

**PROPOSED HUDSON CANYON NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUMMARY**

Thursday, July 13th, 2023  
*Inaugural Meeting - Virtual*

**Attendees:**

**Agency Representatives (present)**

LeAnn Hogan - Eastern Regional Operations  
Coordinator  
Ellen Brody - Eastern Regional Coordinator  
Matt Brookhart - Eastern Regional Director  
Sage Riddick - National Advisory Council  
Coordinator  
Julia Snouck-Hurgronje - Senior Policy Analyst  
Michela Imperiale - Graduate Intern

**Council Members (present)**

Meghan Lapp - Commercial Fishing  
Greg DiDomenico - Commercial Fishing  
Allen Lee - Recreational Fishing  
John Depersenaire - Recreational Fishing  
Kiera Maloney - Tourism and Recreation  
Noah Chesnin - Conservation  
Carl LoBue - Conservation  
Mercer Brugler - Science/ Research  
Courtney Worrall - Business/ Economic  
Development  
Stephen Lyman - Marine Industry  
Lisa Breslof - Education/ Outreach  
Paul Collier - Citizen at Large  
Raymond Fusco - Citizen at Large

**Council Members (absent)**

John Dempsey - Marine Industry  
Chrissy Word - Education/ Outreach

**Council Alternates (present)**

Patrick Knapp - Commercial Fishing  
Andrew Minkiewicz - Commercial Fishing  
Dean Lambros - Recreational Fishing  
Will Poston - Recreational Fishing  
Rob Nixon - Tourism and Recreation  
Judith Weis - Conservation  
Peter Chaibongsai - Conservation  
Walter Golet - Science/ Research  
Rick Weber -Business/Economic  
Development  
Rik Van Hemmen - Marine Industry  
Ron Rapp - Marine Industry  
Jim Kent - Education/ Outreach  
Chris Lido - Education/ Outreach  
Brynn Heller - Citizen at Large  
Martin Scanlon - Citizen at Large

**Government Non-voting (present)**

Moira Kelly - NMFS/ GARFO  
Sarah Mclaughlin - NMFS/Atlantic HMS  
Michelle Bachman - NEFMC  
Chris Moore - MAFMC  
Chip Collier - SAFMC  
Matthew Kahley - USCG  
Wright Frank - BOEM  
Matthew Senska - U.S. Navy

## **I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Meeting officially begins at 2:30pm ET on GoToWebinar.

Ellen Brody introduces herself, Matt Brookhart, LeAnn Hogan, Sage Riddick and Michela Imperiale. Ellen gives information on the Webinar format and technical instructions as well as going over the meeting agenda. Ellen turns over communications to Matt for opening remarks.

**Matt Brookhart:** First and foremost, I would like to say thank you and welcome to everyone on behalf of NOAA and ONMS to the first meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) on the proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. This is a really exciting thing for us, and I hope it's an exciting thing for you all. Having this body come together in this inaugural moment represents the community engagement we rely on so heavily as we go forward with the sanctuary designation proposal, and you represent some of the primary stakeholders that have an interest in the Hudson Canyon (HC). You and your constituencies are representatives throughout the process. In my 22 years of being here I have never seen such unprecedented growth of the sanctuary system. New sanctuaries are being designated around the entire system around the entire nation, and it has been great to see different communities rise up and ask NOAA to do this. All of the designations that we are engaged with now are based on community-based recommendations that have come from organizations, many of which you represent. Recognizing that National Marine Sanctuaries can be a very powerful tool for many things, including but not limited to marine conservation and compatible uses inside the sanctuaries that provide economic livelihood and sustainability to communities. So, we will lean heavily on you for your advice and recommendations as we move forward with this process. I will now turn it over to LeAnn for introductions.

## **II. Sanctuary Advisory Council Member Introductions**

LeAnn asks participants (members, alternates, non-voting officials) to present their name, affiliation and why they chose to be a part of Sanctuary Advisory Council.

### Commercial Fishing

**Meghan Lapp:** I represent Seafreeze in the state of Rhode Island. The vast majority of boats that we work with, fish in the HC area. I am also an advisor for the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and worked to develop their deep-sea coral amendment.

**Greg DiDomenico:** I currently work for Lund's fisheries, a seafood and shoreside processing plant in New Jersey (NJ). This is my 23rd year of being a commercial fishing advocate. I was on the Florida Keys SAC for 4 years where they have strict adherence to science and a firm footing in the community and that's what makes me comfortable and eager to get this process going.

