

decisions, environmental compliance, resource management plans, and other actions taken pursuant to existing statutory and regulatory authorities. These agencies will ensure their scientists, managers, decision-makers, and analysts align their actions with the NE Ocean Plan to the fullest extent possible under existing statutory and regulatory authorities. The NE Ocean Plan does not create new authorities, regulations, or Federal agency missions. All Federal activities will continue to be managed under existing statutory and regulatory authorities.

The RPB member State and Tribal governments and New England Fishery Management Council are in the process of describing how they can use the NE Ocean Plan to guide and inform their activities and decisions.

#### IV. Conclusion

Through Executive Order 13547, Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes, President Obama established a National Ocean Policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources; enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies; preserve our maritime heritage; support sustainable uses and access; provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification; and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.

The NE RPB anticipates the NE Ocean Plan will increase the sharing of information and data across resource managers, stakeholders and the public; enhance decision-making through collaboration and coordination within NOAA and among Federal, State and Tribal governments; and provide for an improved information and data system that characterizes human activities and natural resources in Northeast waters from the coast to 200 nautical miles offshore. This informational overlay, along with the best practices for improved coordination, will improve the context for decisions affecting the resources and coastal and ocean waters of the Northeast region.

**Authority:** Executive Order 13547, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts and the Great Lakes" (July 19, 2010).

**Cathryn D. Sullivan,**  
*Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Hydrographic Services Review Panel

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of membership solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Hydrographic Service Improvements Act Amendments of 2002, Public Law 107-372, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is required to solicit nominations for membership at least once a year for the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP). The HSRP, a Federal advisory committee, advises the Administrator on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act and such other appropriate matters as the Administrator refers to the Panel for review and advice. Those responsibilities and authorities include, but are not limited to: Acquiring and disseminating hydrographic data and providing hydrographic services, as those terms are defined in the Act; promulgating standards for hydrographic data and services; ensuring comprehensive geographic coverage of hydrographic services; and testing, developing, and operating vessels, equipment, and technologies necessary to ensure safe navigation and maintain operational expertise in hydrographic data acquisition and hydrographic services.

The Act states "the voting members of the Panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic data and hydrographic services, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal and fishery management, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the Administrator." The NOAA Administrator seeks and encourages individuals with expertise in marine navigation, port administration, marine shipping or other intermodal transportation industries, cartography and geographic information systems, geodesy, physical oceanography coastal resource management, including coastal resilience and emergency response, and other related fields. To apply for

membership on the Panel, applicants are requested to submit the following five items and answer five response questions. The entire package should be a maximum length of seven pages or fewer. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

(1) A cover letter that responds to the five questions listed below as a statement of interest to serve on the panel, "Short Response Questions" below.

(2) Highlight the nominee's specific area(s) of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Panel from the list in the **Federal Register** Notice;

(3) A current resume.

(4) A short biography of 400 to 600 words.

(5) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information.

#### Short Response Questions

(1) List the area(s) of expertise, as listed above, which you would best represent on this Panel.

(2) List the geographic region(s) of the country with which you primarily associate your expertise.

(3) Describe your leadership or professional experiences which you believe will contribute to the effectiveness of this panel.

(4) Describe your familiarity and experience with NOAA navigation data, products, and services.

(5) Generally describe the breadth and scope of stakeholders, users, or other groups whose views and input you believe you can share with the panel.

**DATES:** Solicitation of nomination is on an ongoing basis through June 30, 2017. The HSRP maintains a pool of candidates to fulfill the HSIA requirements on membership solicitation. Although there are no current vacancies on the HSRP, this solicitation seeks to update the current pool of candidates for consideration of appointment for potential future vacancies on the Panel. Your application will be kept on file for the next call for nominations in summer 2017 which will fill vacancies in 2018. You will not need to reapply in 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations will be accepted by email and should be sent to: [Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov](mailto:Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov); or [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov). You will receive a confirmation response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lynne Mersfelder-Lewis, NOAA, telephone: 301-713-2750 x166.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 33 U.S.C. 883a, *et seq.*, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) is responsible for providing nautical charts and related

information for safe navigation. NOS collects and compiles hydrographic, tidal and current, geodetic, and a variety of other data in order to fulfill this responsibility. The HSRP provides advice on current and emerging oceanographic and marine science technologies relating to operations, research and development; and dissemination of data pertaining to:

- (a) Hydrographic surveying;
- (b) shoreline surveying;
- (c) nautical charting;
- (d) water level measurements;
- (e) current measurements;
- (f) geodetic measurements;
- (g) geospatial measurements;
- (h) geomagnetic measurements; and
- (i) other oceanographic/marine related sciences.

The Panel has fifteen voting members appointed by the NOAA Administrator in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 892c. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Co-Directors of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center and two other NOAA employees serve as nonvoting members of the Panel. The Director, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, serves as the Designated Federal Official (DFO).

Voting members are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more disciplines relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, currents, geodetic and geospatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal or fishery management, and other oceanographic or marine science areas as deemed appropriate by the Administrator. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Any voting member of the Panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary of (as determined by the Administrator) any assistance under 33 U.S.C. 892c shall disclose to the Panel that relationship, and may not vote on any other matter pertaining to that assistance.

Voting members of the Panel serve a four-year term, except that vacancy appointments are for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy. Members serve at the discretion of the Administrator and are subject to government ethics standards. Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve until his or her successor has taken office. The Panel selects one voting member to serve as the Chair and another to serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair acts as Chair in the absence

or incapacity of the Chair but will not automatically become the Chair if the Chair resigns. Meetings occur at least twice a year, and at the call of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Administrator. Voting members receive compensation at a rate established by the Administrator, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when engaged in performing duties for the Panel. Members are reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in performing such duties.

#### **Individuals Selected for Panel Membership**

Upon selection and agreement to serve on the HSRP Panel, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. 18 U.S.C. 202(a) an SGE (s) is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a fulltime or intermittent basis. Please be aware that after the selection process is complete, applicants selected to serve on the Panel must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Panel member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management); and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report—As an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. You may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following Web site: [http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form\\_450.aspx](http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx).

Dated: May 9, 2016.

**Gerd F. Glang,**

*NOAA, Director, Office of Coast Survey,  
National Ocean Service, National Oceanic  
and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

#### **Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Proposed Findings Document and Programmatic Environmental Assessment**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Proposed Findings Document and Programmatic Environmental Assessment on approval of the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program for Illinois.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the availability of the Proposed Findings Document and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Illinois' Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. Coastal states and territories are required to submit their coastal nonpoint programs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval. The Findings Document was prepared by NOAA and the EPA to provide the rationale for the agencies' decision to approve, with conditions, the state coastal nonpoint pollution control program. The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) requires states and territories with coastal zone management programs that have received approval under the Coastal Zone Management Act to develop and implement coastal nonpoint programs. The Programmatic Environmental Assessment was prepared by NOAA, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to assess the environmental impacts associated with the approval of the coastal nonpoint pollution control program submitted to NOAA and the EPA by Illinois.

NOAA and the EPA have proposed to approve, with conditions, the coastal nonpoint program submitted by Illinois.

**DATES:** Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the proposed Findings or Programmatic Environmental Assessment should do so by June 24, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be made to: Joelle Gore, Chief, Stewardship Division (N/OCM6), ATTN: Illinois Coastal Nonpoint Program, Office for Coastal Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305