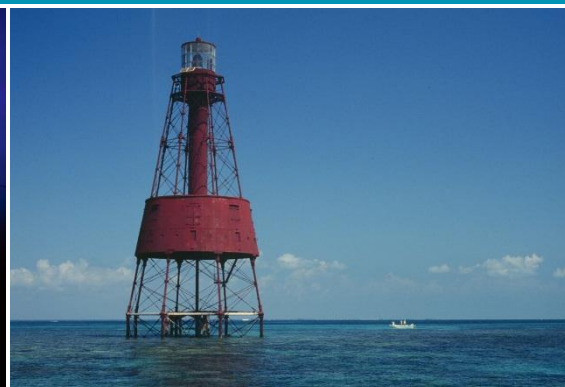




NOAA's Sanctuary Nomination Process: “*Eubalaena Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary”

SAFMC Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee
December 2014

George Sedberry
Southeast Regional Science Coordinator
NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



Ocean and Great Lakes Protected Areas and Environments that are of Special National Significance

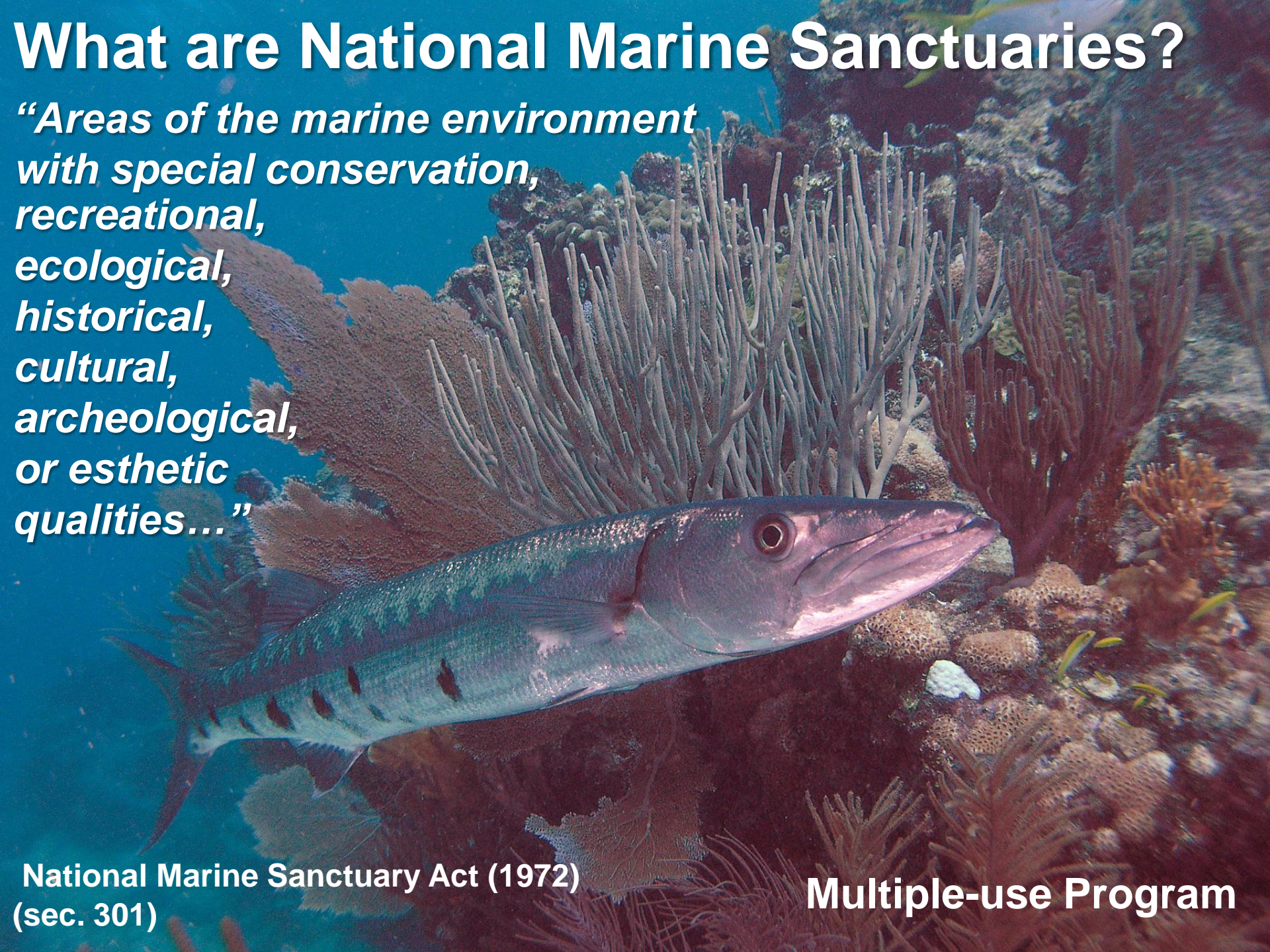


What are National Marine Sanctuaries?

“Areas of the marine environment with special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural, archeological, or esthetic qualities...”

National Marine Sanctuary Act (1972)
(sec. 301)

Multiple-use Program



National Marine Sanctuaries Act 1972

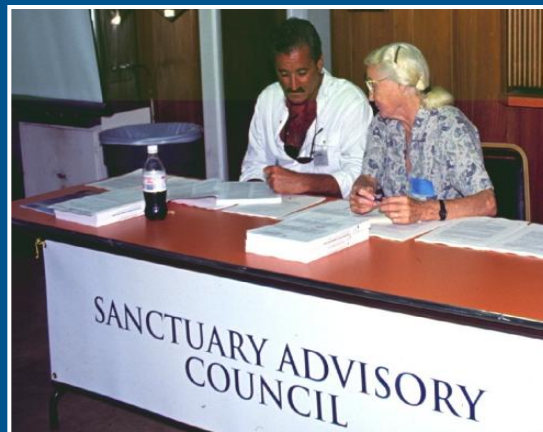
To maintain, restore,
and enhance living
resources; and to
facilitate to the
extent
possible all
public and
private uses
of the
resources of
these marine
areas



National Marine Sanctuaries

All National Marine Sanctuaries:

- Focus on resource protection as “primary objective”
- Support compatible uses
- Have a community-based focus through a national system
- Use a public participatory process to address management issues, while using science (often acquired through partnerships) to inform the process



Multiple Compatible Use Including Research and Education



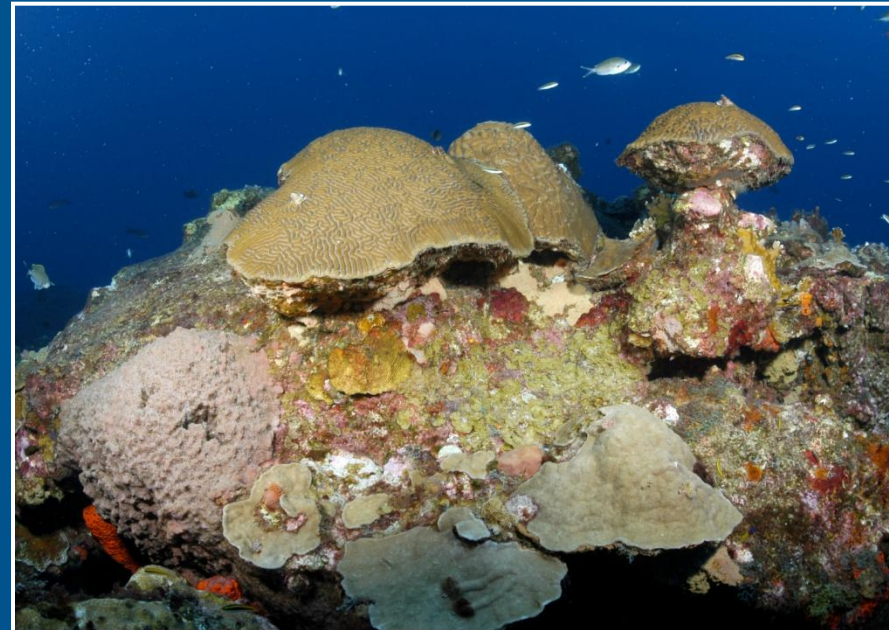
National Marine Sanctuaries serve natural classrooms, important research sites, and cherished recreational spots that support valuable coastal economies



