PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF HUDSON CANYON NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

- Olympic Coast
- Thunder Bay
- Lake Ontario
- Stellwagen Bank
- Hudson Canyon
- Mallows Bay-Potomac River
- Monitor
- Gray's Reef
- Florida Keys
- Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast
- Papahānaumokuākea
- Greater Farallones
- Cordell Bank
- Monterey Bay
- Chumash Heritage Channel Islands
- Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
- American Samoa (U.S.)
- Rose Atoll
In managing the sanctuary system, we seek to:

- conserve for future generations ocean and Great Lakes areas of special national significance
- strike a balance between resource protection and sustainable uses
- employ innovative, transparent, & community-based problem solving with a focus on non-regulatory solutions
- customize management actions to meet the needs and features of individual sanctuaries
- enhance our efforts through a diverse array of partnerships
- use the best available science in our decision-making
OUR MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Research & Monitoring
- Outreach & Engagement
- Maritime History & Heritage
- Volunteers
- Regulatory & Non-regulatory Programs
- Sanctuary Advisory Councils
- Recreation & Tourism
- Indigenous and Tribal Engagement
- Partnerships
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCILS

- Commercial Fishing
- Recreational Fishing
- Research
- Education/outreach
- Tourism
- Comm/Citizen at Lg
- Diving
- Government
- Conservation
- Business
- Recreation
- Youth
- Culture/Heritage
MONUMENTS VS. SANCTUARIES
NMSA SECTION 304(a)(5)

- Requires ONMS to “provide the appropriate Council or fishery management authority with the opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations as the Council may deem necessary to implement the designation”

- Councils or NMFS can
  1. recommend draft fishing regulations;
  2. recommend that fishing regulations are not necessary; or
  3. choose not to act on the matter

- We have started this process and will incorporate the Atlantic HMS Division’s analyses and recommendations into the DEIS
DESIGNATION PROCESS (3-5 YEARS)

Public Scoping Process
- 60 days for public to comment - closed August 8, 2022
- First phase of the process; ONMS begins to analyze and review public comments and develop our initial proposal

Development of Draft Documents
- Draft environmental impact statement & management plan
- Proposed rule
- Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Consultations
- Public review including public meetings

Final Stage
- Final environmental impact statement & management plan
- Final rule
THE HUDSON CANYON NOMINATION

- **November 2016** - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) submits nomination to NOAA

- **February 2017** - NOAA places nomination on inventory for potential sanctuary designation

- The WCS nomination states a sanctuary designation could:
  - support long-term conservation of marine wildlife and habitats
  - highlight and support sustainable economic uses of Hudson Canyon, including fishing
  - preclude uses such as oil, gas, and mineral extraction in the area
  - expand ocean education, outreach, monitoring and research programs in the area
  - bring together diverse organizations and provide a framework for local and regional partnerships.
ABOUT HUDSON CANYON

- ~100 miles southeast of New York City
- Largest submarine canyon along the Atlantic coast
- 7.5 miles wide, reaches depths of 2.5 miles
- Steep slopes, diverse sediments, flux of nutrients, areas of upwelling
- Ecological hotspot for a variety and abundance of marine life
- Indigenous culture and history
ABOUT HUDSON CANYON

- Nationally significant natural resources
  - Productive waters and habitats for many fish and invertebrates
- Threatened, endangered & protected species
  - Whales, turtles, deep sea corals
- Unique geological features
  - Rocky outcrops, boulders, and steep canyon walls
- Sense of place for coastal communities
- Maritime history and heritage
NOAA'S GOALS FOR THE PROPOSAL

- Support long-term conservation of the area’s marine wildlife, habitats, and maritime cultural resources
- Highlight and promote sustainable uses of the area
- Work to identify and raise awareness of Indigenous connections to the area
- Expand ocean science and monitoring in, and education and awareness of the area
- Provide a platform for collaborative and diverse partnerships that support effective and inclusive long-term management of the area
HUDSON CANYON NEXT STEPS

- No boundaries or management actions proposed at this early phase
- Topics to be addressed in the DEIS/Draft Management Plan
  - Boundary options that meet the goals of the proposed designation
  - Natural and cultural resources in the area under consideration
  - Indigenous and Tribal heritage of the area
  - Non-regulatory actions and regulatory framework most appropriate for management in the proposed sanctuary
  - A permanent name
- DEIS/Draft Management Plan published in about 12-16 months
Thank you for your time and input.

For more information about the proposed designation of the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary contact:

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