

Agenda Item D.1.a
Supplemental NMS Presentation 1
April 2019

National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report



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

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



NMFS/ONMS/PFMC communication and coordination continuously improving

Third 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

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

Nominations Withdrawn

- Eubalaena Oculina (FL) 2nd submission
- Baltimore Canyon (MD)

Declined by NOAA

- Eubalaena Oculina (FL) 1st submission
- Aleutian Islands (AK)
- Chumash Heritage (CA) 1st submission
- SoCal Offshore Banks (CA)

Nomination Under Review

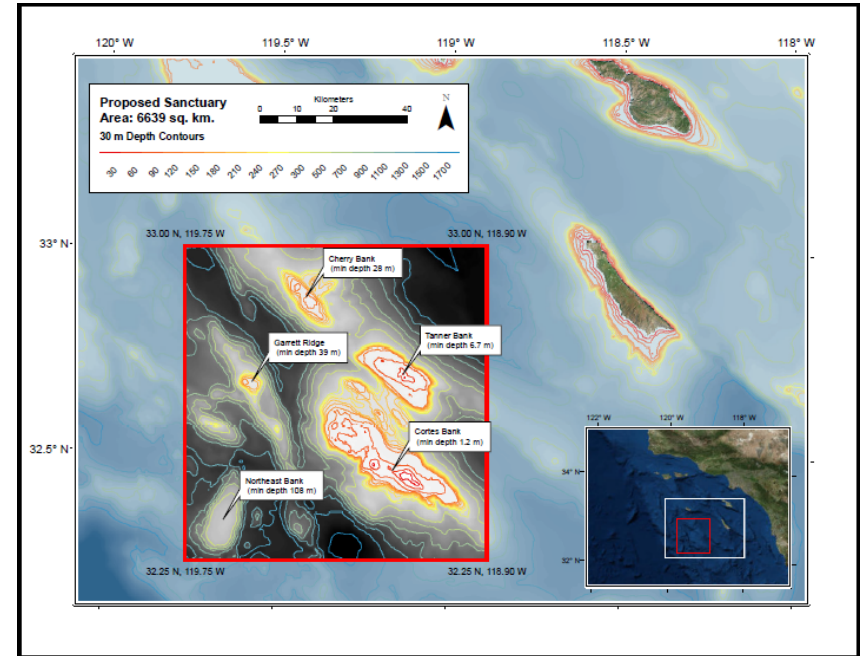
- Shipwreck Coast (MI)

Two Sanctuary Nominations Offshore California



Area Proposed for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary:

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



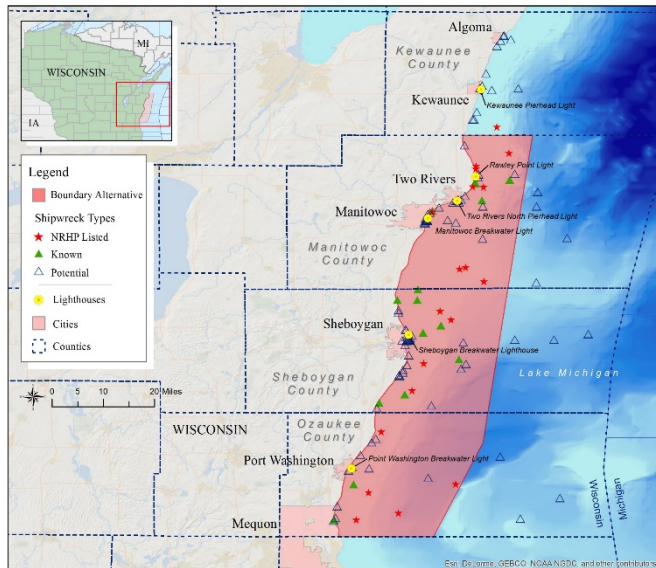
Area Proposed for So. Calif. Offshore Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