NMS Act Section 306:

Prohibited Activities

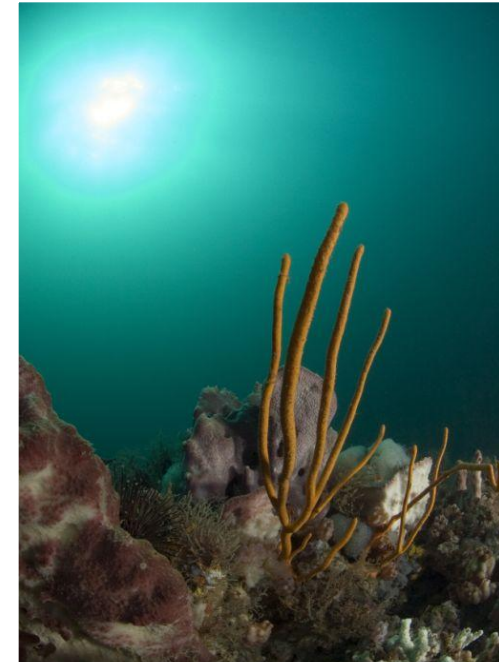
- **Makes it unlawful to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any sanctuary resource managed under law or regulations for that sanctuary**
- **Makes it unlawful to interfere with enforcement**



The National Marine Sanctuaries Act Authorizes Secretary of Commerce to Promulgate Regulations as Needed



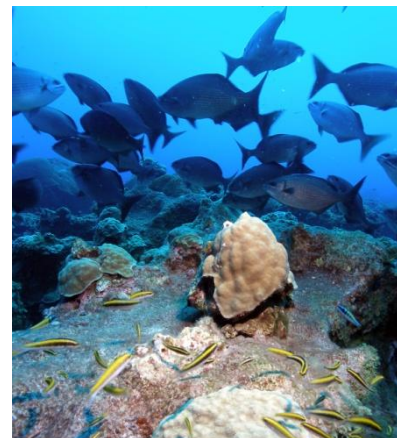
- **Prohibited/regulated activities**
 - **Exploring for, developing, or producing oil or gas**
 - Discharging or depositing from within or into the Sanctuary
 - Discharging or depositing, from beyond the boundary of the Sanctuary, any material or other matter that subsequently enters the Sanctuary and injures a Sanctuary resource
 - Constructing any structure
 - Placing any structure on or in the Sanctuary
 - **Drilling, dredging, or otherwise altering sea bed**
 - Taking any marine mammal, turtle, or bird



The National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Summary:

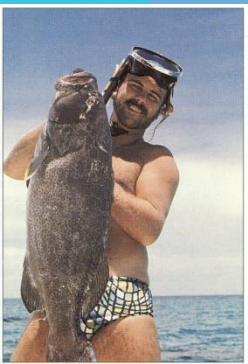
- Designation of Sanctuaries based on conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities
- Primary objective to protect resources such as coral reefs, sunken historical vessels or unique habitats
- Facilitates all public and private uses of those resources that are compatible with the primary objective of resource protection
- Sanctuaries are managed according to site-specific management plans



Flexibility in Management Under NMSA

X = Spearfishing Banned by Sanctuary Regulations

O = partial ban



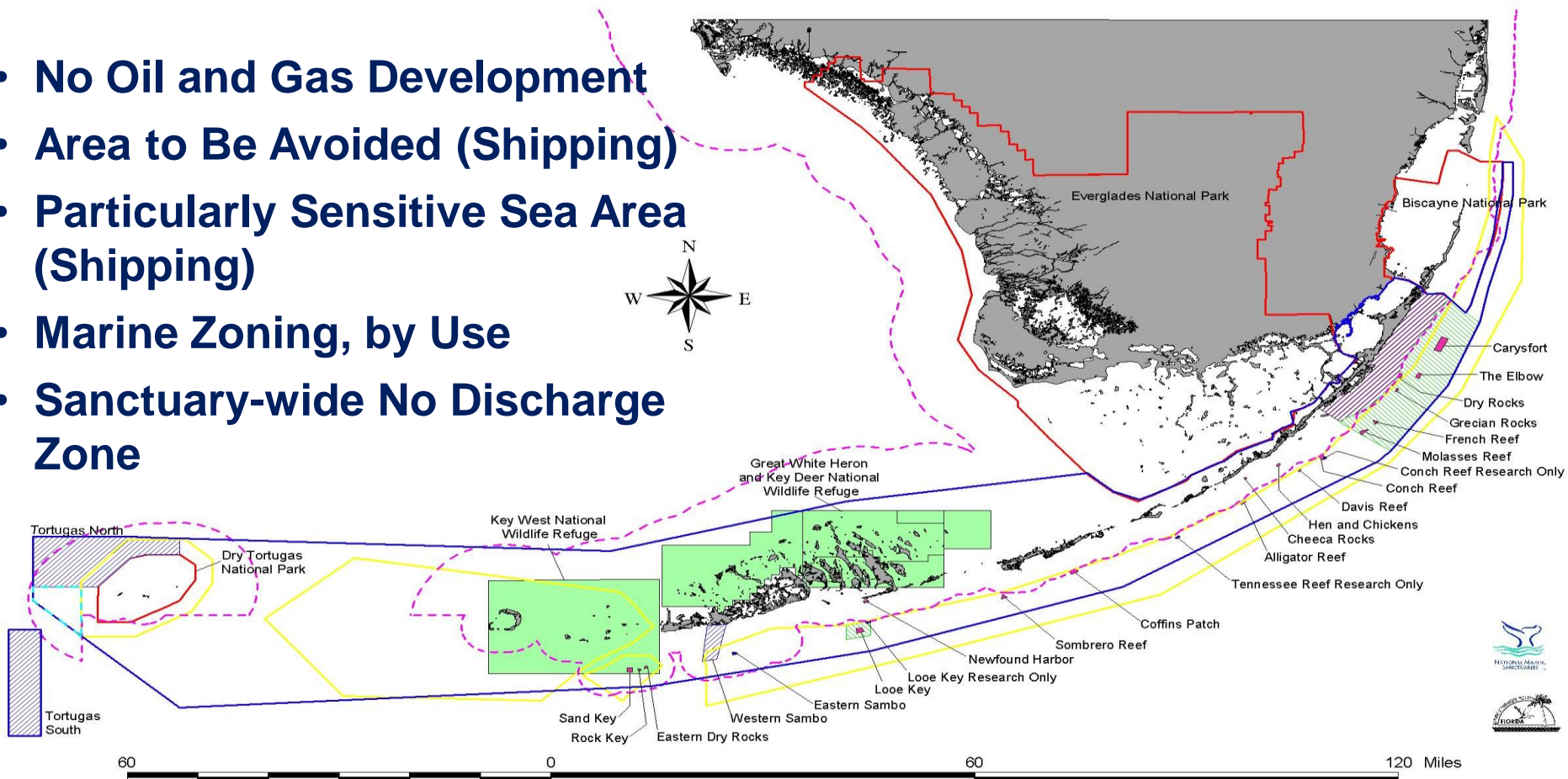
NMSA Section 308 provides the general authority to issue regulations

