

does not imply that designation will occur.

#### List of Recommended Areas

The following sites have been placed on the LRA. The abbreviations of the adjacent States are given in parentheses solely for the purpose of facilitating site identification. This identification does not imply that the site lies within the State's territorial sea.

#### East Coast

Hampton Harbor Estuary (NH), Jeffrey's Ledge and Isles of Shoals (NH), Stellwagen Bank (MA), Nantucket Shoals (MA), Coral/Hydrographer Canyon (MA), Coral/Oceanographer Canyon (MA), Coral/Lydonia Canyon (MA), Coral/Corsair Canyon (MA), Georges Bank (MA), Narragansett Bay (RI), Ninigret Pond (RI), 12 Miles SE of Fire Island Inlet (NY), Tinicum Marsh (PA), Tinicum Island (PA), Barrier Beach Inlets (NJ), Hudson Canyon (NJ), Great Bay/Mullica River Estuary (NJ), Offshore Sand Ridges/Basins (NJ), Shipwrecks (NJ), Coral/Wilmington Canyon (DE/MD), Coral/Baltimore Canyon (MD), Assateague Island Seashore (MD/VA), Virginia Barrier Islands and Bays (VA), Coral/Washington Canyon (VA), Coral/Norfolk Canyon (VA), Alcyonarian Coral Tree Area in Norfolk Canyon (VA), Beaufort Estuary/Island Sites (NC), North Edisto River and Estuary (SC), Skidaway Island (GA).

#### Great Lakes

Monroe Harbor Area (MI).

#### Gulf Coast and Caribbean

Big Bend Seagrass Beds (FL), Florida Middle Ground (FL), Buccaneer Field (TX), Carlos, Mesquite and Ayres Bays (TX), Espiritu Santo Bay (TX), Harbor Island-Redfish Bay (TX), Salt River, St. Croix (VI), Mona/Monito Islands (PR), Culebra Island/Cordillera Reef/Vieques (Bioluminescent Bay) (PR), Caha de Muertas (PR), La Parquera (PR), Desecheo Island (PR), Salinas/Jobos (PR).

#### West Coast and Hawaii

Southern California Right Queets/Kalalock to Neah Bay (CA), Nisqually Delta (WA), Thorndyke Bay and Hood Canal (WA), Padilla and Skagit Bays (WA), Willapa Bay (WA), North Coast Rookeries (CA), Mendocino Offshore (CA), Tanner/Cortes Banks (CA), San Diego Canyons (CA), San Nicholas Island (CA), Waters off San Diego (CA), Waters off Maui (HA).

#### Alaska

Beaufort Sea, Bering Straits, Yukon Delta-Kuskokwim Bay, Bristol Bay, Anagula Island, Pribilof Islands and Shelf Break, Unimak Pass, Gulf Coast of Alaska Peninsula including Kodiak Islands, Barren Island Areas, Lower Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay, Tuxedni Bay, Prince William Sound-North Gulf of Alaska.

#### List of Active Candidates

(1) Flower Garden Banks (off Louisiana and Texas), (2) The Northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara

Island (off California), (3) Monterey Bay (off California), (4) Point Reyes/Farallon Islands (off California), (5) Looe Key (off Florida), (6) St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, (7) Gray's Reef (off Georgia).

Dated: October 25, 1979.

Francis J. Balint,

Acting Director, Office of Management and Computer Systems.

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#### Announcement of Removal of Georges Bank From List of Active Candidates for Marine Sanctuary Designation

**AGENCY:** Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Administrator for OCZM has determined that the site on Georges Bank nominated for marine sanctuary designation should not continue to be an Active Candidate. The basis for this determination is the fact that the ability of existing regulatory mechanisms to protect fully the values of the Lease Sale 42 area, the area most immediately threatened, has been significantly increased and it appears more likely that sufficient effort will be devoted to protection there without creating a sanctuary. Sites in the general area will continue to be studied as possible Active Candidates.

Discussion: On May 10, 1979, the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association and others nominated an area encompassing the entire Georges Bank for designation as a marine sanctuary. On August 10, 1979, OCZM named the area an Active Candidate (44 FR 47132) and at the same time, published a Notice of Availability of an Issue Paper and a schedule of Public Workshops for August 22, 23, and 24 in New England (44 FR 47132). Comments received in response to the Issue Paper and at the Public Workshops indicate that the only threat which would require sanctuary regulations at this time is oil and gas development, in particular Lease Sale 42, scheduled for November 6, 1979.

On September 21, 1979, following the workshops, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agreed on a variety of safeguards to increase the protection of the rich biological resources of the Bank and their habitats from risks associated with Lease Sale 42. These safeguards include the following:

- The Department of the Interior will delete from the forthcoming lease sale 12 tracts located near the Lydonia and Powell Canyon heads along the southern edge of Georges Bank, containing important communities of lobster, coral, and other bottom dwelling organisms which would be adversely affected by drilling activities;

- A NOAA/EPA/DOI Biological Task Force for Georges Bank will be established to assess the effects of oil and gas development and recommend whatever measures are necessary to assure protection of the ecosystem and fisheries of the Bank;

- NOAA will review exploration and development and protection and production plans with respect to endangered species;

- The lessee will be required to maintain on-site pollution control equipment at both the exploration and development stages;

- Lease stipulations will require:

- Special surveys, studies and sampling for areas with biological populations or habitats which may require additional protection;

- Safe disposal of drill cuttings, drill muds and formation waters.

OCZM believes that these measures have significantly increased the ability of existing regulatory mechanisms to protect the values of the area most immediately threatened and make it more likely that sufficient effort will be devoted to such protection. In light of these measures, the belief expressed by a majority of commentators that oil and gas operations could proceed with adequate safeguards, and the comparatively lower risks associated with drilling in this area as opposed to other areas of the Bank, designation of a sanctuary to include the area is not an immediate priority. OCZM will continue to study the desirability of designating areas outside the Lease Sale 42 area, both on the Bank and adjacent to it.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** JoAnn Chandler, Acting Director, Sanctuary Program Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, Page Building I, 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235 (202/634-4236).

Dated: October 24, 1979.

Francis J. Balint,

Acting Director, Office of Management and Computer Systems.

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#### Office of the Secretary

#### National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program; Public Hearing

The Department of Commerce will hold an informal public hearing on the proposed criteria for accrediting testing laboratories that test carpet. This hearing is being held at the request of