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NOAA appoints new members to hydrographic services federal advisory committee

Committee provides advice on agency's navigation services

NOAA Acting Administrator Dr. Neil Jacobs appointed two new members and reappointed four current members to the [Hydrographic Services Review Panel](#), a federal advisory committee that gives NOAA independent advice for improving a range of services and products that support navigation services and coastal resilience.

The new members of the panel are:

- **Dr. Qassim A. Abdullah**, CP, PLS, Chief Scientist and Senior Associate, Woolpert Inc., Arlington, Virginia
- **Dr. Nicole Elko**, Science Director, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Folly Beach, South Carolina

Four members of the panel were reappointed:

- **Mr. Lindsay Gee**, Ocean Exploration Trust, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- **Capt. Anne McIntyre**, Pilot, Columbia River Pilots, Portland, Oregon
- **Mr. Edward Saade**, President, Fugro USA, Houston, Texas
- **Mr. Gary Thompson**, Chief, North Carolina Geodetic Survey, Raleigh, North Carolina

They will join the panel's 9 [current members](#) in January 2020.

"As we continue to see advancements in navigation products and services we look to the Hydrographic Services Review Panel members to provide subject matter expertise from their unique perspective in the maritime community," said Rear Adm. Shep Smith, designated federal official and acting deputy assistant administrator, National Ocean Service. "The panel's recommendations on topics ranging from commercial vessel traffic, recreational boaters, tides and currents, geospatial needs, remote sensing, among so many others are critical to the efficient transport of goods in and out of our nation's ports."

The [next public meeting](#) is April 28-30, 2020, in Oahu, Hawaii.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel is composed of experts in hydrographic surveying, vessel pilotage, port administration, tides and currents, coastal zone management, geodesy, recreational boating, marine transportation, and academia. Rear Adm. Smith is the panel's designated federal official. The directors of the [NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center](#), NOAA's [National Geodetic Survey](#), and NOAA's [Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services](#) serve as non-voting members.

NOAA Office of Coast Survey is the nation's nautical chartmaker. Originally formed by President Thomas Jefferson in 1807, Coast Survey updates charts, surveys the coastal seafloor, responds to maritime emergencies, and searches for underwater obstructions that pose a danger to navigation.

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