

Agenda Item C.1.a  
Supplemental ONMS Presentation 1  
March 2021

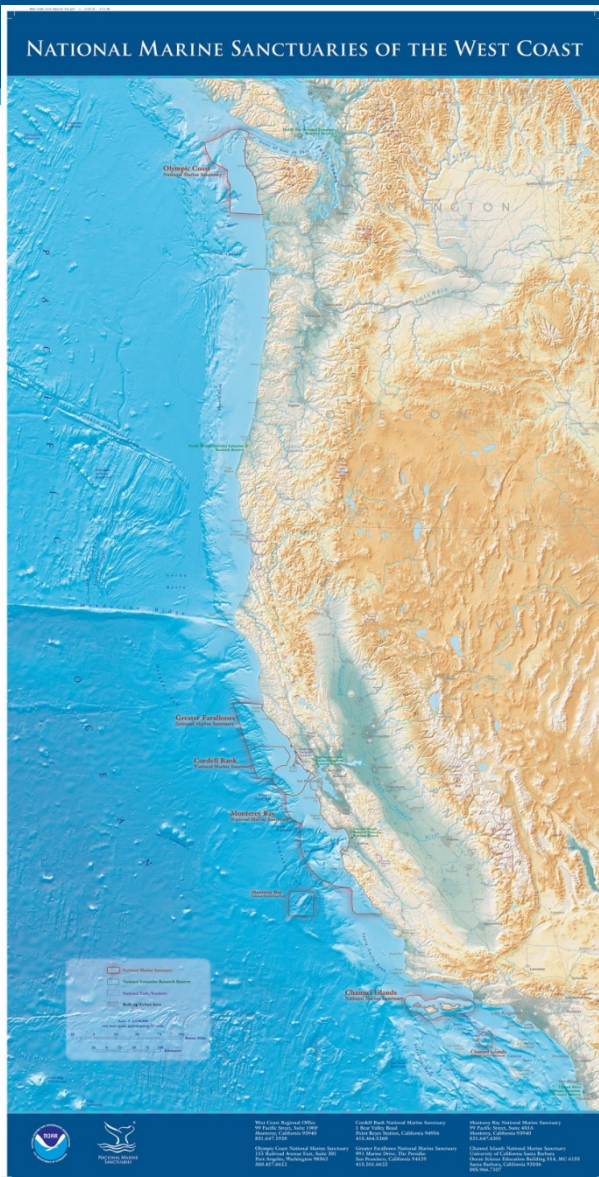
# National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report



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**West Coast Region**

**March 4, 2021**

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



NMFS/ONMS/PFMC communication and coordination continuously improving

Fifth annual ONMS report with following topics:

- Nominations
- Management plan review
- Habitat research

# 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)

## Designations in Process

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

## Nominations Under Review

- Shipwreck Coast (MI)

## Declined by NOAA

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

## Nominations Withdrawn

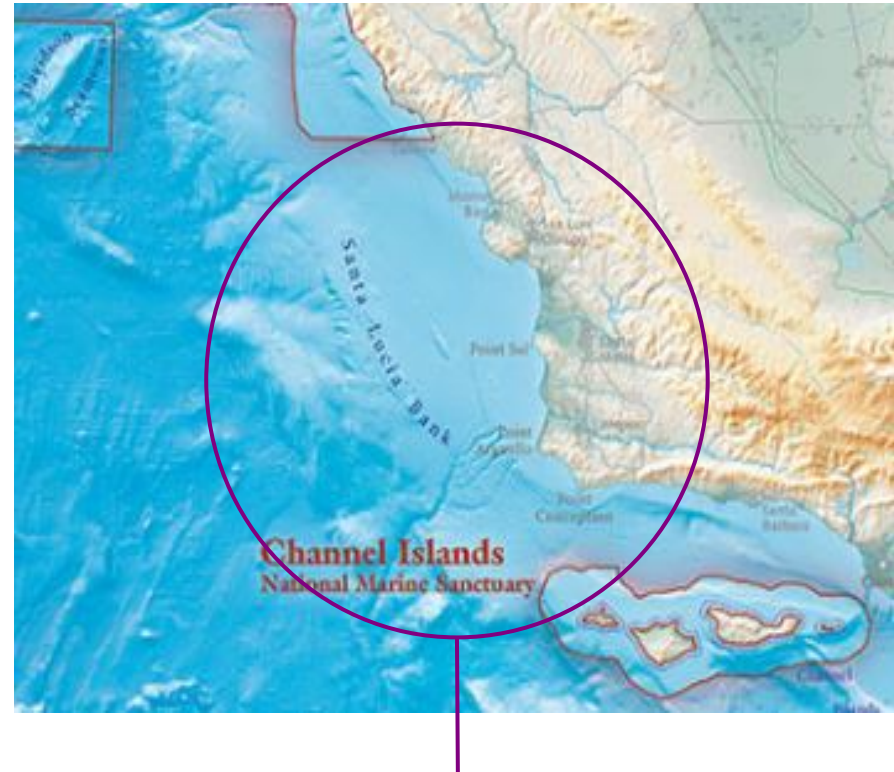
- Eubalaena Oculina (FL) 2<sup>nd</sup> submission
- Baltimore Canyon (MD)

# Five-Year Review of Nominations: CHNMS Remains on the Inventory



## Five-Year Review of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

- Added to inventory October 2015
- Reviewed the nomination's responsiveness to the 11 sanctuary nomination criteria in 2020
- Public process: 14,000 comments/signatures
- Technical report with updated information
- Nomination remains relevant and responsive to the 11 criteria
- CHNMS nomination extended for an additional five years until October 2025
- No active plans to advance towards designation



