

National Marine Sanctuaries and the Sanctuary Nomination Process



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- A brief overview about what are National Marine Sanctuaries
- A summary of the Sanctuary Nomination Process
- A reflection on values

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



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



Multiple Species, Habitats, and Services

- Protection of diverse habitats – seafloor, rocky intertidal, open ocean – and their linkages
- Regulations target broad threats, such as oil/gas development or discharges
- Consideration of the interdependence of species; biodiversity matters
- Protection of multiple services and uses
- Protection of submerged maritime heritage



Resource Protection



- Maintains balance between ecology and sustainable uses over time
- Employs innovative, community based problem solving with a focus on non-regulatory solutions
- Regulations are customized to meet the needs, features of individual sanctuaries
- Enforcement of laws and regulations involves education first
- Violations enforced as civil penalties



Non-Regulatory Solutions



- Protecting marine water quality at the watershed level
- Reducing introduction and spread of non-native species
- Various programs to protect marine mammals
- Re-routing shipping traffic with industry support
- Using docents and signage to protect tidepools
- Working with cities and businesses to promote tourism



Fishing In Sanctuaries



- NMSA envisions protecting entire ecosystem, including fish; numerous sanctuary programs and regulations benefit fish and fishing
- Healthy fisheries demonstrate a healthy ecosystem, hence a healthy sanctuary
- If limits needed, extensive stakeholder/agency consultations take place – we seek action by state/fed fishery managers
- NOAA views NMSA and Magnuson-Stevens as compatible tools to protect ecosystems, allow sustainable fishing
- Numerous examples of successful collaboration between ONMS and Fishery Councils, and State fishery managers
- Most Sanctuaries have no fishing regulations



