

**FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
CHARTER**

AMENDMENT # 2

The following revisions are made to the charter as signed on April 4, 2019, and hereby amended on date of amendment indicated below:

1. ONMS description, policy, vision, and mission statements (pages 1-3) are revised with updated language to be consistent across the National Marine Sanctuary System.
2. Flower Garden Banks NMS description (page 3) is revised with updated language following the sanctuary's recent expansion.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) encompasses portions of 17 reefs and banks located approximately 80-125 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. These banks are a combination of small underwater mountains, ridges, troughs, and hard-bottom patches. The habitats associated with these banks range from thriving shallow water coral reefs and algal-sponge communities, to deeper mesophotic reefs alive with black corals, algal nodules, and octocorals. These varied habitats provide havens for tropical reef fish and invertebrates, as well as manta rays, sea turtles, and sharks.

The amazing biodiversity and beauty of the Flower Garden Banks prompted researchers and recreational divers to seek their protection for over 20 years. Finally, on January 17, 1992, FGBNMS was designated. When first designated, the sanctuary consisted of only East and West Flower Garden Banks, home to some of the healthiest coral reefs in the world. In 1996, Stetson Bank also became part of the sanctuary, adding a different type of reef community teeming with marine life. In 2021, the sanctuary was expanded to its present size of 160 square miles to protect important shallow and deep reef habitats across an additional 14 banks. Although each bank is marked with its own separate boundaries, together these banks create a chain of protected habitats for ecologically and economically important species across the northern Gulf of Mexico.

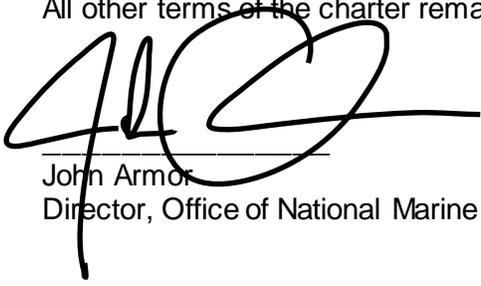
3. Council Roles (page 4) is revised with the addition of a new section on duties and responsibilities for voting members.

COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. *To work together for the mutual benefit of the Sanctuary, the Sanctuary System, and our community.*
2. *Attend and participate electronically or physically at SAC meetings.*
3. *Adhere to the proper rules of order during the meetings.*
4. *Represent your constituency group - present its views and concerns to the SAC and FGBNMS Superintendent.*
5. *Represent and present the SAC and sanctuary's views, concerns and activity information to your constituency group.*
6. *Attend and participate in the SAC's Subcommittee and Working Group process.*

7. *Respect the views and opinions of other members of the SAC and sanctuary employees.*

All other terms of the charter remain in full force and effect.



John Armor
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

3/7/2022
Date