

Agenda Item C.3.a  
Supplemental NMS Presentation 1  
March 2018

# National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report



William Douros  
Regional Director  
NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
West Coast Region

March 9, 2018

# Keeping PFMC Informed of Activities/Programs in WC National Marine Sanctuaries



NMFS/ONMS/PFMC communication and coordination continuously improving.

Second ONMS report with following topics:

- Nominations
- Management plan review
- Ancillary management activities
- Climate change
- Habitat
- Research/monitoring

# 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.





# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



# Status of Nominations To Date



## In Inventory of Candidate Sites

- Chumash Heritage (CA)
- Lake Erie Quadrangle (PA)
- St. George Unangan Heritage
- Hudson Canyon (NY)
- Mariana Trench (CNMI)
- Lake Ontario (NY)

## Designations in Process

- Malloes Bay, Potomac River (MD)
- Lake Michigan (WI)

## Nominations Under Review

- Shipwreck Coast (MI)
- SoCal Offshore Banks (CA)

## Declined by NOAA

- Eubalaena Oculina (FL) 1<sup>st</sup> submission
- Aleutian Islands (AK)
- Chumash Heritage (CA) 1<sup>st</sup> submission

## Nominations Withdrawn

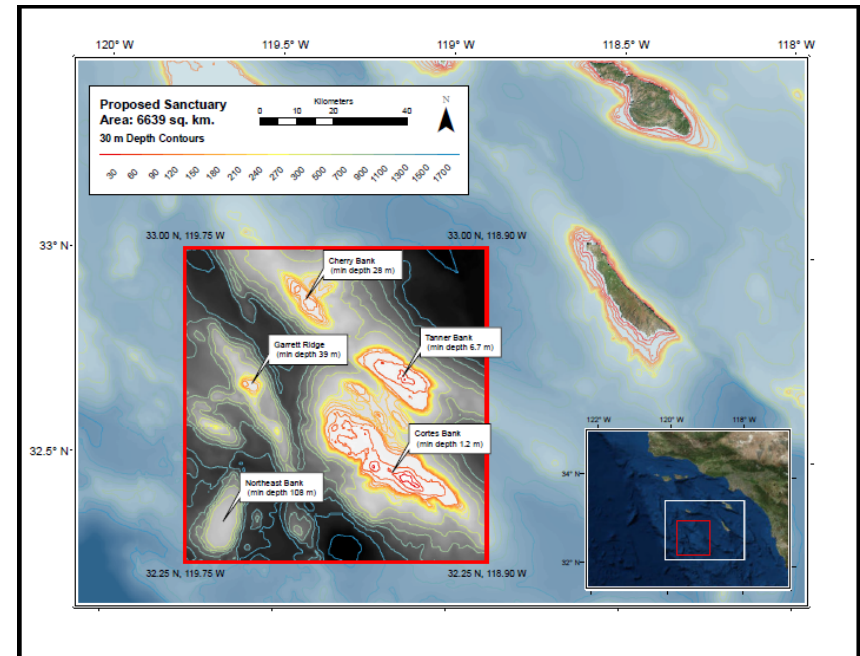
- Eubalaena Oculina (FL) 2<sup>nd</sup> submission
- Baltimore Canyon (MD)

# Two Sanctuary Nominations Along the West Coast



## Area Proposed for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary:

- Added to the inventory October 2015.
- No plans presently to advance for designation.



## Area Proposed for So. Calif. Offshore Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

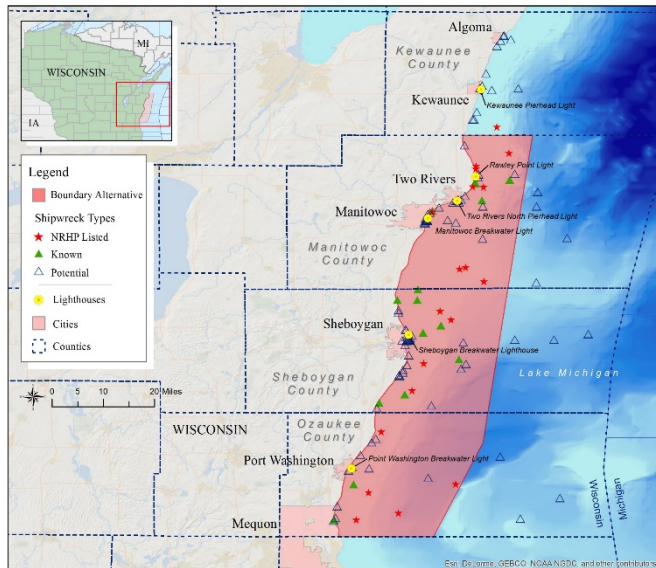
- Nomination found complete 2017.
- Nomination currently under review.



