

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Olympic Coast
Cordell Bank
Gulf of the Farallones
Monterey Bay
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.)

Thunder Bay
Stellwagen Bank
Monitor
Gray's Reef
Florida Keys
Flower Garden Banks

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

● National Marine Sanctuary
▲ Marine National Monument

What are National Marine Sanctuaries?



Areas of the marine environment with special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural, archaeological, or esthetic qualities...

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Sec. 301)

- Raising public awareness and understanding through education and outreach
- Improving management through research (e.g., historical, conservation science, social science)
- Helping coastal economies by promoting and protecting healthy resources
- Facilitating public use compatible with resource protection



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Multiple Species, Habitats, and Services

- Protection of diverse habitats – seafloor, rocky intertidal, open ocean – and their linkages
- Regulations target broad threats, such as oil/gas development or discharges
- Consideration of the interdependence of species; biodiversity matters
- Protection of multiple services and uses
- Protection of submerged maritime heritage



Resource Protection



- Maintains balance between ecology and sustainable uses over time
- Employs innovative, community based problem solving with a focus on non-regulatory solutions
- Regulations are customized to meet the needs, features of individual sanctuaries
- Enforcement of laws and regulations involves education first
- Violations enforced as civil penalties



Non-Regulatory Solutions (examples)



- Protecting marine water quality at the watershed level
- Reducing introduction and spread of non-native species
- Various programs to protect marine mammals
- Re-routing shipping traffic with industry support
- Using docents and signage to protect tidepools
- Working with cities and businesses to promote tourism



Fishing In Sanctuaries



- NMSA envisions protecting entire ecosystem, including fish; numerous sanctuary programs and regulations benefit fish and fishing
- Healthy fisheries demonstrate a healthy ecosystem, hence a healthy sanctuary
- If limits needed, extensive stakeholder/agency consultations take place – we seek action by state/fed fishery managers
- NOAA views NMSA and Magnuson-Stevens as compatible tools to protect ecosystems, allow sustainable fishing
- Numerous examples of successful collaboration between ONMS and Fishery Councils, and State fishery managers
- Most Sanctuaries have no fishing regulations



Typical “Programs” in a Sanctuary



- Research and Monitoring
 - Management directives drive science needs
 - Mapping and characterization fundamental
 - Highly collaborative
- Education and Outreach
 - Both K-12 and outreach to public
 - Employ visitor centers, videos, other innovations
 - Help users understand stewardship actions
- Reducing Resource Threats
 - Customized to each sanctuary
 - First goal is education and non-regulatory
 - Augment resources of other agencies/partners



Connecting Communities to Sanctuaries



- Public involvement in critical actions
 - Management plan reviews, working groups for action plans
 - Expansions
 - Other regulatory and non-regulatory actions
- Sanctuary Advisory Councils
- Maritime Heritage / Maritime Cultural Landscapes
- Educational programming, at schools and with partners
- Conservation programs that involve partners, agencies, public
- Special events, oceans fairs, harbor festivals
- Recognize, co-manage and connect to diverse cultures – Native, minority
- Visitor centers, exhibits, signage
- Volunteering

Connections to Native Cultures (examples)



- Olympic Coast
 - Established Intergovernmental Policy Council
 - Recognize "Usual and Accustomed " Treaty Areas
 - Highly collaborative on science and outreach
- American Samoa
 - Virtually entire staff is Samoan
 - Native Samoan language – events, materials
 - Fa'a-Samoa – central to sanctuary management
- Papahānaumokuākea
 - Traditions recognized, access provided
 - Traditional prayers before Advisory Council meetings
- Channel Islands
 - Assist with tomol building, annual channel crossing



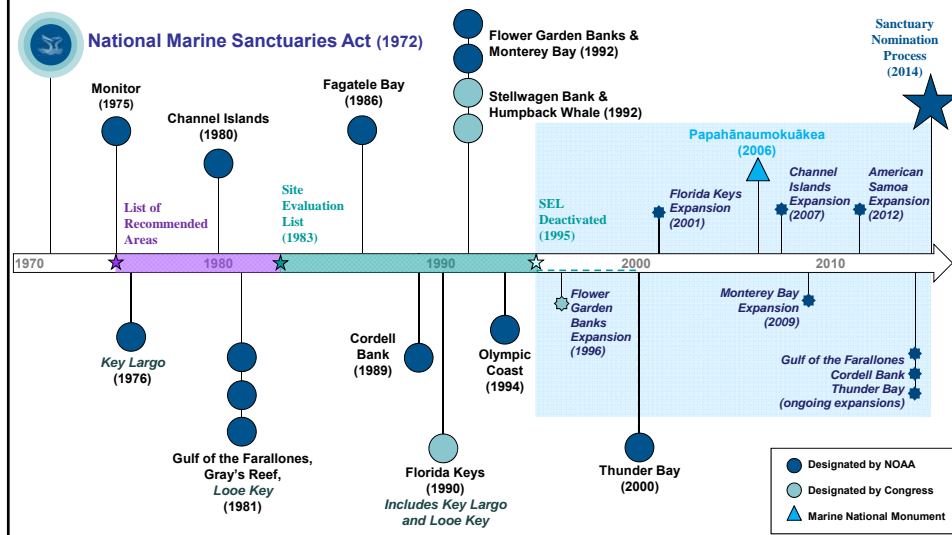
Sanctuary Advisory Councils



- 14 Councils; 390 members/alternates
- Advise site manager and provide a link to public and “users”
- Advisory Councils meet regularly; meetings open to the public
- Self-nominated, selected by NOAA to represent diverse stakeholders (e.g. conservation, business, fishing, science, education, recreation)
- Government agencies also sit on Advisory Councils



Sanctuary Nomination Process



National Significance Criteria

1. The area's **natural resources and ecological qualities** are of special significance and contribute to:
 - biological productivity or diversity;
 - maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function;
 - maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages;
 - maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both;
 - or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.
2. The area contains **submerged maritime heritage** resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that:
 - individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
 - have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark;
 - or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.
3. The area supports **present and potential economic uses**, such as: tourism; **commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses**; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.
4. The **publicly-derived benefits of the area**, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Management Considerations

1. The area provides or enhances **opportunities for research in marine science**, including marine archaeology.
2. The area provides or enhances **opportunities for education**, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.
3. **Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities** threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.
4. A **national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value** for this area or adjacent areas.
5. The **existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented** to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.
6. There are commitments or possible **commitments for partnership opportunities** such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.
7. There is **community-based support for the nomination** expressed by a broad range of interests, such as: individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., friends of group, chamber of commerce); local, tribal, state, or national agencies; elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

Nominations Received to Date



- #1 Eubalaena Oculina, NE Florida; found incomplete
- #2 Mallovs Bay, Chesapeake; nomination accepted
- #3 Lake Michigan-Wisconsin; found complete, still under review
- #4 Aleutian Islands; found incomplete
- #5 Chumash Heritage, central CA; under review

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More details, including a nomination guide
and Q&As, are at:

www.nominate.noaa.gov



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>