

OUR VISION FOR AMERICA'S TREASURED OCEAN PLACES

A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Draft Strategy

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is soliciting public input on a draft strategy to direct national and local efforts in the protection of America's underwater parks. Titled *Our Vision for America's Treasured Ocean Places: A Five-Year Strategy for the National Marine Sanctuary System*, the plan is designed to set a five-year course for managing some of the nation's most amazing ocean and Great Lakes places.

We built the document not to capture everything we do but to address **four principal needs**:

1. To convey to the American public our priorities over the next five years;
2. To enhance focus and inspire our staff;
3. To affirm our core values as an organization; and
4. To deliver on NOAA's responsibilities as stewards of nationally significant ocean places.

We are committed to having our team and partners recognize the goals set out in the final document and, more importantly, their role in helping to achieve them. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on our proposed direction and to finalize the document in the coming months.

Public Input

Comments will be accepted through **April 30, 2017**, via email or mail.



Email to:
strategic.sanctuaries@noaa.gov



Mail to:
Strategic Planning Coordinator
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway (N/NMS)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

The goals and objectives are the heart of the document and frame what actions we plan to take through 2022.

GOAL 1

ENSURE THRIVING SANCTUARIES AND OTHER OCEAN PARKS.

- Reduce threats to key species and marine habitats.
- Protect significant maritime heritage resources.
- Promote responsible human uses.
- Promote resilience and adaptation.

GOAL 2

SAFEGUARD MORE UNDERWATER TREASURES AS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

- Incorporate additional nationally significant resources into existing sanctuaries.
- Implement designation processes for new areas.
- Identify additional resources of national significance.

GOAL 3

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR SANCTUARIES

- Expand recognition of national marine sanctuaries.
- Increase sanctuary engagement.
- Create a vision for the next 50 years of sanctuaries.

GOAL 4

DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SANCTUARIES.

- Learn more about our sanctuaries.
- Track and predict conditions and trends.
- Understand the value of sanctuaries to our nation.

GOAL 5

ENSURE THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK.

- Encourage a culture of collaboration, inclusion, and respect.
- Increase staff satisfaction and performance.
- Invest in our people and their professional development.



About Us

We are a network of underwater parks, comprised of 13 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments, encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters. We seek to protect the extraordinary beauty, biodiversity, historical connections and economic productivity of these areas so they may continue to serve as the basis for thriving recreation, tourism and commercial activities that drive coastal economies. By acting as responsible stewards of these places, and serving as a hub for domestic and international partnerships and tools, we help ensure a healthier ocean, now and for future generations.

Places

We protect amazing places. Our comprehensive and community-based approach ensures the long-term protection of nationally and internationally significant areas in the ocean and Great Lakes, while supporting sustainable recreation and commercial uses.

System

Our sanctuaries and monuments are part of a larger system of protected areas across the United States and around the world. Together, we connect and strengthen these treasured places for more effective protection.

Partners

We depend on partners big and small to fulfill our mission, including our nonprofit foundation and more than 470 advisory council members and 10,000 volunteers. In turn, we leverage our small boats, visitor centers, and exhibits in support of community interests.

MISSION

We protect treasured places in the ocean and Great Lakes.

VISION

A thriving sanctuary system that protects our nations underwater treasures and inspires momentum for a healthy ocean.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/five-year-strategy-draft.html>