Spatial Planning and National Marine Sanctuaries

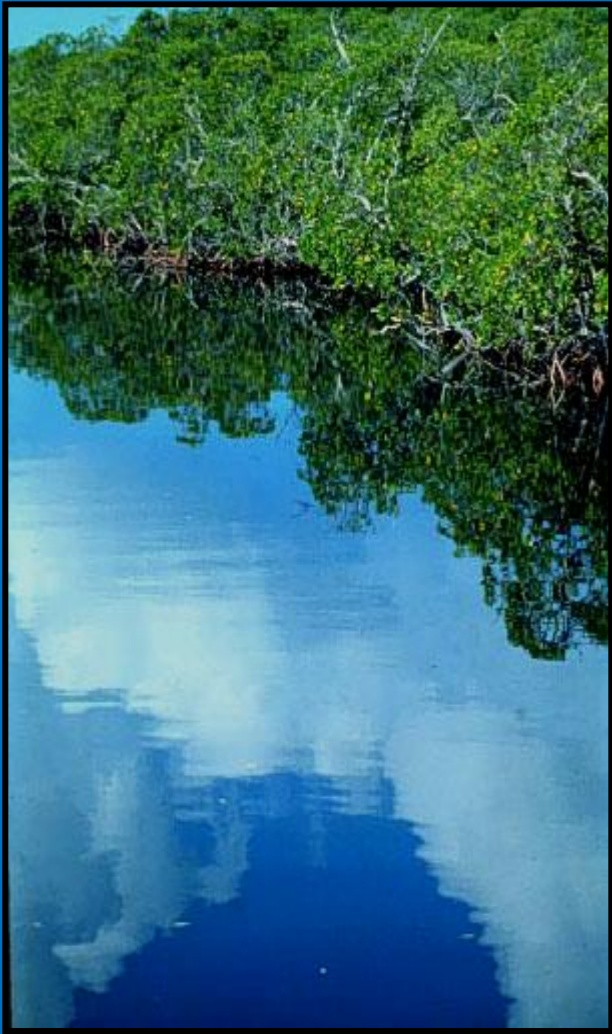


Spatial Planning Tools

- No Oil and Gas Development
- Area to Be Avoided (Shipping)
- Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (Shipping)
- Marine Zoning, by Use
- Sanctuary-wide No Discharge Zone

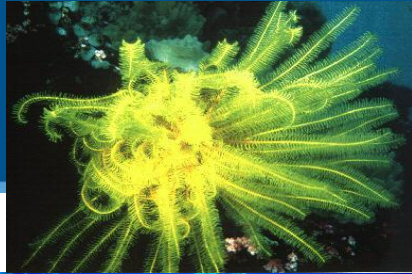


Ecosystem Protection



**Includes the Full Seascape
and Range of Habitats**

Full-Range of Species



7.5 Million “Visitor Days” in FK NMS: Fishing, Diving, Snorkeling, Wildlife Viewing



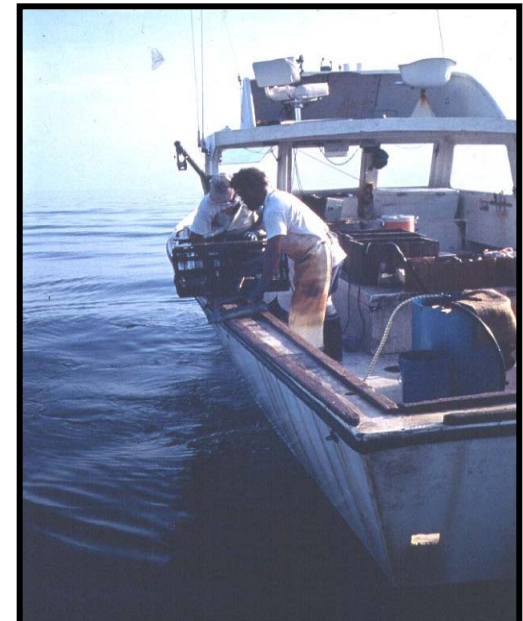
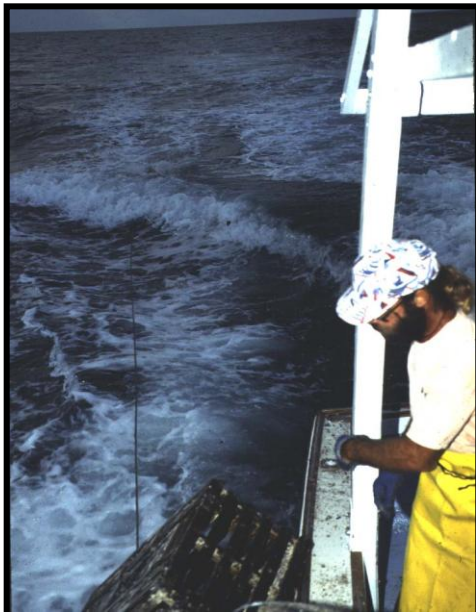
Florida Keys Sanctuary means business...



Commercial Fishing

Second Largest Industry

- Shrimp, spiny lobster, stone crab and fin fish and marine life collection - \$100M income with 4,310 jobs
- \$50M/yr in commercial seafood landings in Key West



How Do We Achieve Our NMS Act Mandate?

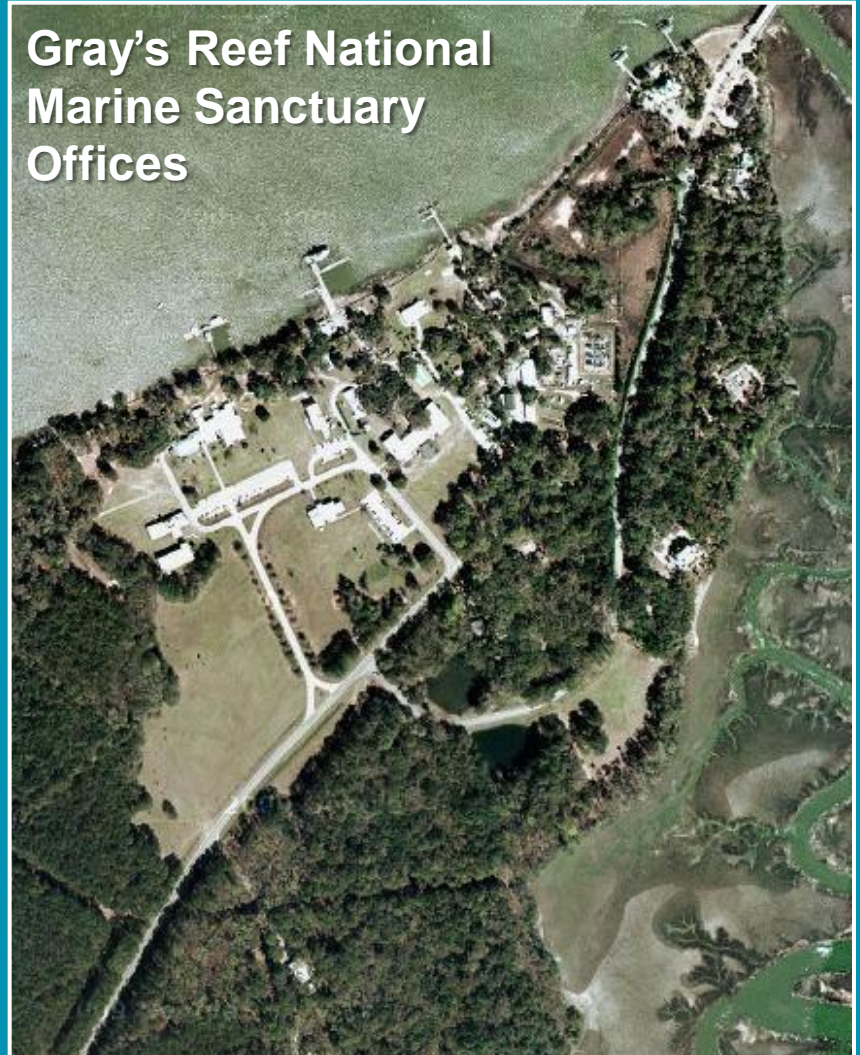
- Resource Protection
- Conservation Science
- Maritime and Cultural Heritage
- Education/Outreach
- Community Involvement