**Patrick Knapp:** I am a commercial fisherman and captain out of Point Judith, Rhode Island. Most of our income is derived from the HC area. I've been fishing for about 44 years and I'm very interested to see where this thing goes.

**Andrew Minkiewicz:** I am an attorney in Washington DC, working on fisheries issues for 20 plus years. My primary focus is one of my clients, the Fisheries Survival Fund, who operate extensively in the HC area, and harvest ~ 200-300 million dollars of scallops annually. Looking forward to making sure we keep a productive fishing ground and improve education and outreach.

### Recreational Fishing

**Allen Lee:** I own and operate a charter boat out of Manasquan Inlet. Much of our fishing operation spends time in HC and surrounding areas. I've been fishing this canyon area for 5 decades and was very interested in serving in this capacity as I'm invested in seeing HC continue to be a source for generations to come. I also serve as a technical advisor to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

**John Depersenaire:** I am the Director of Government Affairs and Sustainability of Viking Yacht Company, based in NJ. We build boats, with 1500 employees here that are committed to building boats specifically designed for fishing in the offshore fisheries. HC and the surrounding areas are one of the most important areas for us. So, my interest and involvement in this process is to ensure that we have continued access there and that resources are managed well.

**Deane Lambros:** I was a Captain and still am a partner in Canyon Runner Sport Fishing. We have a direct charter business and an advisory business with hundreds of other fishing clients, so we have a real grasp of what the recreational sector is doing.

**Will Poston:** I work for the American Saltwater Guides Association, a coalition of fishing guides, small fishing businesses and private recreational anglers, who believe in better business through conservation. Many of our members utilize HC to target tuna and other species. My interest in joining is to ensure that all of our fisheries continue to be managed according to the best available science.

### Tourism and Recreation

**Kiera Maloney:** I am the Vice Chair of Surfrider Foundation New York City (NYC) chapter. I joined because our members surf and recreate along these shores and are active about conserving HC for livelihood and tourism.

**Rob Nixon:** I am the Executive Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. I thought this position would be a good fit, not only because of the seat I sit in but for 30 years I have been a lobbyist in NJ, specializing in recreational boating and fishing. I also work for the Marine Trade Association, which is the recreational boating industry in NJ, so I can speak to a number of interests ensuring that the proper facts and expertise come through.

### Conservation

**Noah Chesnin:** I am the associate director for the Seascape Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) New York (NY) Aquarium. WCS nominated the HC in 2016, so

we could sit around a table with a wide array of stakeholders to build consensus and find ways to promote conservation and sustainable use, research and exploration.

**Carl LoBue:** I am the Director of the Ocean Programs at the Nature Conservancy in NY. I am also a second-generation fisherman. I joined because everyone recognizes that HC is a special place and issues surrounding how a designation could potentially affect the fishing activity would probably be the stickiest point of our discussions. So having a foot in both worlds could help.

**Judith Weis:** I am a retired Marine Biology professor from Rutgers University. I studied the waters of the harbor estuary that feed into HC. I am here on the conservation side and have served on advisory committees for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NOAA. I am also on the ecosystem advisory committee MAFMC. I was the sponsor of nominating the harbor estuary as a hope spot for special places in the ocean.

**Peter Chaibongsai:** I am the Director of conservation programs for the Billfish Foundation. We are a sportfishing conservation group, where our members partake in resources of HC. I am also a part of NOAA's Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel as well as ICCAT Advisory Committee.

#### Science and Research

**Mercer Brugler:** I am an Associate Professor of Marine Biology at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. I am also a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC and the Smithsonian Institute in DC. My specialty is deep sea black corals. I've been working in the Flower Garden Banks sanctuary since 2005. In 2003, I learned about HC and became fascinated with the biology, geology, fishing and recreation that goes on there. Started giving public lectures about the Canyon in NYC about everything I know.

**Walter Golet:** I am a Professor of Marine Science at the University of Maine. I run a research lab where we focus on HMS. I'm the current chair of the ICCAT Advisory Committee. I represent the interests of all stakeholders of HMS, so a lot of the species we manage and research use the HC extensively.

#### Business and Economic Development

**Cortney Koenig Worrall:** I am the President for the Waterfront Alliance. I started my career working on the Stellwagen Bank national marine sanctuary designation. There is an overall lack of awareness in the NY, NJ region about the importance of the harbor and waterways.

