

*Final Designation Document*

*Designation of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*

*Preamble*

Under the authority of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, Pub. L. 92-532 (the Act) the waters surrounding the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island are hereby designated a Marine Sanctuary for the purpose of preserving and protecting this unique and fragile ecological community.

*Article 1. Effect of Designation*

Within the area designated as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (the Sanctuary), described in Article 2, the Act authorizes the promulgation of such regulations as are reasonable and necessary to protect the values of the Sanctuary. Article 4 of this Designation lists those activities which may require regulation but the listing of any activity does not by itself prohibit or restrict it.

*Article 2. Description of the Area*

The Sanctuary consists of an area of the waters off the coast of California, of approximately 1252.5 square nautical miles (nm), adjacent to the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island seaward to a distance of 6 nm. The precise boundaries are defined by regulation.

*Article 3. Characteristics of the Area That Give it Particular Value*

The Sanctuary is located in an area of upwelling and in a transition zone between the cold waters of the California Current and the warmer Southern California Countercurrent. Consequently, the Sanctuary contains an exceptionally rich and diverse biota, including 30 species of marine mammals and several endangered species of marine mammals and sea birds. The Sanctuary will provide recreational experiences and scientific research opportunities and generally will have special value as an ecological, recreational, and esthetic resource.

*Article 4. Scope of Regulation*

Section 1. *Activities Subject to Regulation.* In order to protect the distinctive values of the Sanctuary, the following activities may be regulated within the Sanctuary to the extent necessary to ensure the protection and preservation of its marine features and the ecological, recreational, and esthetic value of the area:

- a. Hydrocarbon operations
- b. Discharging or depositing any substance
- c. Dredging or alteration of, or construction on, the seabed
- d. Navigation of vessels except fishing vessels or vessels traveling within a Vessel Traffic Separation Scheme or Port Access Route designated by the Coast Guard outside of 1 nm from any island
- e. Disturbing marine mammals or birds by overflights below 1000 feet
- f. Removing or otherwise deliberately harming cultural or historical resources

Section 2. *Consistency with International Law.* The regulations governing the activities listed in Section 1 of this article apply to foreign flag vessels and persons not citizens of the United States only to the extent consistent with recognized principles of international law including treaties and international agreements to which the United States is signatory.

Section 3. *Emergency Regulations.* Where essential to prevent immediate, serious and irreversible damage to the ecosystem of the area, activities other than those listed in Section 1 may be regulated within the limits of the Act on an emergency basis for an interim period not to exceed 120 days, during which an appropriate amendment of this article would be proposed in accordance with the procedures specified in Article 6.

*Article 5. Relation to Other Regulatory Programs*

Section 1. *Fishing.* The regulation of fishing is not authorized under Article 4. However, fishing vessels may be regulated with respect to discharges in accordance with Article 4, Section 1, paragraph (b) and aircraft conducting kelp bed surveys below 1000 feet can be regulated in accordance with Article 4, Section 1, paragraph (e). All regulatory programs pertaining to fishing, including particularly regulations promulgated under the California Fish and Game Code and Fishery Management Plans promulgated under the Fishery and Conservation Act of 1976, 16 USC.1801 et seq., shall remain in effect. All permits, licenses and other authorizations issues pursuant thereto shall be valid within the Sanctuary unless authorizing any activity prohibited by any regulation implementing Article 4. Fishing as used in this article and in Article 4 includes kelp harvesting.

Section 2. *Defense Activities.* The regulation of those activities listed in Article 4 shall not prohibit any activity conducted by the Department of Defense that is essential for national defense or because of emergency. Such activities shall be consistent with the regulations to the maximum extent practicable.

Section 3. *Other Programs.* All applicable regulatory programs shall remain in effect and all permits, licenses and other authorizations issued pursuant thereto shall be valid within the Sanctuary unless authorizing any activity prohibited by any regulation implementing Article 4. The Sanctuary regulations set forth any necessary certification procedures.

*Article 6. Alterations to this Designation*

This designation can be altered only in accordance with the same procedures by which it has been made, including public hearings, consultation with interested Federal and State agencies and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and approval by the President of the United States.

[End of Designation Document]

Only those articles listed in Article 4 are subject to regulation in the Sanctuary. Before any additional activities may be regulated, the Designation must be amended through the entire designation procedure including public hearings and approval by the President.

*Dated: September 28, 1980.*

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