**Area Proposed as Chumash Heritage NMS**

# Condition Report Updates for OCNMS, CBNMS and GFNMS



- **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
- Each process collaborative with NMFS – use of IEA indicators
- New: evaluation of ecosystem services

- **OCNMS:** 2019 – 2021
- **CBNMS:** 2020 – 2022
- **GFNMS:** 2021 - 2023

<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

# Management Plan Reviews for MBNMS and CINMS



## MBNMS Management Plan Review (MPR):

- **New Action Plans:** Climate Change, Marine Debris, Coastal Erosion and Mgmt.
- **Minimal regulatory changes:**
  - Allow for beneficial use of dredge material for habitat restoration
  - Expand when motorized personal watercraft can operate at Mavericks; improve zone design
- **Final documents** expected summer 2021

## CINMS MPR:

- **Drafting New Action Plans:** Climate Change, Marine Debris, Introduced Species
- **Regulatory changes:** none proposed that directly or indirectly impact fisheries
- **Release of draft documents:** expected fall 2021 // winter 2022



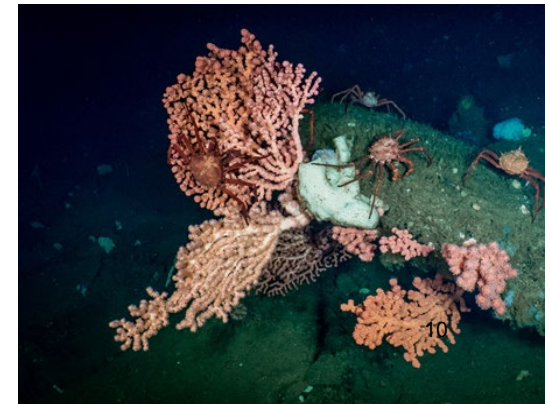


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# Sanctuaries Actively Conducting Benthic Habitat Research with Partners



- **Fortunate partnership with Ocean Exploration Trust: E/V *Nautilus***
  - Visual surveys to characterize habitat:
    - Deep sea coral and sponge research (WCDSCI)
    - EFH baseline monitoring (Amdt 28)
    - Deep sea habitat exploration in and near national marine sanctuaries
  - Additional high resolution seafloor mapping
  - Unique outreach to public to raise awareness of deep sea habitats
- **Strong partnership with NMFS deep sea fish and invertebrate experts**
- **Nearly all scientists conducted missions from home offices**



# Interagency Coordination and Public Comment – Offshore Wind

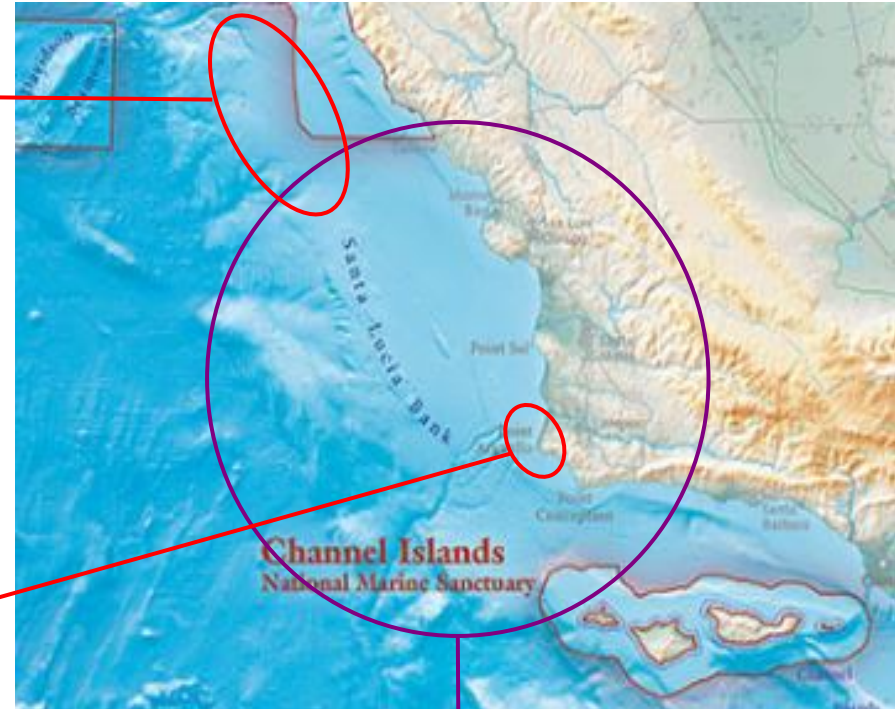


## Offshore Wind Group

- Organized by Rep. Carbajal
- Involves core agencies searching for a marine spatial solution
- Put forward a concept area
- Public comment period Summer 2020
- ONMS participated due to MBNMS and proposed CHNMS

## Nearshore Demonstration Projects

- Two separate developments proposed to CA
- CA State Lands Commission lead in review
- ONMS and NMFS coordinated on comments



**Area Proposed as Chumash Heritage NMS**

# Opportunities to Coordinate among 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; offshore renewables
- Response and recovery of endangered species, threatened habitats
- Research, monitoring and conservation of deep sea habitats, particularly corals
- Education and outreach to boaters, fishermen, and the public