Our Assets

- Staff
- Partnerships
- Facilities
- Vessels
- Appropriations

Gray's Reef National
Marine Sanctuary
Offices



SE Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Region
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

- ★ Existing Sanctuary
- ⌚ Proposed Site Expansion
- Ⓟ Proposed New Sanctuary Site

★ *Gray's Reef*

Ⓟ Submerged
Cyprus Forest

Ⓟ NE Florida

Ⓟ USS Hatteras

★ ⌚ *Flower Garden Banks*

Ⓟ Monterrey Shipwrecks

Florida Keys ★

**Sanctuaries Are In Demand:
Nationwide Community
Interest in New Sites**

Puerto Rico
Ⓟ
Mosquito Bay
NE Reserves
Culebra
Guanica

Sanctuary Nomination Process

History



Interest in new national marine sanctuaries is diverse and widespread:

- **Individuals**
- **Local, state, and tribal governments**
- **Academia**
- **Citizen groups**
- **Sanctuary Advisory Councils**
- **Non-governmental organizations**

www.nominate.noaa.gov

The Sanctuary Nomination Process

New Sites for Future Generations: A Community Approach

For the first time in 20 years, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries:

- Re-establishes the process by which **the American public nominates** special places as new National Marine Sanctuaries
 - Nominations should be based on criteria directly connected to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act
 - Nominated areas should include nationally-significant resources and habitats, as well as economic incentives and collaborative partnerships

www.nominate.noaa.gov



The Sanctuary Nomination Process

Approach 2014



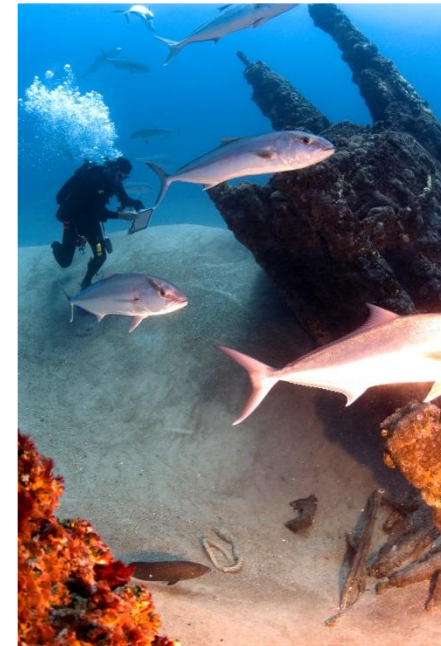
- **Stakeholders will work together** to build engagement and solicit nominations for areas as new national marine sanctuaries
- Communities will be expected to identify opportunities for **partnerships** and collaborative management
- Nominated areas will be reviewed by NOAA against the final **criteria and considerations**; if successful, the agency may move forward with formal designation as a national marine sanctuary.

www.nominate.noaa.gov

The Sanctuary Nomination Process: Four Criteria



- **Natural and ecological significance**
 - Biodiversity, ecosystem function, keystone species, etc.
- **Historical or cultural significance**
 - Archeological, anthropological, etc.
- **Economic use**
 - Tourism, fisheries, subsistence, diving, etc.
- **Publically-derived benefits**
 - Aesthetics, recreation, access



www.nominate.noaa.gov

The Sanctuary Nomination Process: Seven Considerations



- **Enhanced research opportunity**
- **Enhanced education opportunity**
- **Threats**
- **NMS would add conservation and management value**
- **NMS would complement existing management**
- **Partnership commitments**
- **Broad-based support**
 - Individuals, groups, elected officials, stakeholders, environmental groups, fishing groups, etc.



Sanctuary Nomination Process

Approach



- **All nominations will be made public via dedicated website**
- **New nominations do not equate to new sanctuary designations. Formal designation occurs in a separate, highly public process that often takes years to complete**
- **The designation process is established by standards in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act**

www.nominate.noaa.gov

The Road to Nomination

For the first time in two decades, NOAA invites communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries.

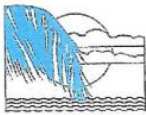
In response to ongoing widespread interest from the public, NOAA has launched a new, locally driven sanctuary

nomination process developed with input from more than 18,000 public comments. Throughout the nomination process, NOAA will be available to answer questions and provide guidance to nominating communities and other interested parties. NOAA will also update nominators on the progress of the agency's review of their nomination.

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination is not the same thing as sanctuary designation. Designation occurs as a separate process that by law, is highly public and participatory and often takes several years to complete.



www.nominate.noaa.gov



FRIENDS OF MATANZAS

1093 A1A BEACH BOULEVARD, PMB 205 • ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080-6733

September 2, 2014

Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov

Re: Proposed Eubalaena Oculina National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Director:

The Friends of Matanzas, Inc. (Friends), is a Florida non-profit corporation dedicated to the protection of the environment and the quality of life in St. Johns and Flagler Counties. We would appreciate your consideration of our enclosed proposal to nominate a National Marine Sanctuary that would lie along the coast of Florida, from the northeast to the central section of the state.

The Friends recognizes the uniquely high environmental quality and maritime heritage of our estuarine and marine areas: our waters, marshlands, and surrounding uplands nurture remarkable biological and cultural resources. We also recognize that these resources are not limited to two counties. Thus, an extended National Marine Sanctuary designation would give the citizens and institutions of our state an opportunity to study, present and discuss these resources and the potential threats that they face, and would provide a process through which a management plan could be created. We feel that meaningful, sustainable management can be achieved in a way that still allows people to enjoy these natural resources. Finally, a National Marine Sanctuary program -- through a highly coordinated outreach component -- would increase public awareness of the outstanding ecological system on its east coast.

Sincerely,

Marcella H. Matthaei
Director, Friends of Matanzas, Inc. National Marine Sanctuary Program (904) 347-7332 tel.