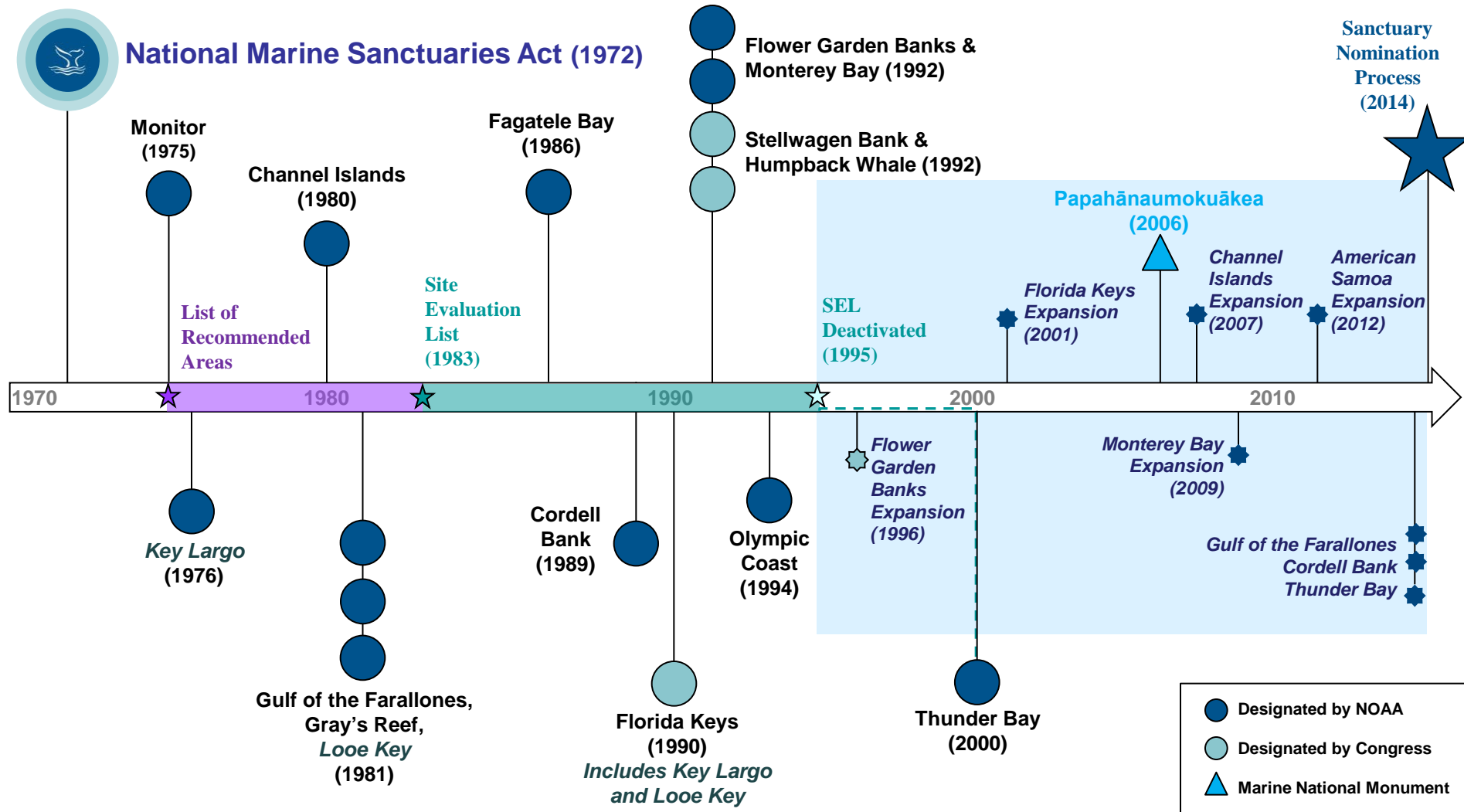
Sanctuary Advisory Councils



- 14 Councils; 390 members/alternates
- Advise site manager and provide a link to public and “users”
- Advisory Councils meet regularly; meetings open to the public
- Self-nominated, selected by NOAA to represent diverse stakeholders (e.g. conservation, business, fishing, science, education, recreation)
- Government agencies also sit on Advisory Councils



Sanctuary Nomination Process



Why Create a New Process?



