working groups and subcommittees are those for conservation, education, and research. Many times a specific working group may be created to help address a particular issue or project, and will be disbanded after its objective has been accomplished.
- Once a year, the chairs of our Advisory Councils meet to discuss national program issues and projects. At their fifth meeting in February 2005, they discussed marine reserves, cruise ships discharges, and aquaculture in sanctuaries.
- In 2005, of thirteen nominations (one from each site) received for the National Marine Sanctuary foundation's Volunteer of the Year award, eight were either Council members or Council Chairs. A ninth serves on several Council working groups.



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