Proposed Hudson Canyon Sanctuary Update

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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.
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?