Michael J. Greenberg
President

Patrick S. Hamilton
Vice President

and 20+ supporting letters



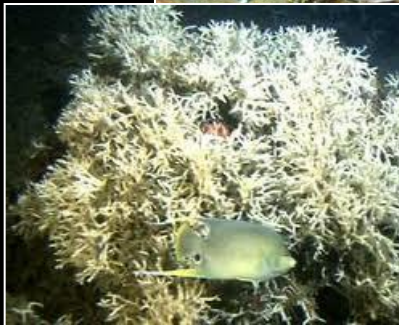
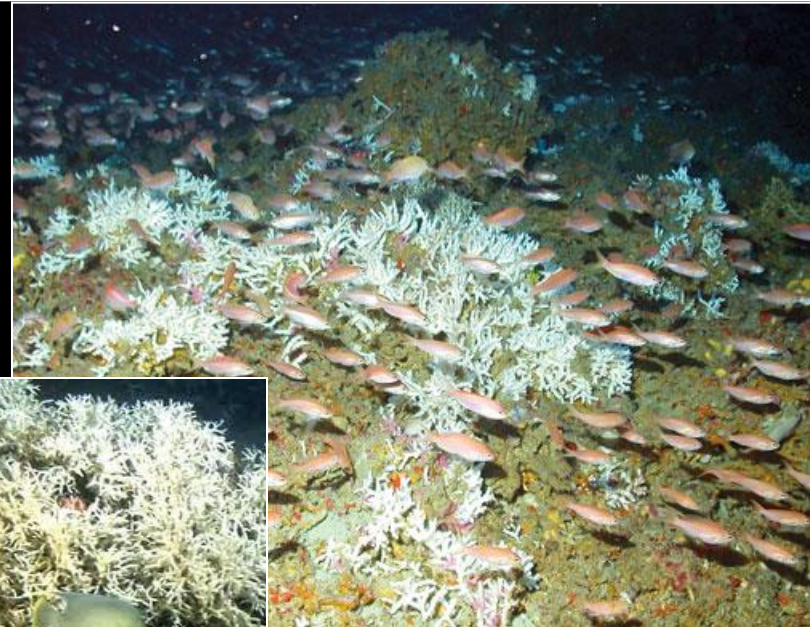
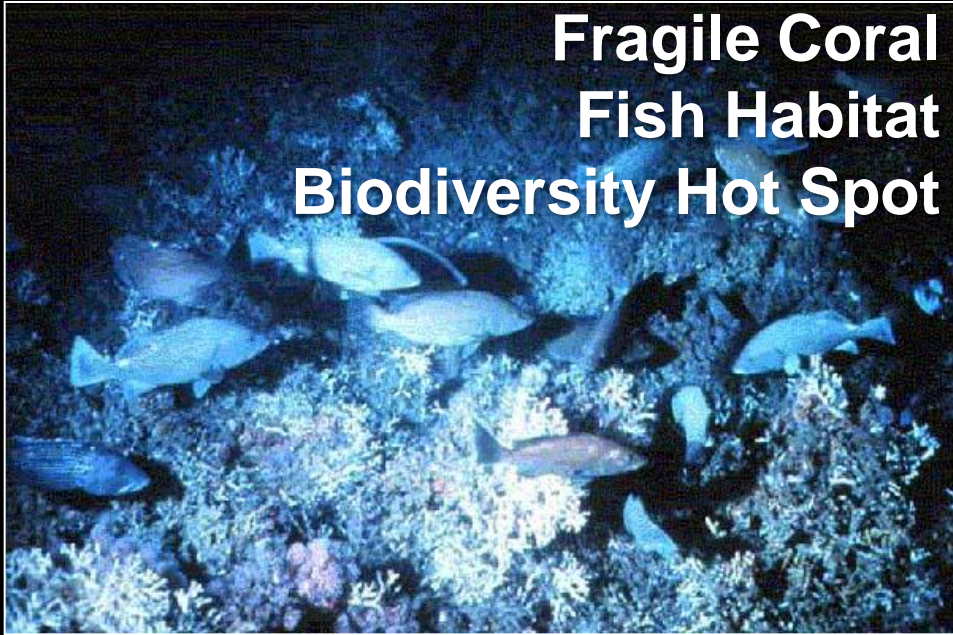
Eubalaena:

**Critically-Endangered North
Atlantic Right Whale**



Oculina:

**Fragile Coral
Fish Habitat
Biodiversity Hot Spot**



Stetson Mesa

North Atlantic Right Whale Critical Habitat

Proposed “*Eubalaena* *Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary”

OCULINA BANK HAPC

OCULINA BANK HAPC

OCULINA BANK HAPC

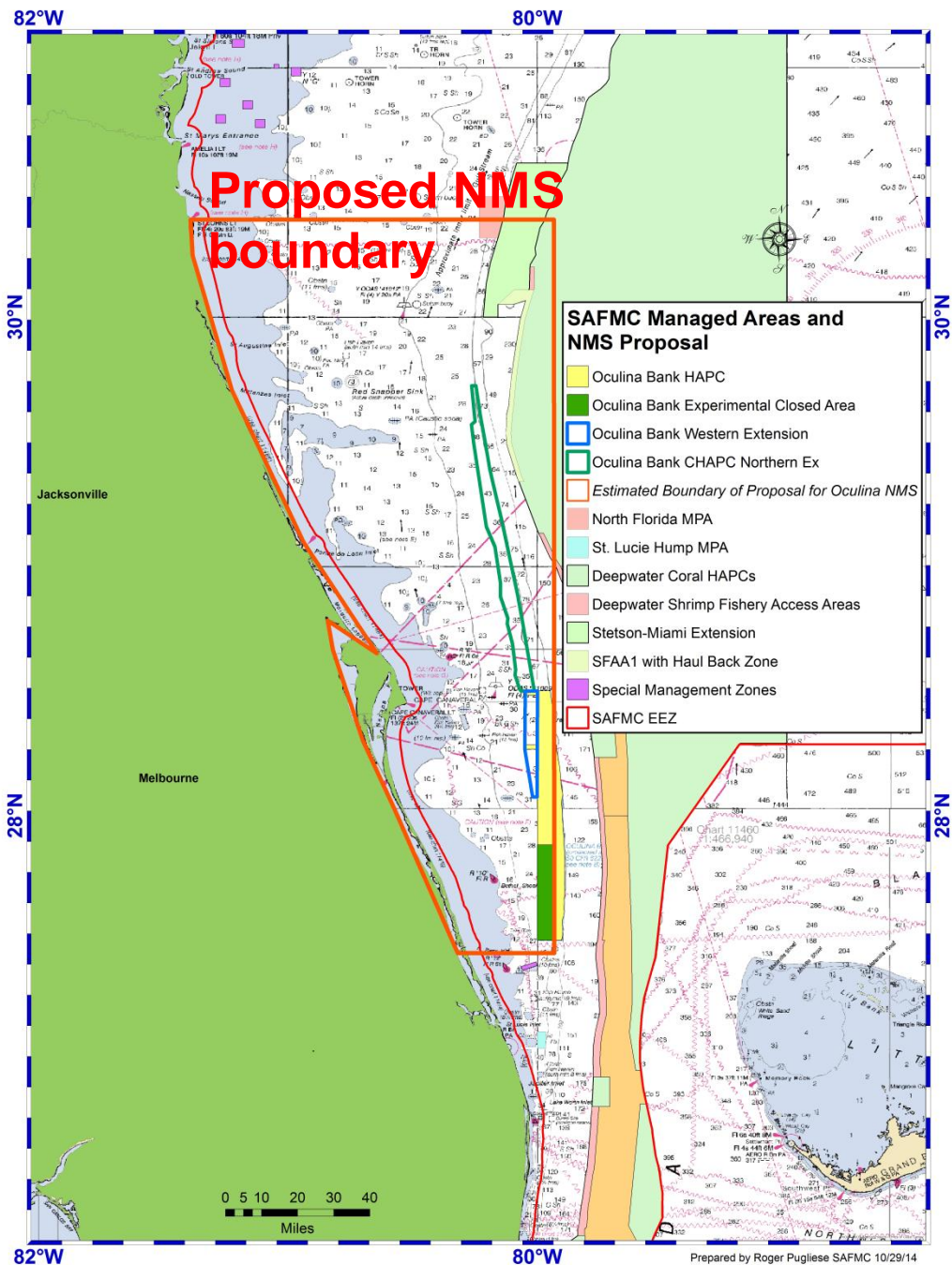
OCULINA BANK HAPC - EXPERIMENTAL

Tampa

Florida

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
© 2014 Google
Image Landsat