# Two Cultural Heritage Nominations in Inventory Undergoing Designation Process

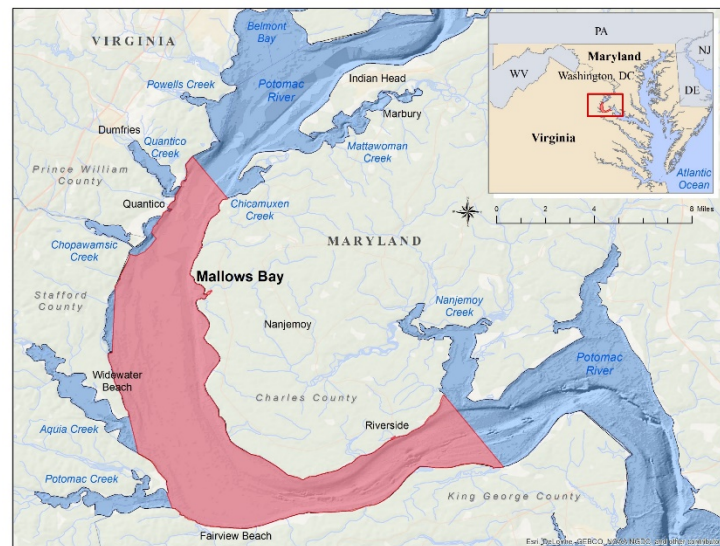


Lake Michigan (Wisconsin)  
Purpose: conserve remains of ~ 37 known shipwrecks.



Proposed sanctuary would be co-managed by NOAA and Wisconsin.  
Draft released January 2017.

Mallows Bay – Potomac River (Maryland)  
Purpose: conserve remains of ~ 200 known shipwrecks.

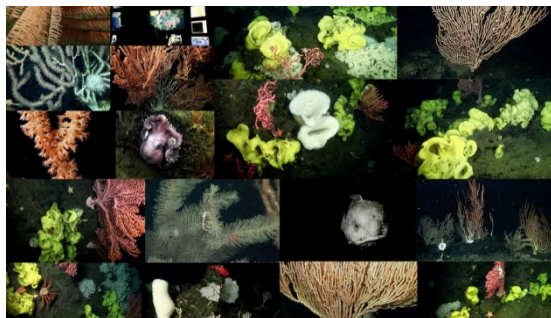


Proposed sanctuary would be co-managed by NOAA, Maryland, and Charles County. Draft released January 2017.

# Condition Report Updates and Management Plan Reviews for MBNMS, CINMS, and OCNMS



- Condition reports precede management plans and are periodically updated and reviewed (5 – 10 year time line).
- MBNMS, CINMS, and OCNMS are at various stages in this process.
- Condition reports evaluate status and trends of sanctuary resources:
  - Updates to past condition reports;
  - Use of confidence scores;
  - Incorporate NOAA IEA indicators; integration with federal and state marine resource management entities.
- Management plans are mostly still relevant; review and updates instead of wholesale changes.



<b>Status:</b>	Good	Good/Fair	Fair	Fair/Poor	Poor	Undet.
<b>Trends:</b>	Conditions appear to be improving..... ▲					
	Conditions do not appear to be changing..... —					
	Conditions appear to be declining..... ▼					
	Undetermined trend..... ?					
	Question not applicable..... N/A					



# Condition Report Updates and Management Plan Reviews for MBNMS, CINMS, and OCNMS (cont.)



- MBNMS 2015 Condition Report and Management Plan Review (MPR):  
New action plans:
  - Climate change - Wildlife disturbance - Marine spatial planning
  - Marine debris - Coastal erosion/sediment management.
- Minimal regulatory changes: primarily definition changes.
- Late 2018 draft documents; end of 2019 final documents.
- CINMS release of condition report 2018; MPR initiated 2018.
- OCNMS planning for condition report 2018, initiate 2019, finalize 2020, initiate MPR 2020-2021 .



