



# **Potential Designation of Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary**

**Ecosystems and Ocean Planning  
Committee and Advisory Panel**

*July 21, 2022*

# Objective

- Provide input to the Council to inform scoping and other future comments on potential designation of Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

# Background

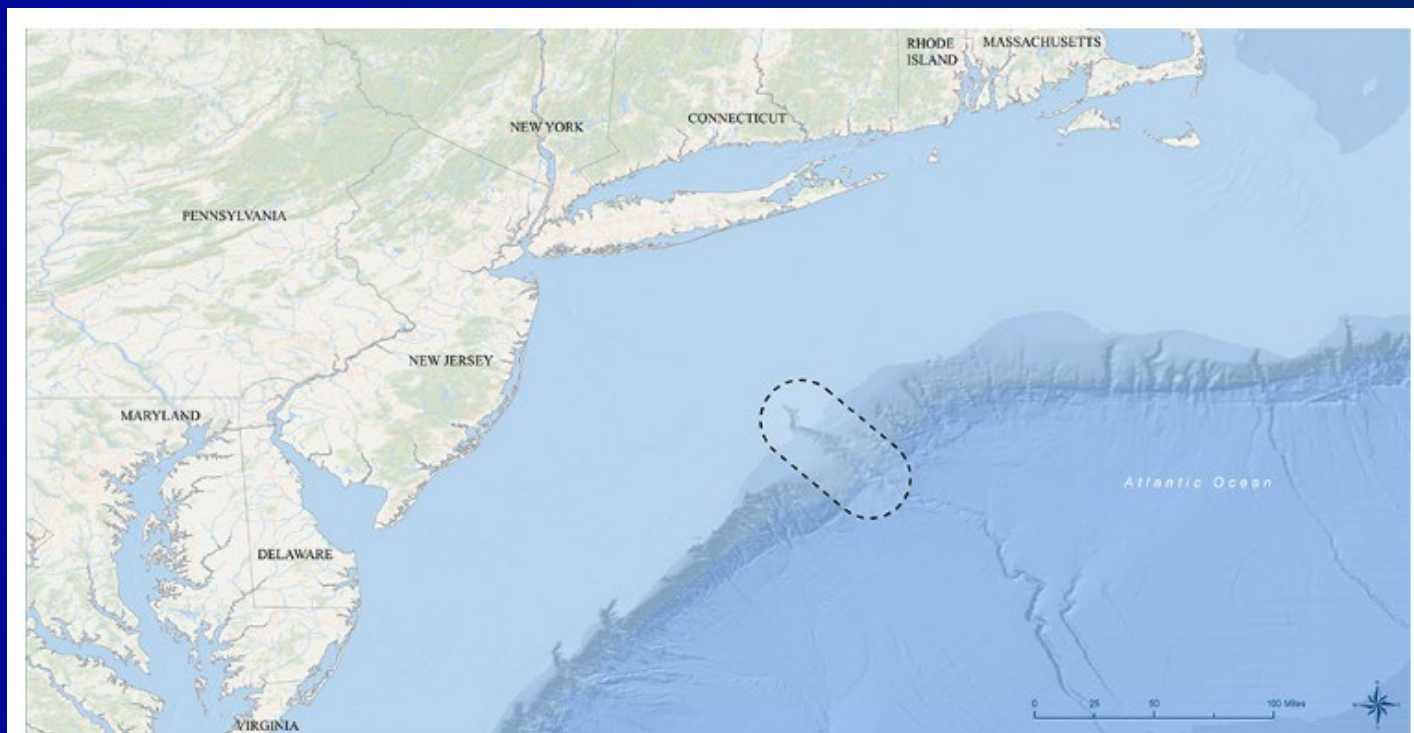
- 2014: NOAA re-establishes process for allowing community nominations for sanctuary designations
- Feb. 2017: Hudson Canyon added to inventory of possible future sanctuaries in after successful 2016 nomination by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Area has since remained on the inventory of possible sanctuaries (reviewed in early 2022 as part of required 5-year re-evaluation against inventory criteria)

# Background

- June 8, 2022: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) announced scoping process to consider designation of Hudson Canyon as a national marine sanctuary

# General Area Under Consideration

- No boundary currently proposed by NOAA; figure below references general area



This visual is for reference only and does not represent an official boundary proposal from NOAA. Credit: NOAA

# General Area Under Consideration

- Original nomination (WCS 2016) included boundary below as starting point for further development

