

Dated: March 22, 2017.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-06004 Filed 3-24-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Publicly Available Biologic and Geologic Samples From the 2015 and 2016 NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* Expeditions

AGENCY: Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA OER announces the availability of biologic and geologic samples that were collected during NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* expeditions in 2015 and 2016. Biologic specimens from all 2015 and 2016 expeditions are now available for loan through the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Rock samples collected during the three legs of EX-15-05 are now available through Oregon State University's Marine Geology Repository.

Information about individual samples as well as all imagery and oceanographic data collected during these expeditions can be found in the digital record for each cruise on the OER Digital Atlas, (<http://explore.noaa.gov/digitalatlas>).

The biologic and geologic samples described in this notice are available immediately from the designated repositories.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Craig Russell, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-4803, Craig.Russell@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The specimens listed below were collected by NOAA during seven telepresence-enabled *Okeanos Explorer* ocean exploration expeditions: EX-15-04 Legs 2, 3, and 4 of the "2015 Hohonu Moana: Exploring Deep Waters off Hawai'i" expedition that focused operations within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (northwest Hawaiian Islands); EX-16-03 "2016 Hohonu Moana: Exploring Deep Waters off Hawai'i", which also conducted sampling operations within Papahānaumokuākea; EX-16-05 Leg 1

and Leg 3 of the "2016 Deepwater Exploration of the Marianas" expedition that focused operations in and around the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and EX-16-06 "Deepwater Wonders of Wake" expedition that was focused within the Wake Atoll unit of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. These expeditions are part of NOAA's 'Campaign to Address Pacific monument Science, Technology, and Ocean Needs' (CAPSTONE)—a major multi-year effort focused on collecting baseline information in deepwater areas of U.S. marine protected areas in the central and western Pacific.

NOAA OER conducts collaborative and systematic global ocean exploration with NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* to provide lasting benefits for the nation's environmental, economic, and societal needs. Expeditions are planned collaboratively with input from partners and stakeholders and are executed to benefit NOAA, the broader scientific community, and general public. OER ocean exploration expeditions are designed to catalyze follow-on research and to meet management needs.

These expeditions are conducted mainly in unexplored or poorly known areas where high-resolution mapping and initial sampling will result in initial site descriptions. The rationale that guides sampling during *Okeanos Explorer* expeditions is to enable a general characterization of physical, chemical, and biological environments in the area of interest.

Once the expeditions are complete, samples are cataloged and prepared for archival. Biologic samples are sent for primary archival to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History Research and Collections to provide access to as many researchers as possible. There the samples are taxonomically identified, curated and made accessible through the Invertebrate Zoology Collection. Metadata about the samples and information on how to request samples is available through the museum's online portal (<http://invertebrates.si.edu/collections.htm>).

During at-sea sample processing, prior to additional preservation techniques such as ethanol or formalin, small tissue samples are preserved onboard for later genomic DNA and RNA extraction at the Ocean Genome Legacy Center (OGL) at Northeastern University. Available materials can be searched, browsed, and requested through the online catalog on the OGL Web site (<http://www.northeastern.edu/ogl/>).

Additionally, selected coral and sponge specimens will be subsampled and made accessible through the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's marine invertebrate collection. Descriptions of holdings, a searchable database, loan request forms, and Frequently Asked Questions for specimens are available on the museum's Invertebrate Zoology collection Web site (<http://www.bishopmuseum.org/collections-3/invertebrate-zoology/>).

Rock samples collected during the three legs of EX-15-04 are archived at Oregon State University's Marine Geology Repository where they have been entered into the Repository's sample library. The Repository provides online metadata about the samples, images of thin sections, and how to request specimens (<http://osu-mgr.org/noaa-ex/>).

Digital records of all *Okeanos Explorer* sampling operations can be accessed through the OER Digital Atlas (<http://explore.noaa.gov/digitalatlas>). Through the Digital Atlas, users can find the "Collected Specimens" from the Data Access tab of cruises for which samples were collected. Additional information about the sampling operations and access to select images of each specimen can be found in OER's *Okeanos Explorer* Atlas (<http://explore.noaa.gov/okeanosatlas>), a GIS application which can be used to access a point layer of sampling locations. In-situ, close-up, and laboratory images of each specimen are also available through this Atlas.

All other associated video, oceanographic, and bathymetric data from these expeditions that provide context for collected samples are also available through the OER Digital Atlas.

Dated: March 22, 2017.

Paul Johnson,

Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer/CAO, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB)

AGENCY: National Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for nominations for the National Sea Grant Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: This notice responds the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976, which requires the Secretary of Commerce to solicit nominations at least once a year for membership on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board), a Federal Advisory Committee that provides advice on the implementation of the National Sea Grant College Program. The NOAA intends to fill two expected vacancies on the Board in 2017 and another two in 2018 to apply for membership to the Board, applicants should submit a current resume, via the methodology discussed in the Contact Information Section of this notice. A cover letter highlighting specific areas of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Board is helpful, but not required. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

DATES: Applications, there is no due date for applications. However, the program intends to begin reviewing applications to fulfill existing vacancies by April 28th 2017. Applications will be kept on file for consideration of any Board vacancy for a period of three years from October 1st 2017 in order to fill any future or unexpected vacancies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nominations will be accepted by email or mail. They should be sent to the attention of Ms. Mary Anne Garlic, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC 3, Room 11717, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. If you need additional assistance, please email maryann.garlic@noaa.gov or call 301-734-1088.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Established by Section 209 of the Act and as amended the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-394), the duties of the Board are as follows:

(1) In general, the Board shall advise the Secretary and the Director concerning:

(A) Strategies for utilizing the Sea Grant College Program to address the Nation's highest priorities regarding the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

(B) The designation of Sea Grant Colleges and Sea Grant Institutes; and

(C) Such other matters as the Secretary refer to the Board for review and advice.

(2) Biennial Report. The Board shall report to the Congress every two years

on the state of the National Sea Grant College Program. The Board shall indicate in each such report the progress made toward meeting the priorities identified in the strategic plan in effect under section 204(c). The Secretary shall make available to the Board such information, personnel and administrative services and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its duties under this title.

The Board shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Secretary for a 4-year term, renewable for a 2nd 4-year term at the discretion of the Secretary. The Director and a director of a Sea Grant program who is elected by the various directors of Sea Grant programs shall serve as nonvoting members of the Board. Not less than 8 of the voting members of the Board shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, marine affairs and resource management, coastal management, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the Board if the individual is (A) the director of a Sea Grant College or Sea Grant Institute; (B) an applicant for, or beneficiary (as determined by the Secretary) of, any grant or contract under section 205 [33 USCS § 1124]; or (C) a full-time officer or employee of the United States.

Individuals Selected for Federal Advisory Committee Membership: Upon selection and agreement to serve on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. According to 18 U.S.C. 202(a), an SGE 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 Board must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Board member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting), and other applicable forms, both conducted through NOAA Workforce Management; and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report as an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report annually 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.oge.gov/Forms-Library/OGE-Form-450-Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-Report/>.

Dated: March 21, 2017.

Paul Johnson,

Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer/CAO, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF309

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its 159th meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 18-19, 2017. The Council will convene on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and will reconvene on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Renaissance St. Croix Carambola Beach Resort & Spa, Estate Davis Bay, St. Croix, USVI 00850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 159th regular Council Meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

April 18, 2017, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Consideration of 158th Council Meeting Verbatim Transcriptions
- Executive Director's Report