# GFNMS and OCNMS Leading on Climate Change



- GFNMS: climate smart adaptations, climate action plan, green operations, ocean climate indicators, and rapid vulnerability assessment tool.

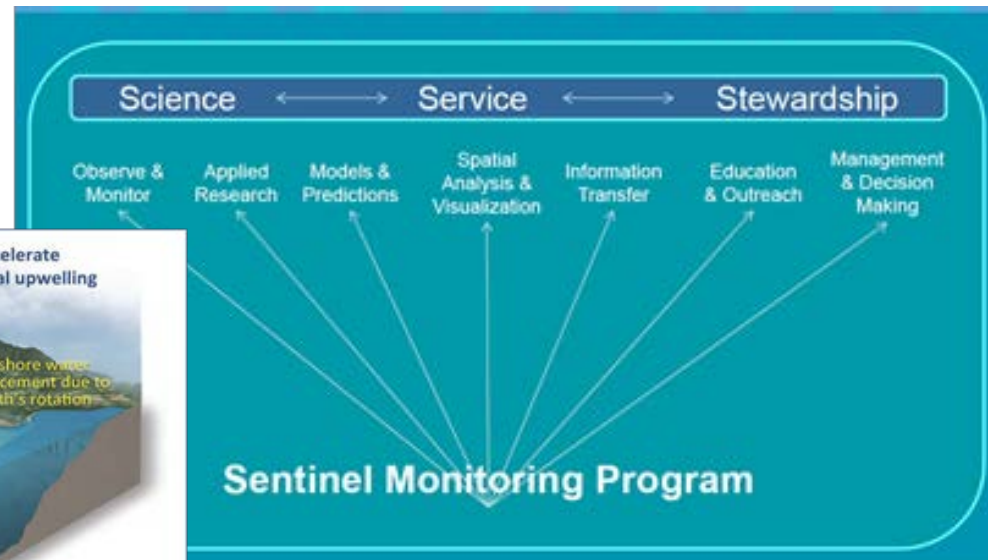
## Ocean Climate Indicators

A Monitoring Inventory and Plan for Tracking Climate Change in the North-central California Coast and Ocean Region



Report of a Working Group of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

OCNMS: as a sentinel site for ocean acidification.



# MBNMS Reviewing Three Desalination Projects – Carmel River Dam Removal

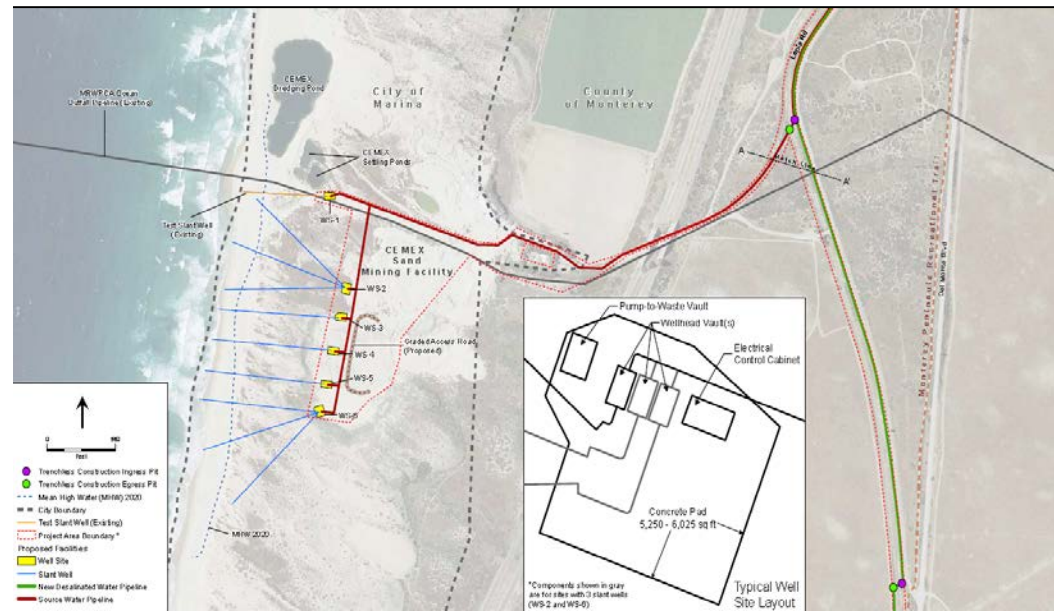


1. Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP)/CalAm proposes 9.6 MGD. Final EIR/S scheduled for release in spring 2018.
2. Monterey Bay Regional Water Project proposes 25 MGD.
3. People's of Moss Landing proposes 12 MGD.

