

National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report



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West Coast Region

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Keeping PFMC Informed of Activities/Programs in West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries



NMFS/ONMS/PFMC communication and coordination continuously improving

Fourth annual ONMS written report covers the 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



Office of National Marine Sanctuaries National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Status of Sanctuary 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)

Designated

- Mallows Bay - Potomac River (MD)

Declined by NOAA

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

Designations in Process

- Lake Michigan (WI)
- Lake Ontario (NY)

Nominations Withdrawn

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

Nominations Under Review

- Shipwreck Coast (MI)

One Active Sanctuary Nomination Offshore California



Area Proposed for Chumash Heritage
National Marine Sanctuary:

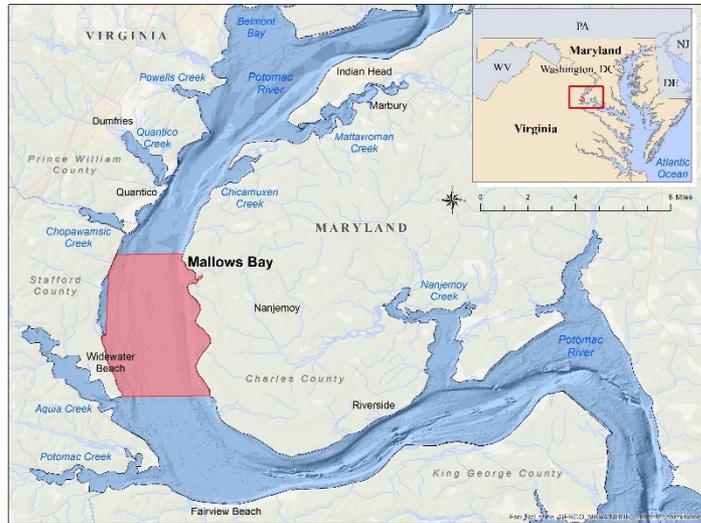
- Added to the inventory October 2015
- No plans presently to advance for designation

- Public process to update nomination in 2020
- Invite feedback from nominators
- Public workshops, likely May 2020
- Focus is on 11 nomination criteria and extent nomination is still relevant to those criteria

First Designation in ~ 20 years: Mallow's Bay – Potomac River (in MD)



Mallows Bay – Potomac River (Maryland)
Purpose: conserve remains of ~ 118 known WW I-era shipwrecks



Sanctuary is co-managed by NOAA,
Maryland, and Charles County

Condition Report Updates for OCNMS and CBNMS



- **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
- **OCNMS:** kick-off May 2019 to select indicators; 3-day workshop with partners in Jan. 2020 to identify status in trends in OCNMS
- **CBNMS:** staff briefed CBNMS Advisory Council on process in Feb. 2020

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:**
 - Allow for beneficial use of dredge material
 - Allow for use of motorized personal watercraft at Mavericks and better designed zones
- **Draft management plan and NEPA documents available Spring 2020**

CINMS MPR:

- **Published Notice of Intent:** Fall 2019
- **Extensive public process:** has begun, SAC deliberating on issues