Google



Proposal includes existing SAFMC and other protected areas, and estuaries in state waters

Proposed *Eubalaena-Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary

**Added Protection for
Natural Resources**

Critical Habitats

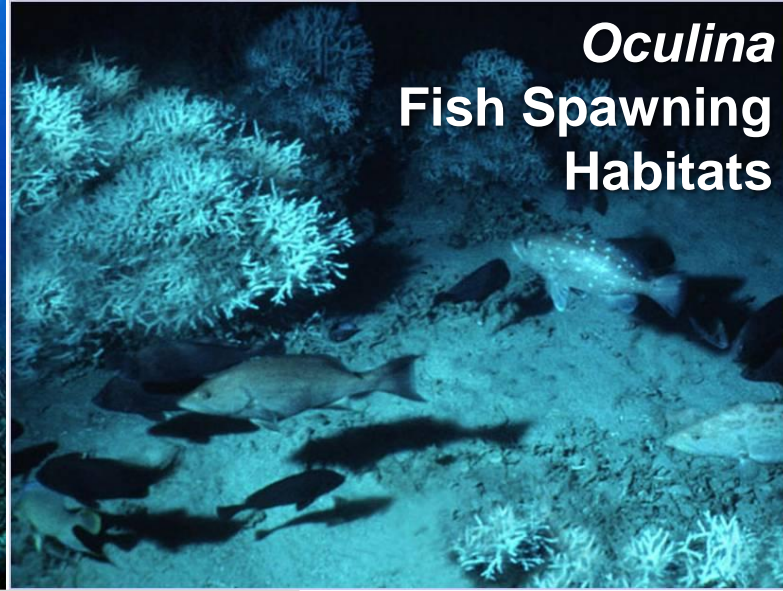


**North Atlantic
Right Whale**



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

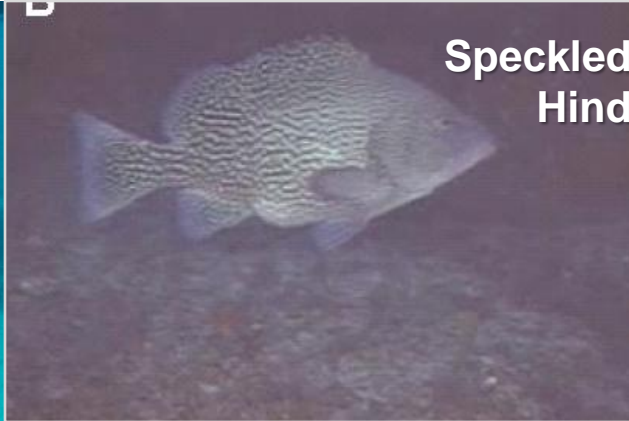
***Oculina*
Fish Spawning
Habitats**



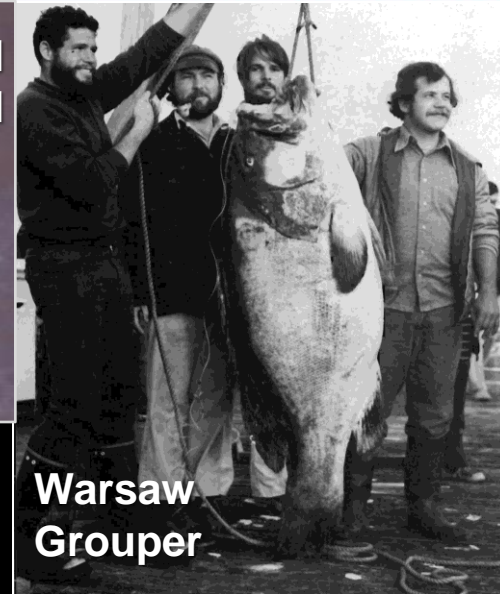
**Hard Bottom Reefs &
Fish Spawning Habitats**



**Speckled
Hind**



**Bycatch
Species**



**Warsaw
Grouper**

Proposed *Eubalaena-Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary

**Added Protection for
Natural Resources**

**Indian River Lagoon: A Biodiversity
“Hot Spot”**



Indian River Lagoon



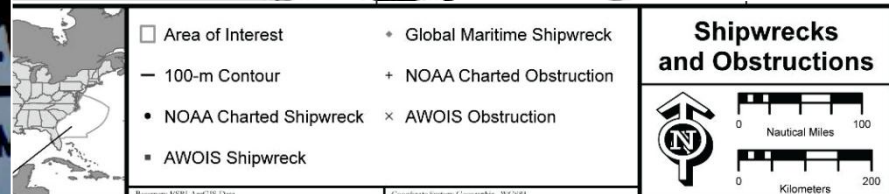
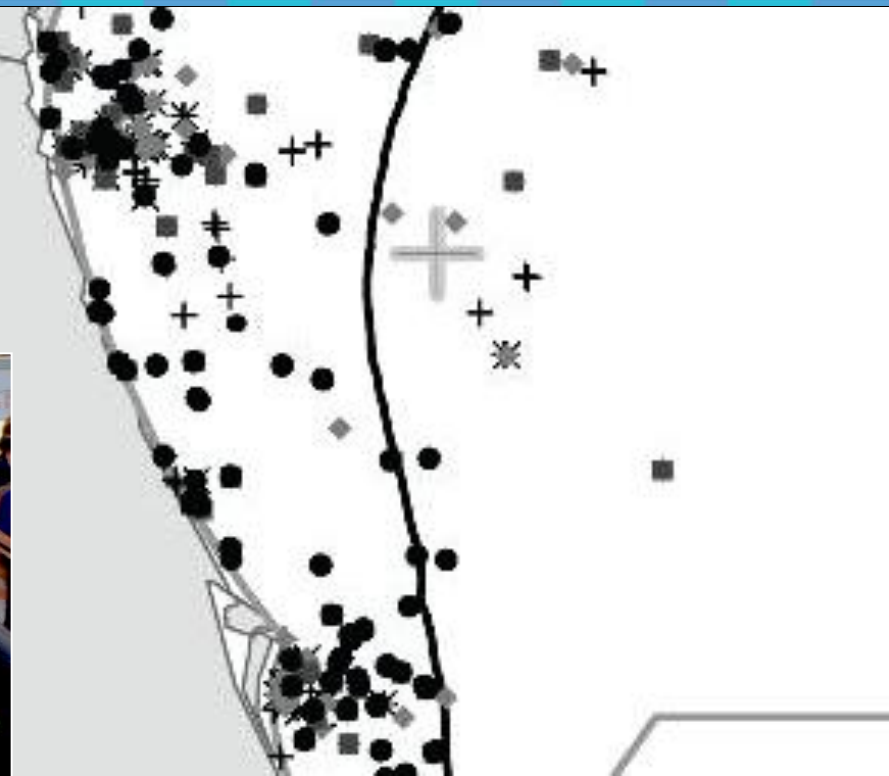
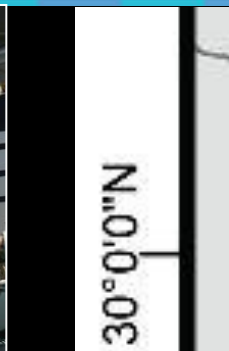
**Tropical-Temperate
Ecotone**