- MPWSP project follows ONMS/NMFS/CA Coastal Commission guidelines:

- Subsurface slant wells for seawater/groundwater intake.
- Brine discharge through existing outfall using diffusers.

- Combined with Pure Water Monterey for groundwater replenishment.





# Sanctuaries Actively Conducting Habitat Research; Engaging with EFH Process



- Sanctuaries' goals: to better understand and protect benthic habitat in sanctuary ecosystems:
  - seafloor mapping;
  - visual surveys to further characterize habitat; and
  - engage in management processes to protect sensitive habitat while also consider opening closed areas to fishing.
- 2013: EFH proposals: MBNMS, GFNMS, and OCNMS.
- 2014: OCNMS (with state) withdraws EFH proposal and initiates the Habitat Framework process with Coastal Treaty Tribes.
- 2018: Awaiting action from PFMCC on EFH proposals.
- 2018 – 2020: Collaborating with NMFS and partners in NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program on west coast.



# Collaborating with NMFS and CDFW on Black Abalone Restoration



- Strong partnership with NMFS on abalone (black and white) recovery.
- Rescue and translocation of black abalone from Mud Creek to Piedras Blancas state MPA.
- Monthly surveys of slide location and MPA.

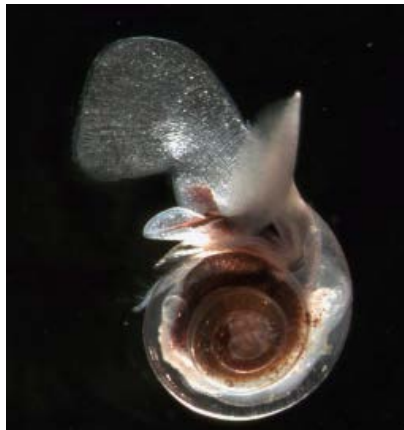
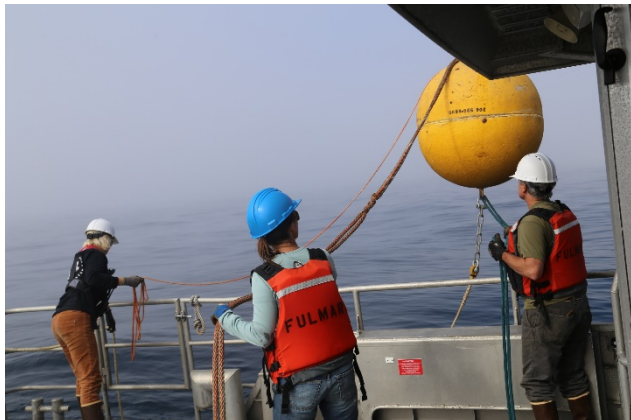


# Opportunities to Coordinate with NMFS and PFMC



Shared values and interests to sustain a healthy, resilient, and productive California Current ecosystem present opportunities to more closely coordinate and collaborate with each other:

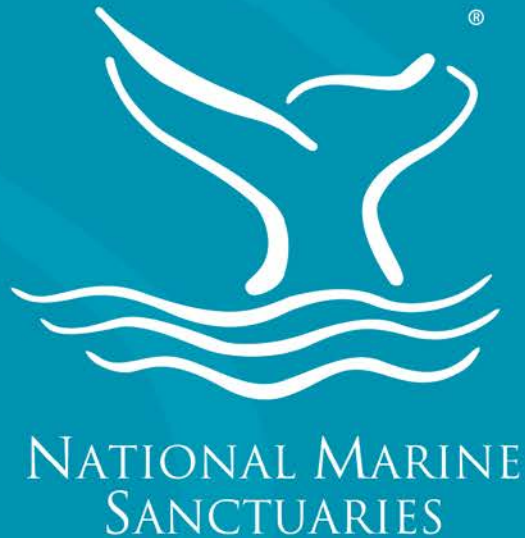
- Develop and use of NOAA IEA indicators.
- Climate change science, communications, and processes.
- Evaluation of industrial uses.
- Research and monitoring.
- Response and recovery of endangered species.





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

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>