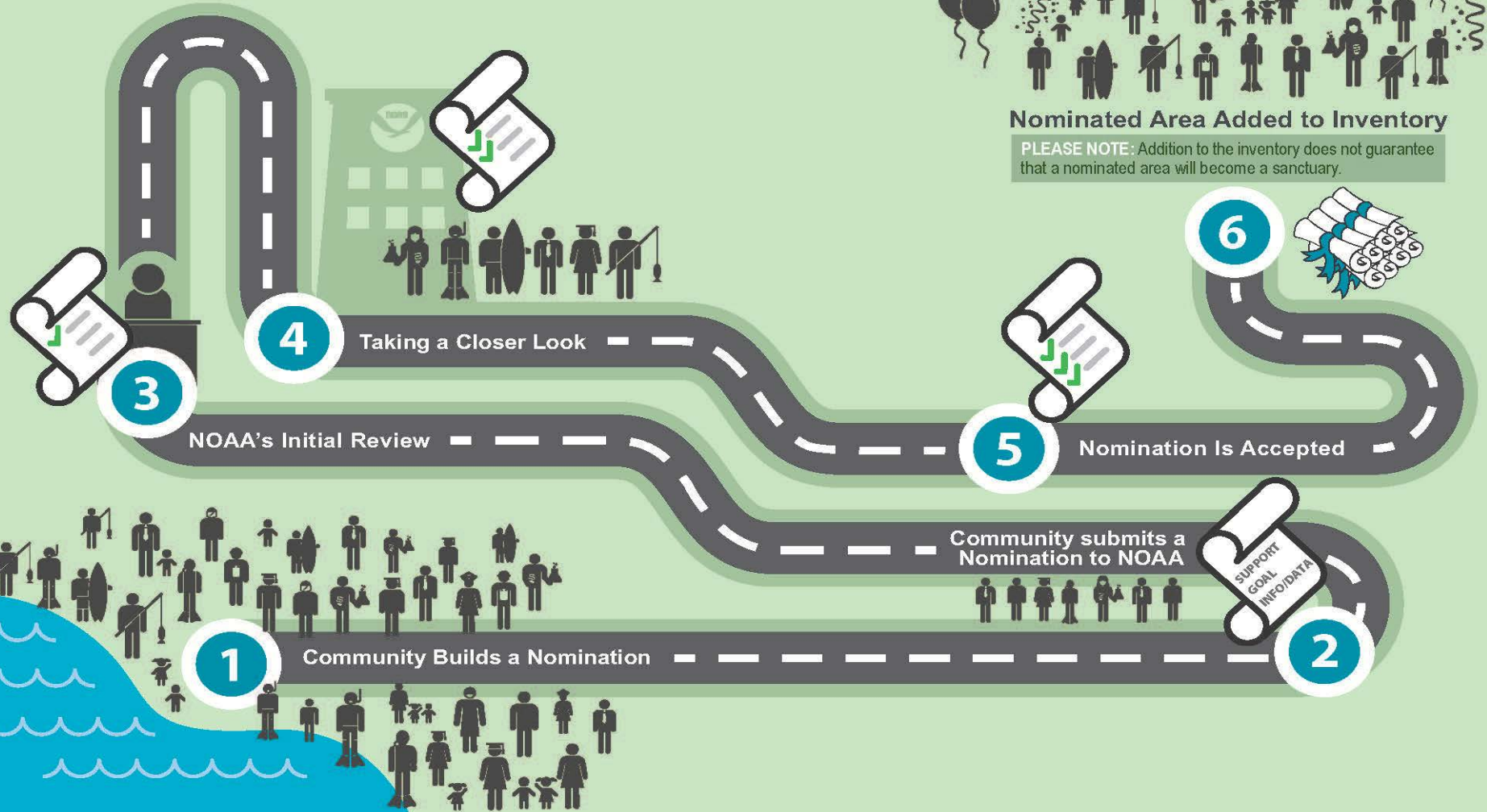
The Road to Nomination

For the first time in two decades, NOAA invites communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries.

In response to ongoing widespread interest from the public, NOAA has launched a new, locally driven sanctuary

nomination process developed with input from more than 18,000 public comments. Throughout the nomination process, NOAA will be available to answer questions and provide guidance to nominating communities and other interested parties. NOAA will also update nominators on the progress of the agency's review of their nomination.

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination is not the same thing as sanctuary designation. Designation occurs as a separate process that by law, is highly public and participatory and often takes several years to complete.



National Significance Criteria

(paraphrased)

1. The area's **natural resources and ecological qualities** are of special significance and contribute to (as examples):
 - maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages;
 - maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both.
2. The area contains **submerged maritime heritage** resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that (as examples):
 - individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
 - or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.
3. The area supports **present and potential economic uses**, such as: tourism; **commercial and recreational fishing**; **subsistence and traditional uses**; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.
4. The **publicly-derived benefits of the area**, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Management Considerations

(paraphrased)

1. The area provides or enhances **opportunities for research in marine science....**
2. The area provides or enhances **opportunities for education... .**
3. **Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities** threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.
4. A **national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value**
5. The **existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented** to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.
6. There are commitments or possible **commitments for partnership opportunities**
7. There is **community-based support for the nomination** expressed by a broad range of interests, such as: individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., friends of group, chamber of commerce); local, tribal, state, or national agencies; elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

Values Shared in Common



- Healthy natural resources support healthy coastal economies
- Critical for future generations to be able to enjoy the coast
- Innovation is a driver!
- Meaningful connections to the public
- Engage the public in managing coastal resources
- An informed public is an empowered public
- Communities matter and special places matter

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Healthy Natural Resources Support Healthy Coastal Economies



- Healthy ecosystems mean healthy fisheries
- At each sanctuary, coastal and ocean dependent economies valued at hundreds of millions of dollars depend on healthy sanctuary resources; tens of thousands of jobs (if not hundreds of thousands in some places)
- Our efforts are customized towards the economic drivers in a region
- SACs include business and/or tourism and recreation seats; National program has developed Business Advisory Council

Innovation is a driver!



- Marine spatial planning conducted on the scale of each national marine sanctuary
- Collaboration with businesses/recreation (e.g. Naturalist Corps on whale watching vessels)
- Use of social and video media
- Science tools such as detailed mapping, autonomous technologies
- Innovative partnerships (e.g. Community Access TV; Boeing Industries)

Connecting to and Engaging Communities to Sanctuaries



- Public involvement in critical actions
 - Management plan reviews, working groups for action plans
 - Expansions
 - Other regulatory and non-regulatory actions
- Sanctuary Advisory Councils
- Maritime Heritage / Maritime Cultural Landscapes
- Educational programming, at schools and with partners
- Conservation programs that involve partners, agencies, public
- Special events, oceans fairs, harbor festivals
- Special initiatives to connect with diverse cultures
- Visitor centers, exhibits, signage
- Volunteering

Do Oregon's Coastal Communities Share These Values?



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More details, including a nomination guide
and Q&As, are at:

www.nominate.noaa.gov



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