National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report

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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

Olympic Coast
Greater Farallones
Cordell Bank
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Monterey Bay
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.) (Including Rose Atoll)
Wisconsin - Lake Michigan
Thunder Bay
Stellwagen Bank
Mallows Bay - Potomac River Monitor
Gray's Reef
Florida Keys
Flower Garden Banks

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

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

#### Declined by NOAA

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

#### Nominations Withdrawn

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

#### 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

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

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

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
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 9.9º C (ambient 1.6º 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

From www.californiaseamounts.org
More information at:
https://channelislands.noaa.gov/
https://montereybay.noaa.gov/
https://farallones.noaa.gov/
https://cordellbank.noaa.gov/
https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/
www.nominate.noaa.gov