U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERC
CHARTER OF THE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

1. Committee's Official Title. National Sea Grant Advisory Board

2. Authority. The National Sea Grant Advisory Board (the "Board" 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, (5 U.S.C., App.) the Board is hereby rechartered under the same Act. The terms used in this charter shall have the same meaning as prescribed in the Act, as amended.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities. The Board shall advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (the Under Secretary), acting for the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 1122 (15) of the Act, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program (the Director) and meet with the Secretary of Commerce as appropriate on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in the National Sea Grant Program Act. The Board should address issues appropriate for a Federal Advisory Committee serving the National Sea Grant Program.

4. Description of Duties. Sea Grant topics the Board should address include: developing strategies for utilizing the National 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; the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes; and such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Board for review and advice. 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 Board may exercise such powers as are reasonably necessary in order to carry out its duties. The Board shall function as an advisory body in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Board shall report to the Under Secretary, acting for the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 1122 (15) of the Act.

6. Support. The National Sea Grant Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shall make available to the Board such information, personnel, and administrative services and secretarial assistance as may be required to accomplish duties and provide a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Board.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years. The annual cost of operating the Board is estimated to be $325,000, 1.5 FTE staff support per annum.

8. Designated Federal Officer. The DFO will be a full-time employee of the National Sea Grant Office and will be appointed by the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program in

accordance with agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all of the Board's meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Board meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Director.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Board 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, with approval by the DFO.

10. Membership and Designation. The Board shall consist of fifteen voting members, appointed by the Under Secretary, acting for the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 1122 (15) of the Act, 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 nonvoting members of the Board.

Not less than eight 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, 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.

A full term of office of a voting member of the Board shall be four years. A voting member may be reappointed to no more than one additional full term. The Director may extend the term of office of a voting member of the Board once by up to one year. Board members will serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary, acting for the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 1122 (15) of the Act. At least once each year, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting nominations for membership on the Board.

The Board 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. Voting members of the Board shall receive compensation at a rate established by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code when actually engaged in the performance of duties for the Board, and shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties. Voting members will be subject to ethical standards applicable to special government employees.

11. Subcommittees. NOAA may establish such subcommittees, task forces, and work groups consisting of Board members and/or outside experts as may be necessary. Chairs of subcommittees, task forces or work groups shall be selected by and serve at the discretion of the Board. All subcommittee work must be forwarded to the full Board for actual deliberation. Only the Board may advise NOAA.

12. Recordkeeping. Records of the Board, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Board, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

13. Duration/Termination. This charter will terminate two years from the date of its filing with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority. As required by Section 5(h)(4) of the Act, the Secretary shall consult the Board with regard to termination or extension of the Board.

Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

9.10.10
Date