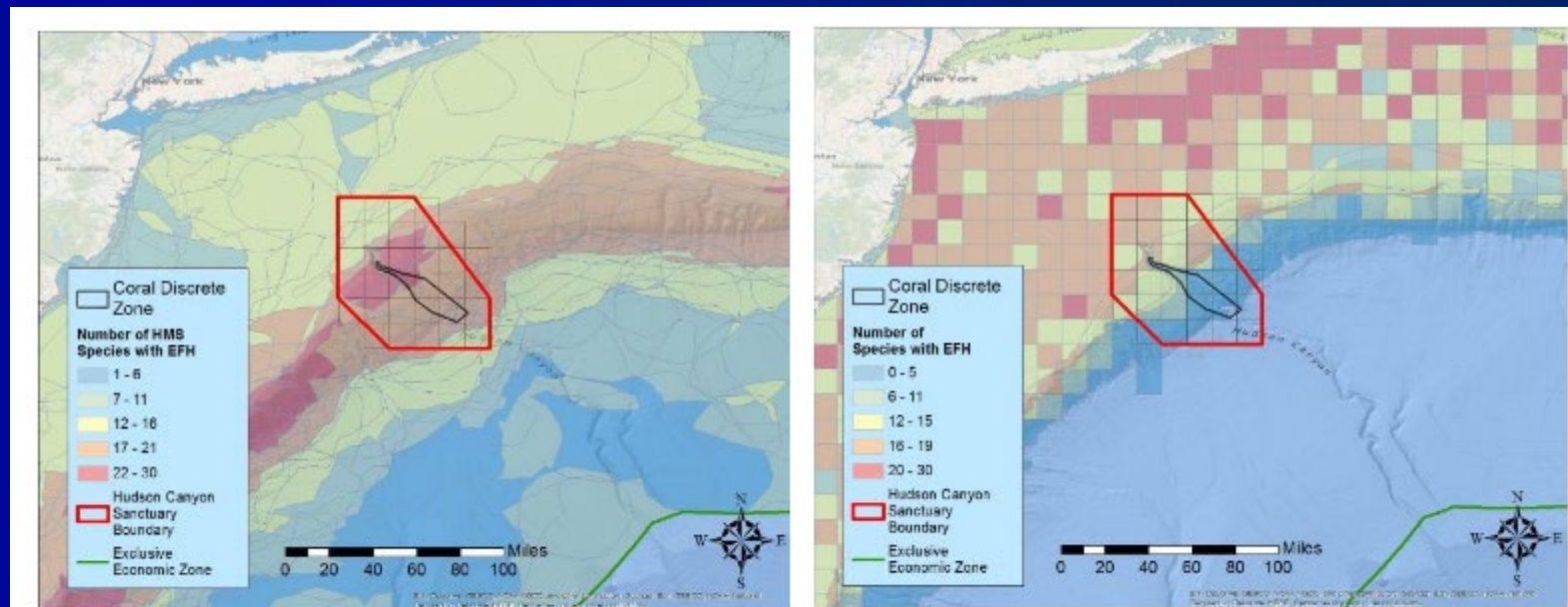


Figure 1. Number of species that have designated essential fish habitat in the proposed sanctuary boundaries including highly migratory species (left) and 39 species under federal management in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast (right) (MARCO 2016).



# Sanctuary Designation Process

- **Current step:** accepting scoping comments through Aug. 8, 2022
- 2 virtual and 2 in person hearings July 19-Aug 3



**SCOPING:** NOAA announces its intent to designate a new national marine sanctuary and asks the public for input on potential boundaries, resources that could be protected, issues NOAA should consider and any information that should be included in the resource analysis.



**SANCTUARY PROPOSAL:** NOAA prepares draft designation documents including a draft management plan, draft environmental impact statement that analyzes a range of alternatives, proposed regulations and proposed boundaries. NOAA may also form an advisory council to help inform the proposal and focus stakeholder participation.



**PUBLIC REVIEW:** The public, agency partners, tribes and other stakeholders provide input on the draft documents. NOAA considers all input and determines appropriate changes.



**SANCTUARY DESIGNATION:** NOAA makes a final decision and prepares final documents. Before the designation becomes effective, the Governor reviews the documents. Congress also has the opportunity to review the documents.

# Sanctuary Designation Process

- **No specific boundaries, regulations, or management plan currently proposed**
- Draft designation documents will be developed including draft management plan, proposed regulations, and proposed terms of designation
- A range of alternatives will be considered including no action



# Request for Scoping Comments

- Accepting all relevant comments, but seeking comments specifically on:
  - Boundary options
  - Location, nature, and value of natural and cultural resources in the area
  - Specific threats to these resources
  - Information on Indigenous Tribes and Nations' heritage and connections to the area
  - The non-regulatory actions (e.g., education or research programs) NOAA should prioritize within its draft management plan for the proposed sanctuary
  - The regulations most appropriate for management of the proposed sanctuary
  - The benefits to the "Blue Economy" of the region, including promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation
  - A permanent name for the proposed sanctuary

# Consultation with Councils Under NMSA

- National Marine Sanctuaries Act requires NOAA to consult with relevant Councils on fishing regulations during designation (separate from scoping)
- Councils have opportunity to prepare draft regulations for fishing (additional fishing regulations under Sanctuaries Act) if they deem necessary
- Council requested to provide response by Dec. 31, 2022

# Sanctuary Advisory Councils

- Community-based advisory groups which provide advice and recommendations to superintendents of sanctuaries
- Variety of stakeholder interests, e.g., conservation, education, fishing, research, tourism, recreation, etc.
- Pre-Designation Sanctuary Advisory Council is possible: could inform development of boundaries and management

