



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

September 22, 2022

Dear Council Chairs and NOAA Fisheries Colleagues:

On July 7th, 2022, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) began our consultation process with you pursuant to section 304(a)(5) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA, 16 U.S.C. § 1434(a)(5)) to seek input on the necessity of draft regulations for fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone related to the proposed Hudson Canyon national marine sanctuary.

In our correspondence to you, we requested your expert opinion and recommendation for the section 304(a)(5) process by December 31, 2022. This letter is to accept your request for a February 1, 2023 extension of this deadline.

We recognize as well that several of you have requested a briefing on the proposed Hudson Canyon national marine sanctuary at upcoming Advisory Panel or Council meetings. We would be happy to participate and will follow-up with those that have made requests individually.

Again, we greatly appreciate the time and effort on this matter and look forward to hearing back from you. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Hogan at LeAnn.Hogan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Matt Brookhart, Regional Director

Cc: Tom Nies, Executive Director, NEFMC
Chris Moore, Executive Director, MAFMC
John Carmichael, Executive Director, SAFMC
Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS-GARFO
Andy Strelchek, Regional Administrator, NMFS-SERO

