

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Boundary Expansion

Management Issue

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS or Sanctuary) is considering expanding from 448 square-miles to 4,085 square miles. The expansion area is a nine fold size increase and expands the Sanctuary from one county to three.

Description

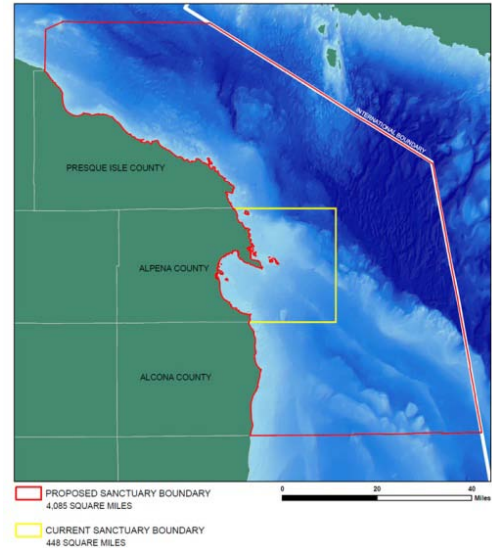
Within the current 448 sq. mi. of the Sanctuary there are 47 known shipwreck sites. Boundary expansion will add an additional 83 known sites. There are an estimated 100 shipwrecks yet to be discovered in the expansion area. These shipwreck sites occur in a wide range of locations, environments, depths, complexity and states of preservation.

Questions and Information Needs

- 1) What initial types of research must be done to begin characterize expansion area?

Scientific Approach and Actions

- Develop an environmental impact statement to meet requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Conduct large-scale remote sensing to confirm existing resources and locate new resources
- Conduct systematic archeological documentation and evaluation of known sites.
- Create a robust resource database and GIS application



Current and potential boundaries of the Sanctuary. Yellow indicates the current boundaries. Red indicates the preferred alternative (3,662 sq. mi.). Map Credit: TBNMS

Potential Key Partners and Information Sources

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration; NOAA Coast Survey; NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab; University of Rhode Island; University of Michigan; Northeast Michigan Council of Governments; State of Michigan

Management Support Products

- Final environmental impact statement
- Remote sensing and archeological data
- Fully developed resource database and GIS application

Planned Use of Products and Actions

- Determine environmental impacts of expanded sanctuary
- Resource management
- Remote sensing and archaeological data will be foundation of outreach products

Program References

TBNMS Management Plan.

- Activity 1.2 (page 12)

Updated: 5/1/2010

For More Information -- <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment>