

Proposed Hudson Canyon Sanctuary Update

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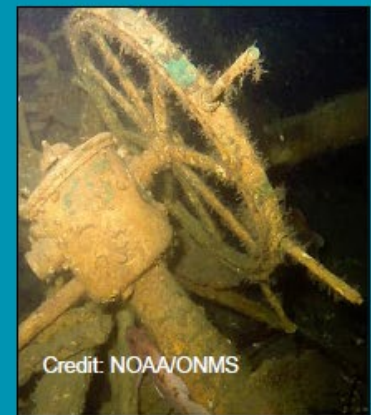


New England
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ABOUT HUDSON CANYON



- 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



THE HUDSON CANYON NOMINATION



- **February 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.



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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
- No boundaries or management actions proposed at this early phase; will be published as part of a DEIS in 12-16 months time

DESIGNATION PROCESS (3-5 YEARS)



Public Scoping Process

- 60 days for public to comment - closes August 8, 2022
- First phase of the process; NOAA begins to analyze and review public comments and questions and shape our initial proposal

Development of Draft Documents

- Draft environmental impact statement
- Draft management plan & proposed rule
- Intergovernmental and stakeholder consultations
- Public review including public meetings

Final Stage

- Final environmental impact statement
- Final management plan & rule



Section 304(a)(5)

- Requires ONMS to “provide the appropriate Council with the opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations as the Council may deem necessary to implement the designation”
- Council can recommend draft fishing regulations; recommend that fishing regulations are not necessary; or choose not to act on the matter

Proposed Plan

- Summarize current measures
- Review management to determine if additional measures necessary to meet Sanctuary goals
- Prepare letter to ONMS with conclusions for Council approval in January

Questions?