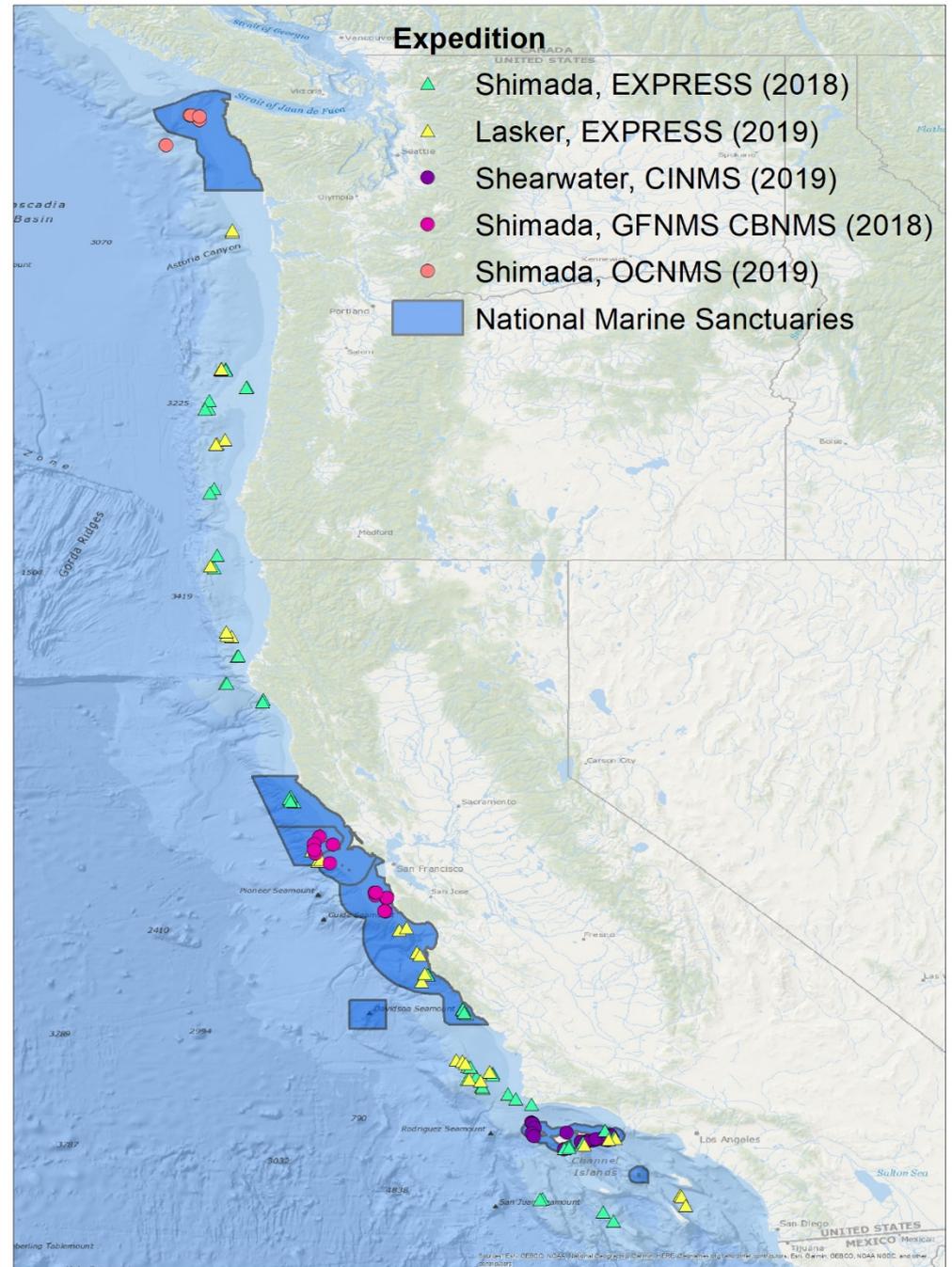
Sanctuaries Actively Conducting Benthic Habitat Research



- ONMS and NOAA goals: to better understand and protect benthic habitat in sanctuary ecosystems:
 - seafloor mapping;
 - visual surveys to further characterize habitat;
 - engage in management processes to protect sensitive habitat while also consider opening closed areas to fishing
- **Seafloor mapping:** integrating with **EXPRESS** (NOAA, BOEM, USGS, Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) etc.) to produce high resolution bathymetry of previously or newly mapped areas coast-wide
- **WCDSCI: 2018 – 2020: DSC cruises in 2019** focused on collecting baseline information for mgmt. changes proposed by Amdt 28 (opening and closing of EFH areas), and other WCDSCI goals – all CA sanctuaries



WC-Wide Coral Study Sites



MBNMS Returns to the Octopus Garden in Davidson Seamount Management Zone



- Octopus garden (*Muusoctopus robustus*): novel discovery in October 2018 in partnership with OET aboard the R/V *Nautilus*
- Return visits: March, August and October 2019
 - On southeastern rocky reef within DSMZ
 - Discovery of second octopus aggregation ~ 6 miles from first location
 - Confirmed brooding in warmer water: thermal mixing of warmer venting water through seeps: up to 10.4° C (ambient 1.6° C)
 - Area with coordinated protection using MSA and NMSA



Safe-Boating Film: *KNOW BEFORE YOU GO* Promotes Safety and Healthy Oceans



- When boats sink or run aground the public and environment are at risk
- Safe-boating film produced with funding from BoatUS
- Please help with distribution of the film, available on [BoatUS Foundation Youtube channel](#)



Opportunities to Collaborate – ONMS & PFMC “Family” (Fishermen, Managers, Scientists)



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 and seamount areas
- Education and outreach to boaters and fishermen



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



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