**Rick Weber:** I have been part of the ICCAT and HMS Advisory Panels for 20 years. I am deeply involved in offshore fishing as well. I questioned the need for another designation, so when NOAA brought forward this nomination I was one of those skeptics. But what I've seen in the last years has me seeing the real importance in protecting this space.

### Marine Industry

**Stephen Lyman:** I am the Executive Director of the Maritime Association of NY and NJ. Our job is to advocate for the commercial maritime interests of the port at the municipal, state and federal level and promote the safety of the navigational security of maritime assets and sustainability of the marine environment. One of the shipping lanes is very close to HC, so we want to ensure that if there are any restrictions, we can help in designating some of that process.

**Rik van Hemmen:** I am the President of Martin and Ottaway, a marine consulting firm that deals with technical, financial and operational maritime things. I think of the HC as the anchor of a very large park, and would like to see it managed and treated in the best possible way.

**Ronald Rapp:** I'm with a company called SubCom, representing the undersea telecom cable business. We've been working in this space since the 80's laying telecom cables. I am part of a group with other entities that own many of these assets, and my goal is to represent the importance of these cables to manage them in a sustainable way.

### Education and Outreach

**Lisa Breslof:** I am newly retired from the American Museum of Natural History and am now president of the NY State Marine Education Association. One of the things I think is very important is to create awareness of the offshore environment and HC. I hope to interact with the population to help gain awareness. My work began with the Peace Corps work in Chile. I'm hoping to carry over that awareness and work in this new project.

**Jim Kent:** I'm based in NYC and work for Thornton-Tomasetti in engineering and applied science. We do forensic work and structural design and do work in alternative energy and mitigation. I am Chief Marketing Communication Officer, so I am interested in communicating the work from the council and making it accessible to the public.

**Chris Lido:** I work on a fishing vessel out of NJ, and we spend extensive time in HC. I previously was a contractor with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife with the Bureau of Education and Information and was an editor of Fisherman Magazine.

### Citizen at Large

**Paul Collier:** I am a scientist at a pharmaceutical company and specialize in genetics. I also serve as mayor in Lower Alloways Creek Township, NJ. I fish out of Cape May and HC and applied for this seat to use my scientific background to support the conservation of an important resource for generations to come.

**Raymond Fusco:** I am a maritime consultant and recreational maritime boater. I am interested in the intersectionality of this project between conservation and environmentalism as it relates to commercial interests and recreational pursuits.

**Brynn Heller:** I am a rising Freshman at Wesleyan College and care deeply about the HC. I've spoken at various events about it.

**Martin Scanlon:** I've been fishing for the past 52 years and served 3 terms on the HMS Advisory Panel. I am the President of Bluewater Fisherman Association. My goal is to make sure proper conservation is upheld, having coexistence between man and environment.

Government Non-voting

**Moira Kelly:** I'm with NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office in the Sustainable Fisheries Division. We implement fishing regulations and I'm also the region's recreational fisheries coordinator. I also served on the Stellwagen Bank SAC.

**Sarah McLaughlin:** I'm the Senior Policy Advisor with HMS Management Division. I also participate in the international temperate tuna negotiations at ICCAT.

**Michelle Bachman:** I'm an analyst at the NEFMC. I used to sit on the SAC of Stellwagen Bank, making sure that there are clear channels back and forth.

**Chris Moore:** I'm the Executive Director of the MAFMC, and was part of establishing the deep-sea coral protection areas, which includes the HC.

**Chip Collier:** I'm with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The reason we're involved is because we are the lead council for the Wahoo Dolphin Fishery Management Plan which extends into the area around HC.

**Matthew Kahley:** I'm a Fisheries Officer with the U.S. Coast Guard, which has a fair amount of activity in the HC.

**Wright Frank:** I'm with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. We issue leases for offshore renewable energy development.

**Matthew Senska:** I work in the Office of the Assistant Secretary in the Navy for energy installations and environment. The U.S. Navy operates in the area of the proposed sanctuary. The Navy funds a lot of marine research such as SanctSound, and is looking to do a lot of that in the future.

**Mike Snyder:** I am the Ocean and Great Lakes Director at the NY Department of State. We've been working actively on HC through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). I'm also here to represent the State's many interests, to understand many of the synergies between conservation and our existing commercial fishing activities and future offshore wind development.

**Kevin Hassel:** I'm with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. I work on a lot of the MARCO issues, I'm on the management board there.