- Nomination found complete 2017
- Nomination declined in March 2018

Two Cultural Heritage Nominations in Inventory Undergoing Designation Process

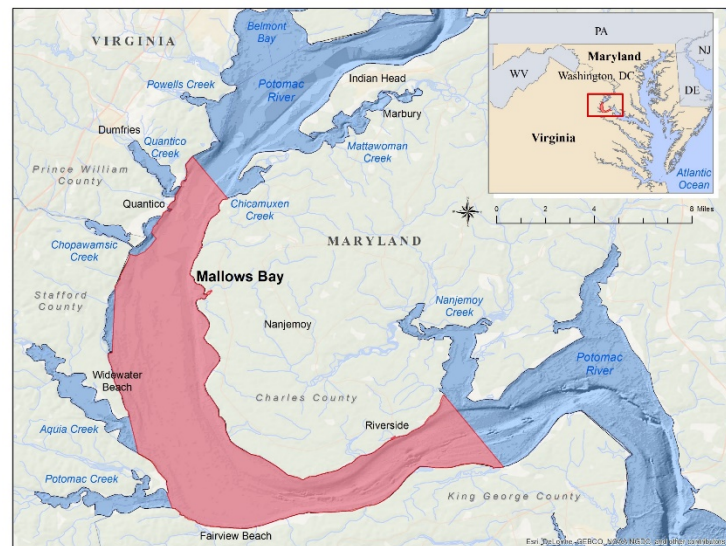


Lake Michigan (Wisconsin)
Purpose: conserve remains of ~ 37 known shipwrecks



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 for CINMS and OCNMS



- Condition reports precede management plans and are periodically updated and reviewed (5 – 10 year time line)
- Condition reports evaluate status and trends of sanctuary resources:
 - Update to past condition report
 - Integrate with partner processes
 - *Incorporate NOAA IEA indicators
 - *Use of confidence scores
- **CINMS** report in two parts: updated report in 2017; currently reviewing new ecosystem services section (est. release May 2019)
- **OCNMS**: partner/staff pre-brief in 2018; kick-off May 2019

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

Management Plan Reviews for MBNMS and CINMS



MBNMS Management Plan Review (MPR):

- **Programmatic Plans:** Education and Outreach; Research and Monitoring, etc.
- **New Action Plans:** Climate Change; Marine Debris; Coastal Erosion and Mgmt.
- **Minimal regulatory changes:**
 - Primarily definition changes to clarify legal intent
 - Allow for beneficial reuse of dredge material
- **Draft management plan and NEPA documents available summer 2019**

CINMS MPR:

- **Internal assessment:** conducted in 2017
- **Extensive public process:** will be initiated in summer 2019



Local Fishermen and CINMS Coordinate to Remove Lost Lobster Traps



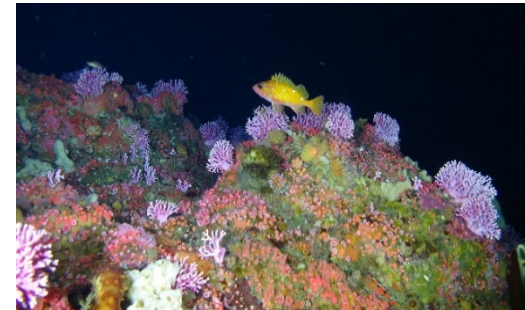
- Partnership to remove marine debris along CINMS shoreline
- Removed tons of plastic and metal debris in 2017 – 2018; > 60 traps
- Produced a film to educate lobster fisherman about best practices



Sanctuaries Engaging with EFH Process and Actively Conducting Benthic Habitat Research



- NOAA's 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
- **Amdt 28:** PFMC selected in 2018 the final preferred, which includes MBNMS and GFNMS proposals coordinated with fishermen
- **WCDSCI 2018 – 2020:** a focus is on collecting baseline information on management changes proposed by Amdt 28 (opening of closures and new closed areas)
- **Integrating with EXPRESS:** NOAA, BOEM and USGS and Ocean Exploration Trust



MBNMS Discovers Octopus Garden in Davidson Seamount Management Zone



- Octopus garden: novel discovery, October 2018 in partnership with OET aboard the R/V *Nautilus*
- Return visit: March 2019 with BBC Blue Planet Live
 - On southeastern rocky reef within DSMZ
 - Approximately 1,500 *Muusoctopus robustus*
 - Confirmed brooding in warm water seeps 9.9° C (ambient 1.6° C)
 - Area with coordinated protection using MSA and NMSA

