



PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF HUDSON CANYON NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES



In managing the sanctuary system, we seek to:

- Conserve ocean and Great Lakes areas of special national significance for future generations
- Strike a balance between resource protection and sustainable uses
- Employ innovative, transparent, & community-based problem solving with a focus on non-regulatory solutions
- Customize management actions to meet the needs and features of individual sanctuaries
- Enhance our efforts through a diverse array of partnerships
- Use the best available science in our decision-making

MONUMENTS VS. SANCTUARIES



SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCILS



Commercial Fishing



Recreational Fishing



Research



Education/outreach



Tourism



Comm/Citizen at Lg



Diving



Government



Conservation



Business



Recreation



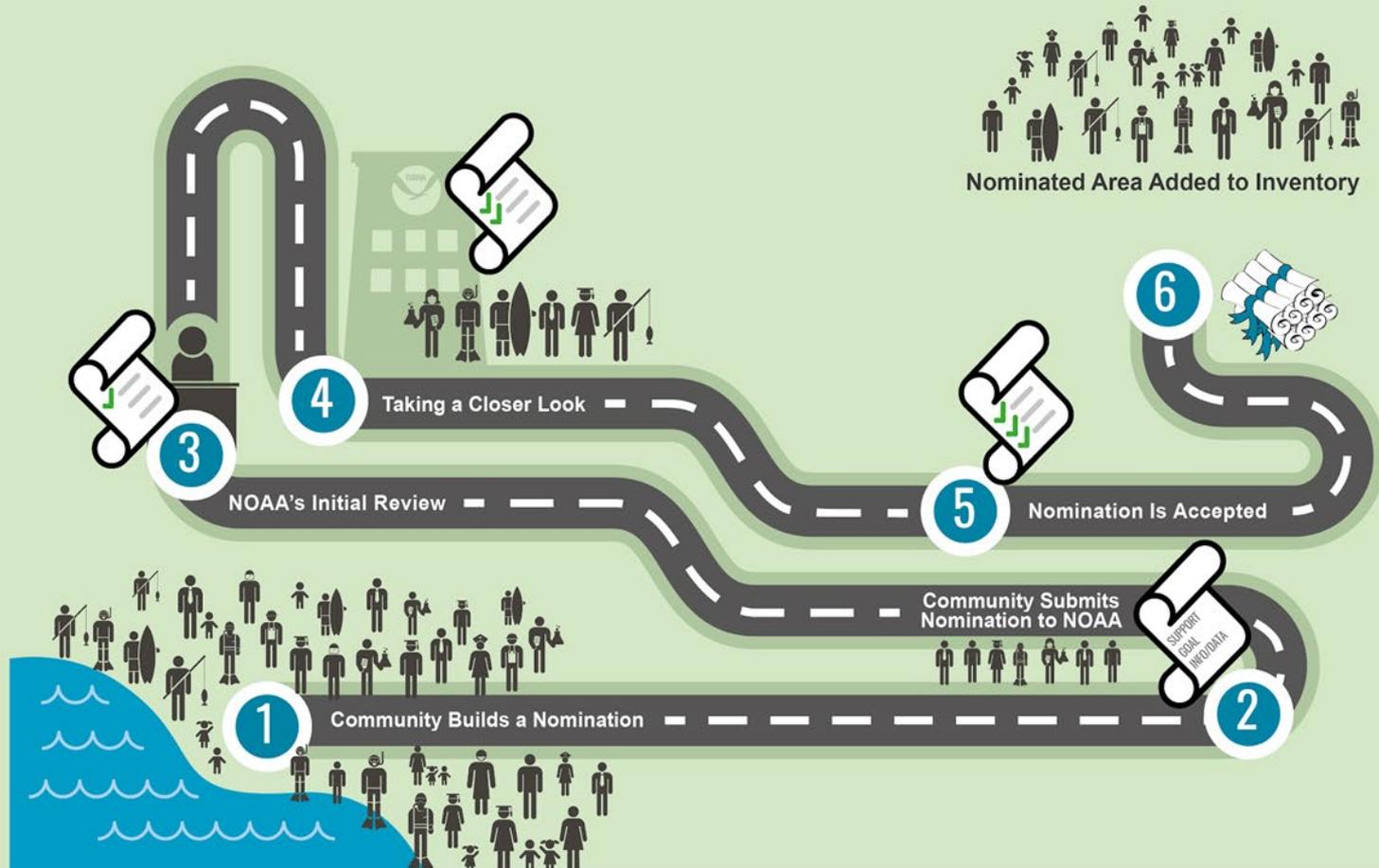
Youth



Culture/Heritage



ROAD TO NOMINATION



DESIGNATION PROCESS (3-5 YEARS)



Public Scoping Process

- NOI for Scoping & DEIS published June 8, 2022, in-person and virtual public meetings
- Comment period closed August 8, 2022
- First phase of the process, analyze and review public comments