**Conor McManus:** I'm the Chief of Rhode Island's Division of Marine Fisheries. We oversee fisheries science and management for the state. Our involvement stems from the fact that Rhode Island fisheries rely heavily on HC.

### III. Presentation

LeAnn Hogan gives a brief presentation outlining:

#### Sanctuary System

- Currently 6 proposed National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS)

#### Management Objectives

- Our office strives for community, conservation, collaboration, respect, creativity, accountability and teamwork. I think this embodies the way we work and interact with our communities throughout the designation process and beyond.
- We are focused on reducing threats to key species and marine habitats, protecting and interpreting maritime heritage resources, promoting sustainable use and coastal resilience. We focus on learning more about our sanctuaries and predicting conditions and trends and understanding the value of sanctuaries to our nation.

#### Designation Process

- When we started the designation process in 2022, we put out a Notice of Intent (NOI) that did not include a proposal for boundaries. Our intent was to get information about potential areas through the public scoping process. The nominators did provide a boundary in the nomination, so we have that as a reference. Moving forward, that is the next stage in the process.
- One of the loudest comments we received during the public comment period was to establish a pre-designation Advisory Council, which is why you are all here. Now we are at the sanctuary proposal phase. This is where we take the information from the nomination, and during scoping and start to develop the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is required by the Sanctuaries Act. We also develop a Draft Management Plan and then a Proposed Rule. The Proposed Rule is where we will have our regulations and the boundaries. We then release that to the public, with a 60-90-day comment period. Once we get all that input we determine if changes are necessary.
- Moving forward to the next stage is sanctuary designation. There is the final EIS and Final Management Plan and Final Rule. After that, Congress has the opportunity to review the documents, during a 45-day consecutive Congressional session. Then the designation can become final.

#### Goals for the designation

- Our goal here is to support long term conservation, highlight and promote sustainable use of the area. We know that the area is important economically and recreationally, so that is important to us as well.
- We want to provide a platform for partnerships, outreach and education. We want to shine a light on the HC and bring the importance of this place to the people that don't know it exists.

**Matt Brookhart:** What you see here is about a 4-5 year process condensed in one slide. There are three quick things I want to mention. First, the DEIS and the National Environmental

Protection Act (NEPA) are documents that require effort from our own team inside ONMS, but also many other parts of NOAA. We often contract out folks to help us with these things. These documents, by law, have several requirements we have to meet. So, this is the bulk of the time that it takes us in getting the first draft out for public review. The Draft Management Plan holds the pieces that are non-regulatory, this is where you will see our initial proposals, supported by you all for education, science and other research and resource management programs. The Proposed Rule is where you will see the formal proposals for regulations and boundaries. At this draft phase we typically release several alternatives for boundaries that the public can weigh in on.

With that taken under consideration, I think what we are comfortable saying is that we are shooting for a Spring 2024 timeframe to get the draft out. That spring timeline can shift, and it's very possible that it will, probably later as we consider all the moving parts that come with putting these documents together. Lastly, I would like to mention our engagement with Indigenous and Tribal partners. This will be a big part of our process going forward. You may have noticed that there is no Tribal representative on the Council, that's not uncommon, because we have very stringent requirements of government to government consultation with our tribal partners. In this case we have been speaking with Shinnecock Indian Nation, our tribal partners typically like to preserve that government to government consultation and often choose to decline seats on SAC, because it is advisory. Right now, we are still working with Shinnecock to see if they would like a seat on SAC. Regardless, they will be an important part of our consultation going forward, and we want to give them the space and time to provide their comments.

**LeAnn Hogan:** Thank you Matt, I'm glad you touched on the Indigenous engagement. We are now going to talk about the SAC roles and responsibilities. Nationwide there are over 400 members and alternates in SAC's. Sage Riddick, is the National Advisory Council Coordinator and provides support to all the SACs in the system, promoting communication and coordination among the Advisory Councils. She facilitates national level discussions amongst the chairs of the SAC.

One of the most important things considering roles is serving as a liaison between NOAA and the local communities and constituents in your area. Identifying potential partners and constituent groups that we can collaborate with and helping to identify and resolve issues that you see involving the proposed sanctuary. Also, making sure that we have an informed constituency, so help in educating and spreading the word about what we are doing in the proposed sanctuary and bringing your technical expertise and information to the table.

