

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries



Sanctuary Nomination Process
June 2013

Background

Over the past several years, many communities, states and elected officials have requested NOAA consider new areas of the ocean and Great Lakes environment for sanctuary designation. Presently, NOAA has not process to formally consider such requests.

NOAA proposes to re-establish a site nomination process

History of sanctuary nominations



- First formal process developed in late 1970s

- Site Evaluation List(SEL) developed in 1983



- SEL included natural and historical marine resource sites

The National Marine Sanctuary System



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

Public Interest

Individuals; local, state and tribal governments; academic institutions; citizen groups; Sanctuary Advisory Councils; and non-governmental organizations from coastal communities around the country have requested NOAA, the Department of Commerce and the President to consider designating additional sanctuaries



Sanctuary Nomination Process

- ONMS is re-establishing the sanctuary nomination process
- This action would replace the inactive Sanctuary Evaluation List (SEL) with a new opportunity for local communities and other interested parties to provide NOAA with robust, criteria-driven proposals to consider areas for new national marine sanctuaries
- The proposed rule seeks public comment on the criteria NOAA would use to evaluate community-based nominations, and on the associated changes to ONMS regulations

Public Comment and Next Steps

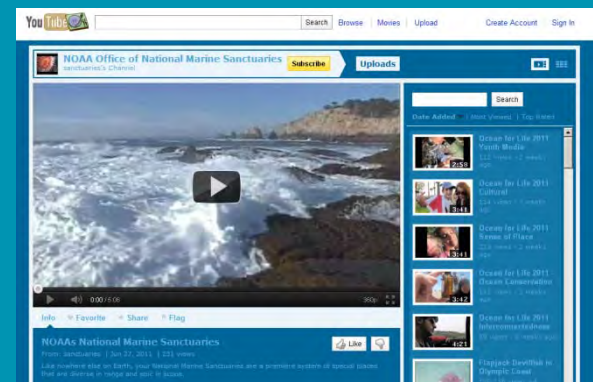
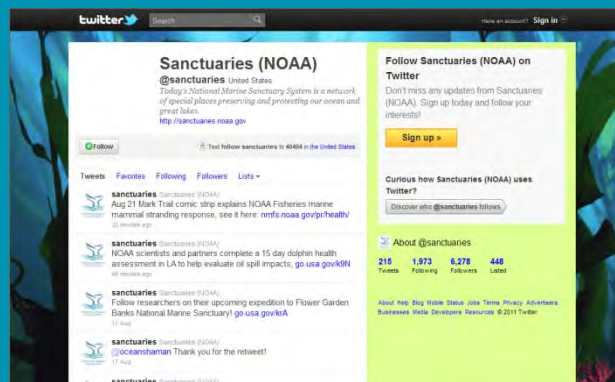
- NOAA is seeking public comment on the criteria and process by which the agency would analyze nominations ([See sanctuary website for the notice](#))
- Once the new process is final, NOAA will solicit nominations for areas to consider as new national marine sanctuaries
- New nominations do not equate to new sanctuary designations. Nominated areas will be reviewed by NOAA and separate decisions made as to which areas NOAA will advance for formal designation. Formal designation is a separate, highly public process that often takes years to complete.



For More Information...

Go to our website at www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov to see the notice and provide comment via regs.gov You can also follow developments on our social media pages shown below

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