Development of Draft Documents

- Draft environmental impact statement & management plan
- Proposed rule
- Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Consultations
- 60-90 day public comment period including public meetings

Final Stage

- Final environmental impact statement & management plan
- Final rule



THE HUDSON CANYON NOMINATION

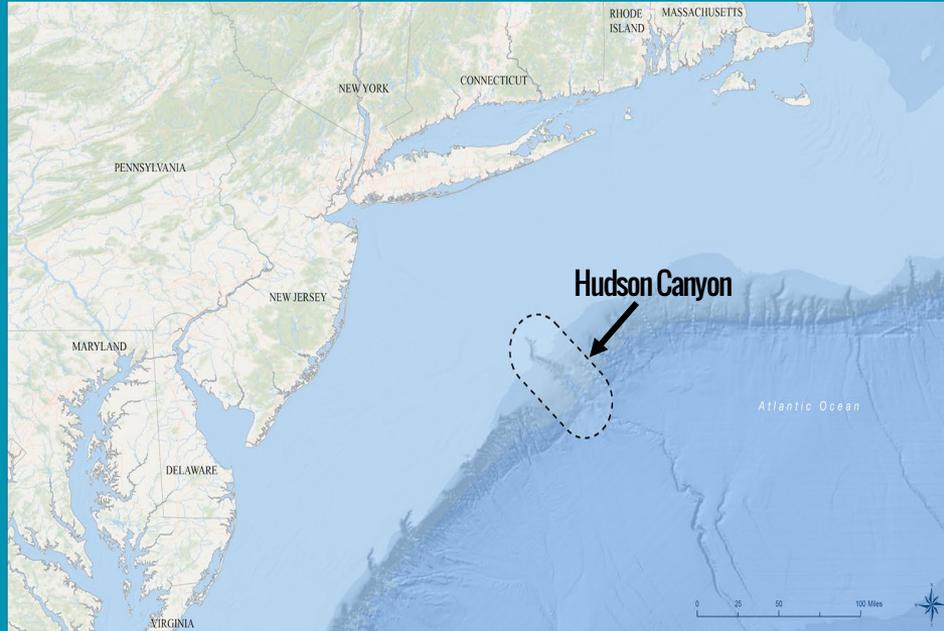


- **November 2016** - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) submits nomination to NOAA
- **February 2017** - NOAA places nomination on inventory for potential sanctuary designation
- The WCS nomination states a sanctuary designation could:
 - support long-term conservation of marine wildlife and habitats
 - 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.

ABOUT HUDSON CANYON



- ~ 100 miles southeast of New York City
- Largest submarine canyon along the Atlantic coast
- 7.5 miles wide, reaches depths of 2.5 miles
- Steep slopes, flux of nutrients, areas of upwelling
- Ecological hotspot for a variety and abundance of marine life
- Important area for commercial & recreational fisheries
- Indigenous culture and history



GOALS FOR HUDSON CANYON DESIGNATION



- 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



HUDSON CANYON: Public Scoping Process



- Virtual and In-person public meetings
- Received over 15,000 comments
 - Generally strong support for the proposed designation
 - Support for pre-designation Sanctuary Advisory Council
 - Some opposition related to fisheries management authorities
 - General opposition to MPAs and confusion with marine monuments
 - Recommendations for boundaries
 - Ideas for increased research and monitoring related to climate change
 - Recommendations for activities that should be prohibited
 - Ideas to enhance education and outreach in the proposed sanctuary
 - Suggestions for compatibility with offshore energy development



NMSA SECTION 304(a)(5)



- Requires ONMS to “provide the appropriate Council or fishery management authority with the opportunity to prepare draft fishing regulations as the Council may deem necessary to implement the designation”
- Councils or NMFS can
 1. Recommend draft fishing regulations;
 2. Recommend that fishing regulations are not necessary; or
 3. Choose not to act on the matter
- We sent letters to the NE, MA, SA FMCs and Atlantic HMS Division on July 7th to begin the process
- Responses are due February 1, 2023
- We will incorporate the SAFMC’s analyses and recommendations into the DEIS

HUDSON CANYON NEXT STEPS



- Federal Register Notice establishing the Sanctuary Advisory Council and soliciting applications for Council seats - **Will publish December 2022**
- 15 Voting seats from a diverse range of stakeholders
 - Fishing (recreational/commercial), Marine Industry, Tourism, Recreation, Conservation, Science, Business, Education, Outreach, Citizen At Large
- Non-voting governmental seats
 - States of NY, NJ, and RI, US Coast Guard, Navy, BOEM, NOAA Fisheries, NE, MA, SA FMCs
- Voting seat applications are due **January 31, 2023**.
- Begin drafting DEIS/Proposed Rule/Draft Management Plan published in about months



Credit: NOAA/OER

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon/>



Thank you for your time and input.

For more information about the proposed designation of the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary contact:

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Credit: NOAA/OER