I wanted to also show some restrictions, because you are serving in an official capacity of the Advisory Council. We recommend that you look at the Sanctuary Advisory Handbook, there is a

lot of information about rules, responsibilities and restrictions. But let me go over the restrictions here. You may not use your official council position to benefit other positions you may serve. You may not use your affiliation with the council for personal profit or to influence an issue. Advisory Council members and alternates may not switch between acting in your official and private capacities in any council meetings or events. We are limited to 15 voting members and 15 alternates and have government non-voting representatives. Members and alternates serve for 3 years, and all meetings will be open to the public. One important part of how SACs operate is working groups that are established mostly on a temporary basis to address specific issues. These can include members, alternates, but also people outside of the SAC, with approval from ONMS. Because this is a pre-designation SAC, the charter is in effect for 3 years, but this SAC will be in effect until the area is designated as a NMS.

We see the input from both primary and alternates as important, which allows for diversity in the council. However, there are a couple nuances between the two roles. If your primary member is unable to attend the meeting, the alternate should attend the meeting in your place. The alternate will also vote in place of the primary if there is a vote. It should also be noted that it is not the company that you work for that is occupying the seat, it is you as a person that is sitting in a specific seat. If you cannot attend a meeting you contact your alternate to participate. The other thing we will be doing in a subsequent meeting is electing a chair and vice chair. These can be any primary member. We also would love to add bios for all our members on the SAC webpage, so we will be asking you for that at a later date.

**Matt Brookhart:** I want to mention that the chair will participate in an annual meeting that will include the senior management team of our organization, which includes the Office Director, to participate in bigger questions and strategizing about the state of the sanctuary system.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

LeAnn explains the frequency, timing, location and agenda items of future meetings.

**LeAnn Hogan:** The proposal right now is to do meetings quarterly. When we do them in person, I would like to rotate the location of the meeting throughout the region. But we will still have virtual meetings as well. Hopefully we could do the first in-person meeting around October, but if an issue comes up, such as voting on elections, we could have more frequent virtual meetings if necessary.

Some future agenda items include diving more deeply into the status of the designation, discussing the HC area critical elements, and the Draft Management Plan, which is the non-regulatory action plans for our Sanctuary, and is a good way to get your input.

## V. Questions

**Q:** Jim Kent: Will we also have hybrid meetings, if meeting in person?

**A:** Matt Brookhart: It depends on where we are. I would wager more often than not that we can't do them, but it depends on if we have the bandwidth to do a virtual meeting at whatever location we are at.

**Q:** Michelle Bachman: Is there a condition report prepared as part of the management plan development?

**A:** Ellen: The EIS has a section on the affected environment, so we do assess the environment, but the condition report is done 5 years after designation, where we assess changes over time.

**A:** Matt Brookhart: It's triggered by the review of the Management Plan, which by law is 5 years after the designation. Sometimes that 5 year target is difficult from a resource management standpoint. But we have got it down to a science now, where we want and try to have condition reports, assessment of the state of sanctuary resources done prior to beginning the management plan review process.

**Q:** Greg DiDomenico: Who are the protected resource experts? Who on the SAC or from the agency will be the person who knows most about whales, turtles, dolphins etc?

**A:** Moira Kelly: While I'm here from Sustainable Fisheries I represent the entire Regional Fisheries Office. I leverage our Protected Resources Division to provide information to the SAC. So at Stellwagen I provide updates on things such as Gray Whales and Humpbacks. Anytime we need to tap into expertise, we could get an actual expert on protected resources.

**Q:** Greg DiDomenico: Should I also be looking to you [Moira] for access and information on deep water corals?

**A:** Matt Brookhart: Yes, with the caveat too, that this council will provide expertise in terms of helping to inform not only the management plan but the EIS. One thing I want to add is, one reason you see these long timelines for the EIS is because we are required by law to engage in formal consultation, not only within NOAA but other federal agencies for information supporting both the EIS and sometimes the rule making.

**Q:** John Depersenaire: Will the section 304 designation documents be shared with the SAC for their comments/input prior to being released to the public for comments?

**A:** Matt Brookhart: I don't know the answer right now, but section 304 is a section of the NMSA that requires us to go to the respective regional fisheries management councils, should any fishing regulations be proposed. We have already started the section 304 process by going to the councils early and have received feedback from MAFMC, SAFMC, NEFMC in terms of initial recommendations for 304, which was that new fishing regulations are not warranted for this designation.