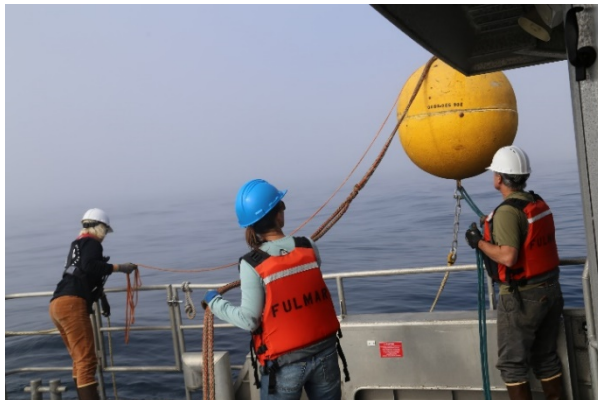


Opportunities to Coordinate with NMFS and PFMC

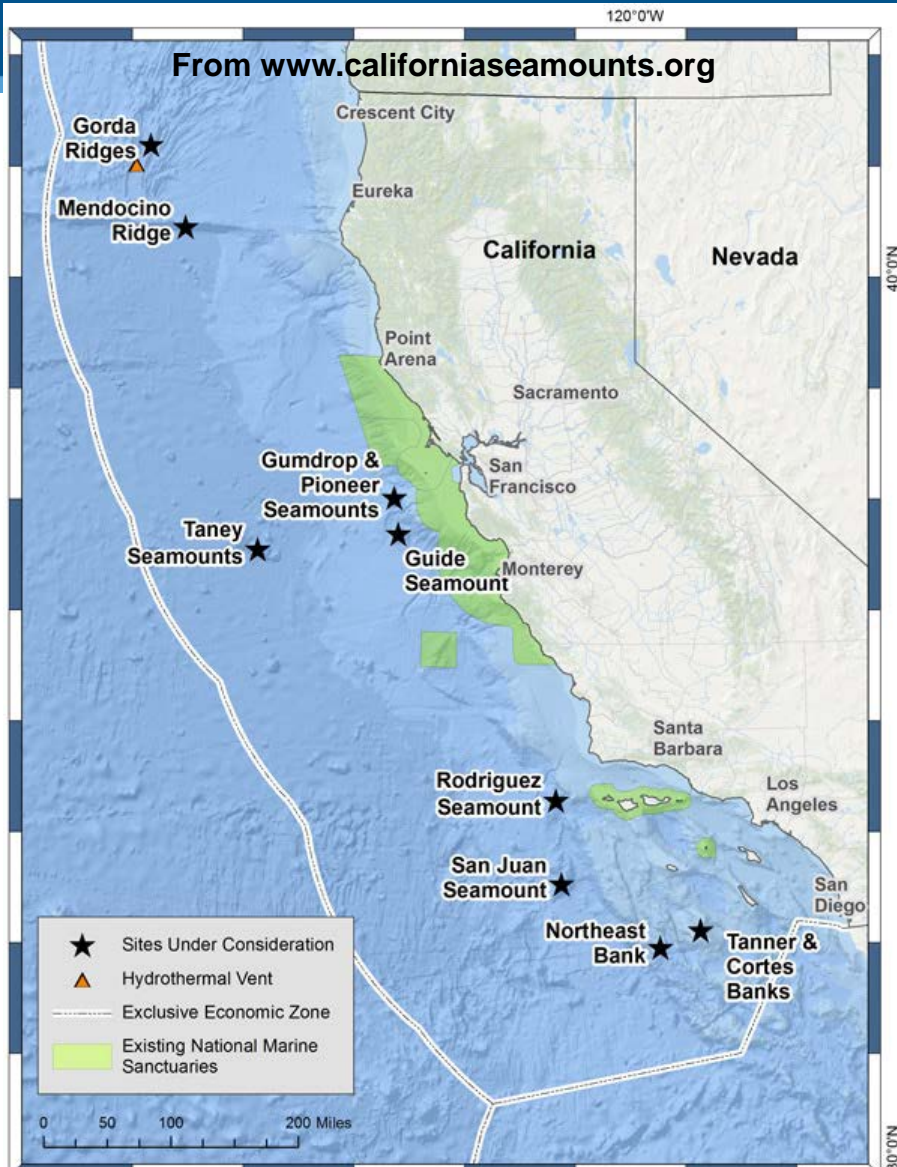


Shared values and interests to sustain a healthy, resilient, and productive California Current ecosystem:

- Develop and use of NOAA IEA indicators and tools
- Climate change science, communications, and processes
- Review of offshore industrial development
- Response and recovery of endangered species
- Research, monitoring and conservation of deep sea habitats, particularly corals



Collaborating to Protect California Seamounts



- Areas of high levels of endemism
- Deep sea oases
- Often highly productive
- Largely undisturbed, yet fragile
- Essential fish habitat – deep sea corals and sponges – yet rarely critical for fishing

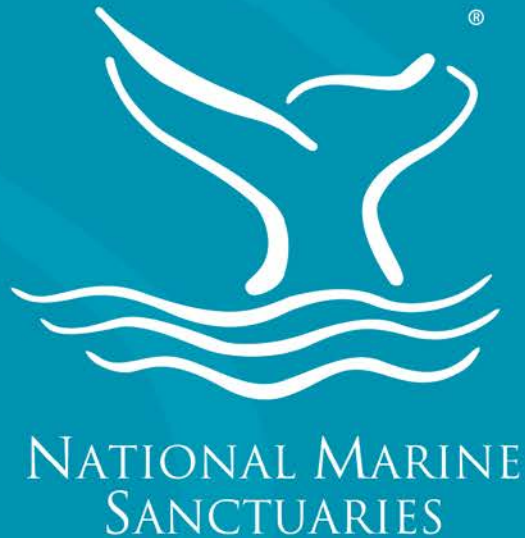
How to Protect?

- Antiquities Act – Marine Monuments
- Expand existing sanctuaries
- Propose/designate a California Seamounts Sanctuary



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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