# Council Comments: 2017

- Sent after Hudson Canyon was added to inventory of possible sanctuaries
- Council supported conservation objectives, particularly protection from offshore energy development
- However, did not support sanctuary designation due to concerns about retaining management authority for fisheries in the sanctuary

# Council Comments: 2017

- Primary concern: uncertainty with retaining management authority through designation and into the future
  - Nominators recommended and continue to recommend that authority remain with Councils/Commission/NMFS; however, not guaranteed until designation finalized
  - Could potentially change in the long term (would require another long public process, but possible)

# Council Comments: 2017

- Highlighted example of transparent/collaborative management in the area via designation of deep sea coral zones (2015) including carefully negotiated boundaries for Hudson Canyon zone

# Council Scoping Comments: 2022

- Should the Council's recommendation continue to be that Hudson Canyon should **not** be designated as a sanctuary, or should the Council support designation?
- What other comments should the Council provide on the specific topics requested in scoping (boundaries, management program, etc.) or related issues?



# Council Scoping Comments: 2022

- How might the Council highlight the importance of Hudson Canyon to MAFMC fisheries/stakeholders?
  - Requested NMFS GARFO conduct revenue/landings analysis in the area
  - Given lack of proposed boundary, used original WCS nomination area for this initial analysis
  - Full reports linked in briefing materials

# Commercial Revenue Assessment

- Commercial revenue, 2008-2020, from original nominated area

Table 3.2 Thirteen Year Total Revenue, Most Impacted Species, Hudson Sanctuary WCS proposal area MAFMC June 2022

Species	Thirteen Year Revenue
Sea Scallop	\$117,915,000
Longfin Squid	\$50,080,000
Summer Flounder	\$29,604,000
Golden Tilefish	\$23,109,000
Scup	\$9,943,000
Black Sea Bass	\$8,763,000
Silver Hake	\$8,512,000
American Lobster	\$5,927,000
Illex Squid	\$3,947,000
Atlantic Mackerel	\$2,445,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$260,246,000</b>

# Recreational For-Hire Landings Assessment

- For-hire fish counts, 2008-2020, from original nominated area

Table 1.1 Management Categories Fish Count, Hudson Sanctuary Wcs Proposal Area Mafmc June 2022

Management Categories	Thirteen Year Fish Count
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP	115,793
No Federal FMP	28,080
Highly Migratory Species FMP	13,479
Northeast Multispecies FMP	9,863
Bluefish FMP	6,658
Golden and Blueline Tilefish FMP	6,116
All Others	5,641
ASMFC Interstate FMPs	282
Other Federal FMP	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,925</b>

# Council Scoping Comments: 2022

- Regarding future comments for consultation, what should the Council consider when making a recommendation on whether additional fishing regulations would be needed for a sanctuary?
- Should the Council support formation of a pre-designation Sanctuary Advisory Council?

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# BACKUP

# NOAA's Goals for Sanctuary

From June 8 FR

- Support conservation of the area's marine wildlife, habitats, and maritime cultural resources;
- Work closely with Tribal partners to identify and raise awareness of Indigenous connections to the area;
- Highlight and promote sustainable uses of the area;
- Expand ocean science and monitoring in, and education and awareness of the area; and
- Provide a platform for collaborative and diverse partnerships that support effective and inclusive long-term management of the area.



# Purpose and Need for Sanctuary Designation

From June 8 FR

- Develop coordinated and collaborative marine science, education and outreach, and cultural heritage programs to assist in promoting and managing the area's nationally significant resources;
- Highlight the many diverse human activities, cultural connections and maritime heritage of the area, from the Indigenous communities to existing activities in the area;
- Respond to community interest in conserving the natural environments, wildlife and cultural resources of this area; and
- Provide additional conservation and comprehensive ecosystem-based management to address threats to the area's nationally significant resources.

# Purposes of Sanctuary Program – From NMSA

PURPOSES AND POLICIES.—The purposes and policies of this chapter are-

- (1) to identify and designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment which are of special national significance and to manage these areas as the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- (2) to provide authority for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management of these marine areas, and activities affecting them, in a manner which complements existing regulatory authorities;
- (3) to maintain the natural biological communities in the national marine sanctuaries, and to protect, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes;
- (4) to enhance public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and wise and sustainable use of the marine environment, and the natural, historical, cultural, and archeological resources of the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- (5) to support, promote, and coordinate scientific research on, and long-term monitoring of, the resources of these marine areas;
- (6) to facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities;
- (7) to develop and implement coordinated plans for the protection and management of these areas with appropriate Federal agencies, State and local governments, Native American tribes and organizations, international organizations, and other public and private interests concerned with the continuing health and resilience of these marine areas;
- (8) to create models of, and incentives for, ways to conserve and manage these areas, including the application of innovative management techniques; and
- (9) to cooperate with global programs encouraging conservation of marine resources.