Crescent Beach Spring

Proposed *Eubalaena-Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary

Added Protection for Historical and Cultural Resources



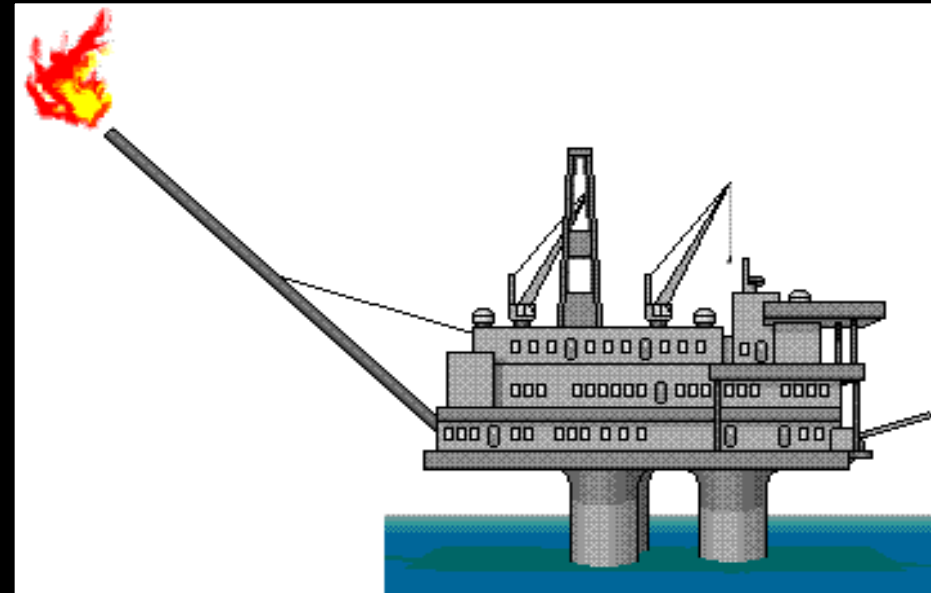
Proposed *Eubalaena-Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary

**Added Protection for
Recreational and
Cultural Resources**



Proposed *Eubalaena-Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary

Primary Community Concerns



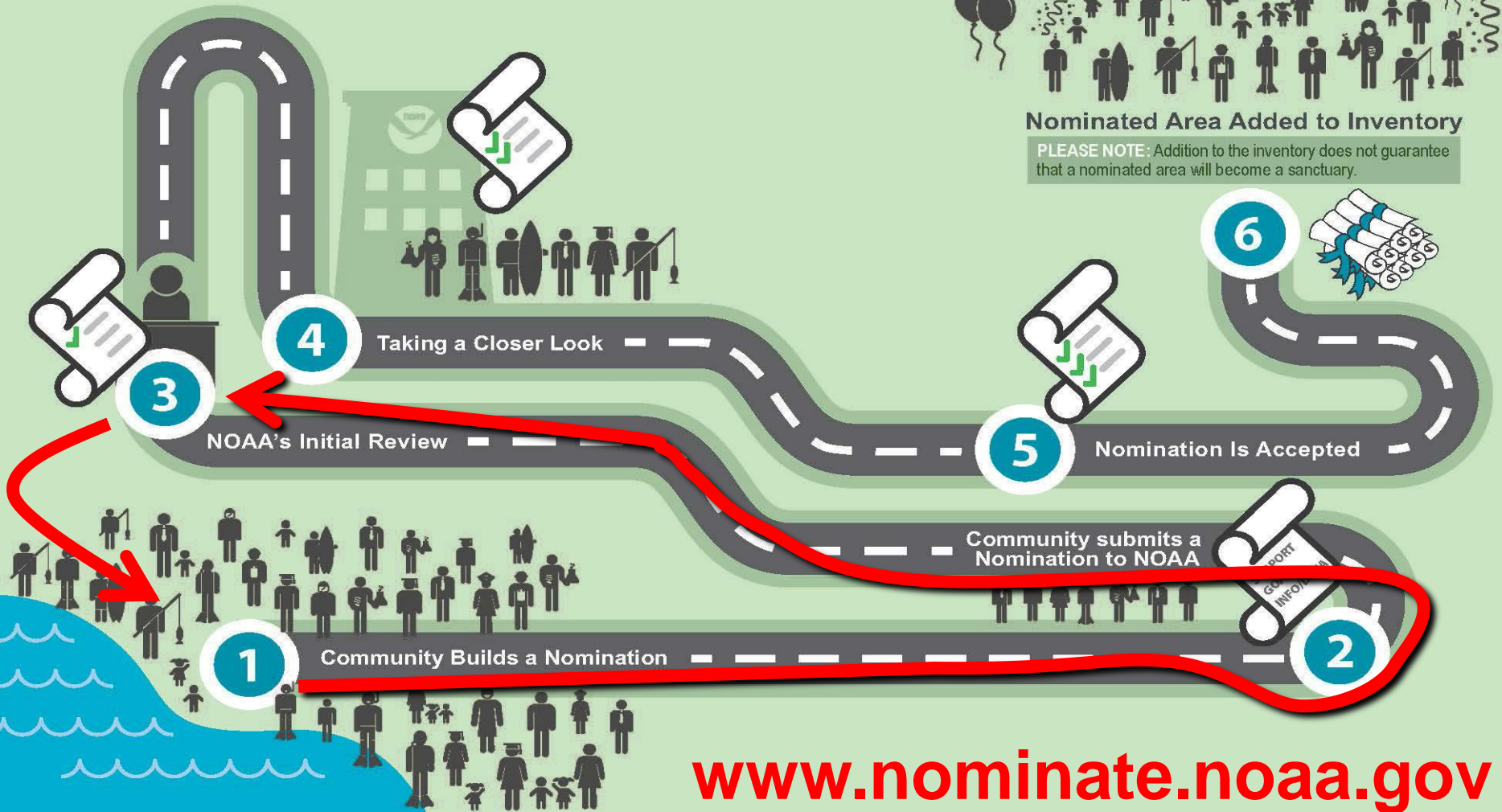
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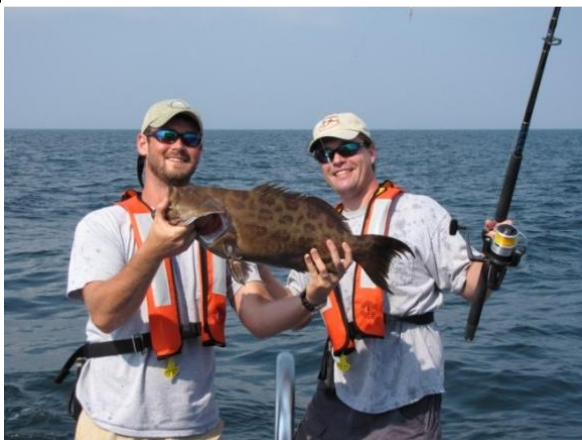
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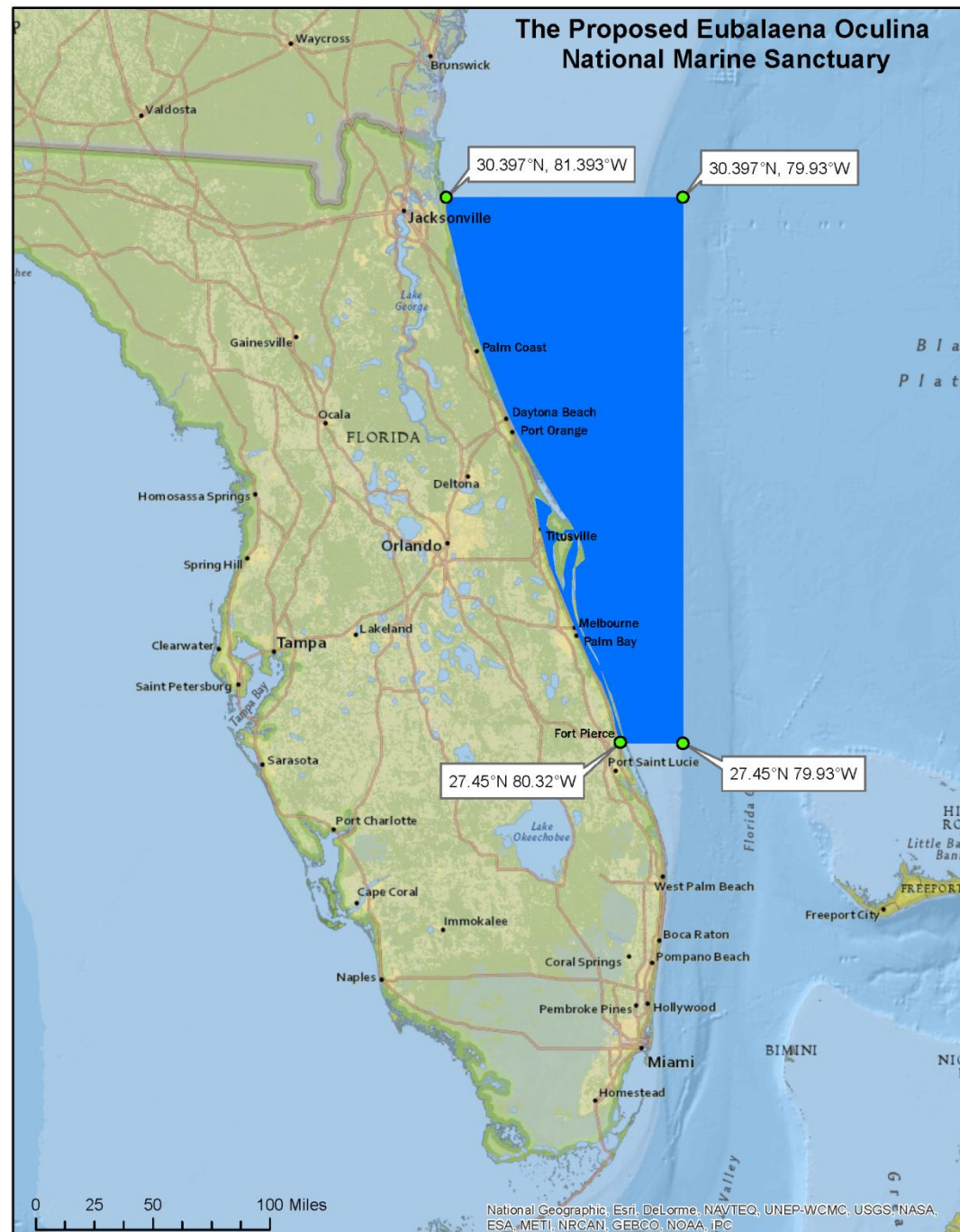
Nomination Determined to be Insufficient