**A:** LeAnn Hogan: Also including Atlantic HMS.

**A:** Matt Brookhart: So, the 304 process has already begun and unless there are new fishing regulations proposed, we would not engage with the councils again on that matter. The only time I might see that changing is if there was overwhelming comment from the public on the DEIS that we should do so.

**Q:** Rik Van Hemmen: You mentioned the council members have 3-year terms, but the council has a term of 3 years or until designation. Does that mean that the entire slate will stay in place until designation or the other way around?

**A:** Ellen Brody: For the Lake Ontario SAC we are just about 3 months over the 3 years, and are keeping it until designation. It would be very disruptive to have a change in SAC membership.

**A:** LeAnn Hogan: I tend to agree, it would be disruptive if there was a whole new SAC during the designation.

**A:** Ellen Brody: That being said, people do leave the SAC due to various reasons and others come on. So, it's likely that over this period there will be a change in composition of the SAC.

**Q:** Carl LoBue: Matt, you described potentially rolling out alternatives for boundaries. Would this end up as, 'here's what the goals and objectives are and these are the boundaries or would there be alternative goals and objectives and different boundaries.

**A:** Matt Brookhart: Typically, we establish our goals and objectives as part of the EIS and then formulate a series of boundaries all of which in some way must meet those goals and objectives. The only one that would not, would be a No Action alternative. A No Action alternative means the sanctuary designation process doesn't happen. Let's say in total we propose 3 alternatives, one of which is the No Action, which it will have to be, the other 2 alternatives would have to meet the goals and objectives. Typically, we try to provide a range of different ways we meet the goals and objectives. The first alternative would maybe be the preferred proposal from NOAA. The second perhaps, would be a bit bigger and more expansive with more regulations and then the third would be even more expansive than that. But what we try to do is provide the public with choices and what we usually get back is people wanting to see a hybrid of those alternatives. Ultimately, we have to justify our final boundary alternative that we've selected, how it meets the goals and objectives.

**A:** Ron Rapp: Just speaking from the telecom standpoint, if the boundaries included any telecom cables. If the goals and objectives did not allow the presence of cables, it would have to have a smaller boundary. Depending on the use of the space, there will be different trade-offs.

**A:** Matt Brookhart: Responding to Ron's comment, we have to pull our experts in and do our best to understand what the variable uses are in those particular boundary alternatives. We need to know where those cable routes are, we need to understand DOD activity. Alternatives will grandfather in certain uses depending where those boundaries are, but we also have to allow for the maintenance of cables, as one example, to be a part of the management regime.

**Q:** Ron Rapp: Will the Army Corps be consulted, are they a part of this process?

**A:** Matt Brookhart: They typically are, but it will depend on what we are determining the uses are inside those boundary alternatives.

**Q:** Jim Kent: Does NOAA cover cost of travel, or meeting location expenses?

**A:** LeAnn Hogan: We can cover travel costs for members only.

## **VI. Public Comments**

Sage Riddick facilitates the public comment period.

**Tim Malley:** I was an owner and operator of swordfish vessels for 25 years. Following that I was a founding partner of Boston Sword and Tuna and returned to fishing as a retirement activity. I've run longliners in the Pacific and Atlantic and am well aware of the impact the Monument designations have had on our industry, that has been pretty devastating. I'm somewhat reassured by the input the Councils have had in this process. We've seen a long history in regulatory oversight that has contributed to undercutting the work we've put in. I'm concerned about where this might be going. HC is very important to the swordfish and tuna industry, so I'll follow the progress of this designation.

**Matt Brookhart:** One thing I would like the Advisory Council to consider based on [Tim's] comment is to help our stakeholders understand the difference between NMS and National Marine Monuments. We will turn to you to help communicate that to not only your constituents, but to the general public as a matter of this designation.

**Ken Gale:** I am a host of an environmental radio show in NYC so I am interested in the environmental aspects of this committee and sanctuary. The last speaker who was worried about the aspect of commercial fishing, I noticed that most of the people being introduced are involved in the commercial fishing industry. I think the environmental people have a lot more to worry about, whether the canyon becomes something commercial and not protective of the environment. I worry about the absence of grassroots and environmental groups, which I think is a glaring hole in this council and you need people to think about the environment first and money second. I hope my views of this council are unjustified.

**LeAnn Hogan:** Thank you for your time. There's a lot to talk about and I'm looking forward to our next Advisory Council meeting. I am excited about the diversity of this council and I think it shows a great representation of the region.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm ET