

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
CHARTER OF
SEA GRANT REVIEW PANEL**

Establishment:

The Sea Grant Review Panel (the “Panel” hereinafter) was established by the Secretary of Commerce as directed by Section 209 of the National Sea Grant Program Act of 1976, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1121 *et seq.* (the “Act” hereinafter). Initially chartered in 1976 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the committee is hereby re-chartered under the same Act.

Explanation of Terms:

The terms used in this charter shall have the same meaning as prescribed in the Act, as amended.

Objectives and Duties:

1. The Panel, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, shall advise the Secretary of Commerce (the Secretary) acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (the Under Secretary) and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program (the Director) with respect to:
 - a. Applications or proposals for, and performance under, grants and contracts awarded under Section 1124 of the Act;
 - b. The Sea Grant fellowship program, established under Section 1127 of the Act;
 - c. The designation and operation of Sea Grant Colleges and Sea Grant institutes (which are provided for in Section 1126 of the Act), and the operation of Sea Grant programs;
 - d. The formulation and application of the planning guidelines and priorities established by the Secretary under Section 1123(a) of the Act and applied by the Director in accordance with Section 1123(c)(1); and
 - e. Such other matters as the Secretary, Under Secretary, or Director refer to the Panel for review and advice.
2. The Panel may exercise such powers as are reasonably necessary in order to carry out its duties.
3. The Panel shall function solely as an advisory body and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Members and Chairperson:

1. The Panel shall consist of fifteen voting members, appointed by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions and prohibitions of Section 1128(c) of the Act. Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Director and a Director of a Sea Grant Program, who is elected by the various Directors of Sea Grant Programs, shall serve as non-voting members of the Panel.
2. Not less than eight of 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 included in marine science.
3. 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, 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, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.
4. A full term of office of a voting member of the Panel shall be four years. A voting member may be reappointed to no more than one additional full term. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed initially only for the remainder of the predecessor's term. No individual may be appointed as a voting member after serving two full terms as such a member. A voting member may serve after the date of the expiration of the term of office for which appointed until his or her successor has taken office.
5. The panel shall select one voting member to serve as the Chairperson and another voting member to serve as the Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson.

Administrative Provisions:

1. The Panel shall report to the Secretary through the Director and the Under Secretary.
2. The Panel shall meet on a biannual basis and, at any other time, at the call of the Chairperson or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Director. Notice of meetings will be published in the *Federal Register*, in accordance with the Department of Commerce rules implementing the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
3. At least once each year, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting nominations for membership on the Panel.
4. Voting members of the Panel, who serve as special government employees, shall receive compensation at the daily rate for Executive Level IV when actually engaged in the

performance of duties for the Panel and shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

5. The National Sea Grant Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shall make available to the Panel such information, personnel, and administrative services and secretarial assistance as may be required to accomplish duties.
6. The annual cost of operating the Panel is estimated to be \$250,000, 0.5 FTE staff support per annum.

Duration:

This charter shall terminate two years from the date of the filing of this charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Oversight Committees unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority.

Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

Date