- **Lacks broad community support**
 - **“Friends of” groups**
 - Chambers of commerce
 - Local, tribal, state, or national agencies
 - Elected officials
 - Topic-based stakeholder groups
 - **Environmental NGOs**
 - Regionally-based fishing group
 - National-level recreation or tourism organization
 - **Academia or science-based group**
 - Industry association)
- **Needs a diverse cross section of the community**

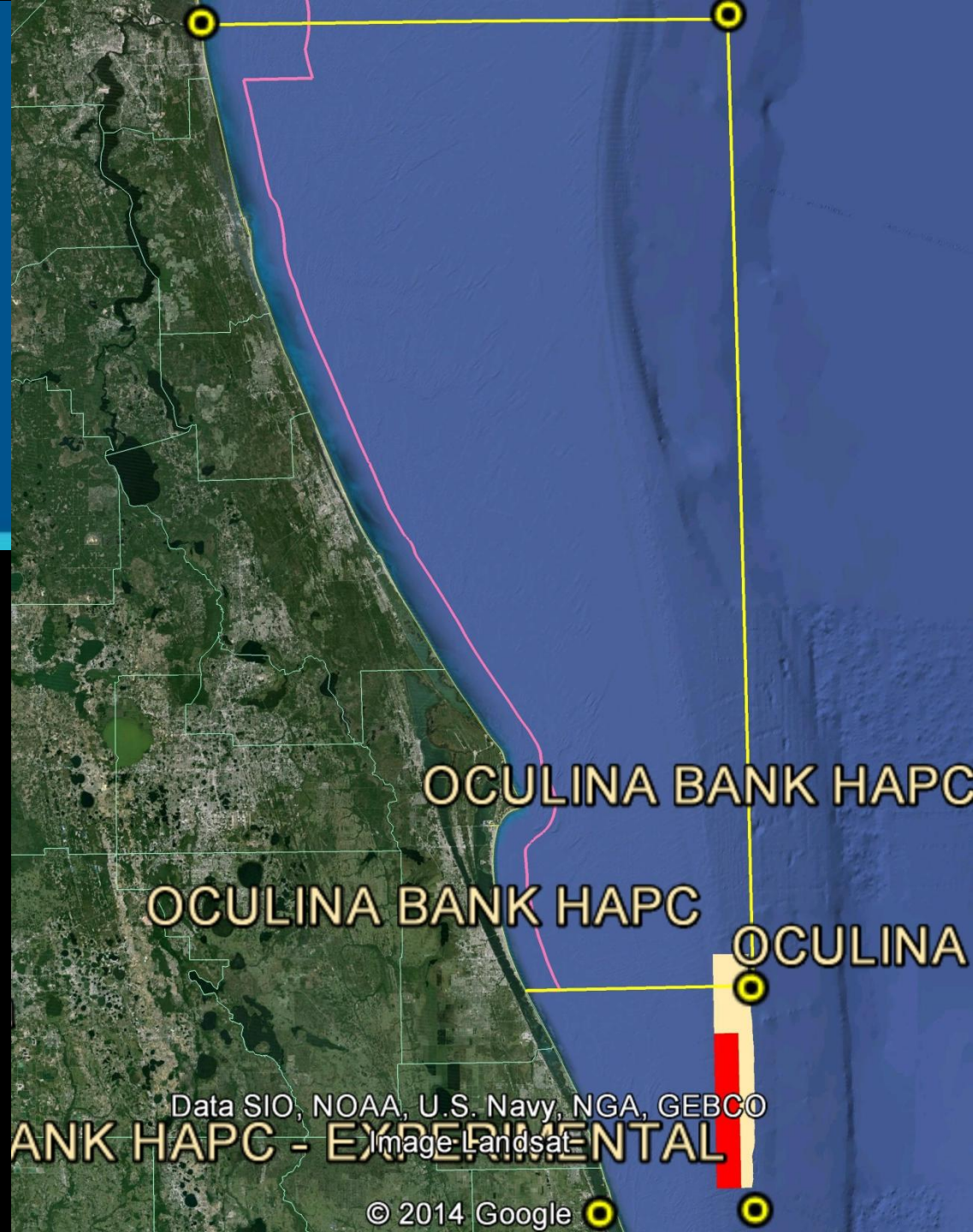


Nomination Determined to be Insufficient

- **Areal extent**
 - 200 miles of coast
 - Number of local jurisdictions (counties, etc.)
 - State waters
 - Need support from all local jurisdictions and the state
- Consider a smaller area focused on specific resources
- Work with other management authorities



Revised Proposed *Eubalaena*- *Oculina* National Marine Sanctuary



Office of National Marine Sanctuaries National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



More details, including a nomination guide
and Q&As, are at:

www.nominate.noaa.gov



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>