



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries



Sanctuary Nomination Process
July 2014

National Marine Sanctuary System

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast

Cordell Bank

Gulf of the Farallones

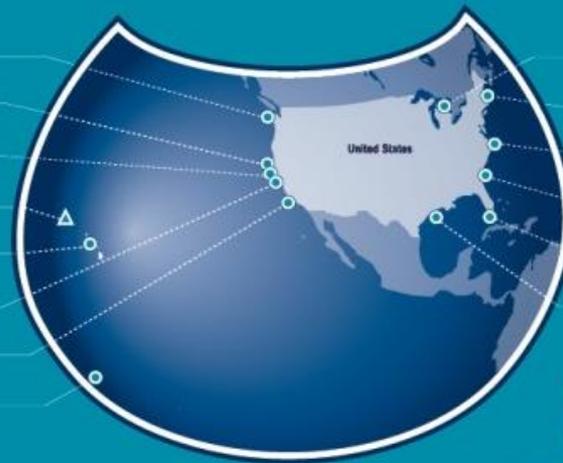
Papahānaumokuākea

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale

Monterey Bay

Channel Islands

American Samoa (U.S.)



Thunder Bay

Stellwagen Bank

Monitor

Gray's Reef

Florida Keys

Flower Garden Banks

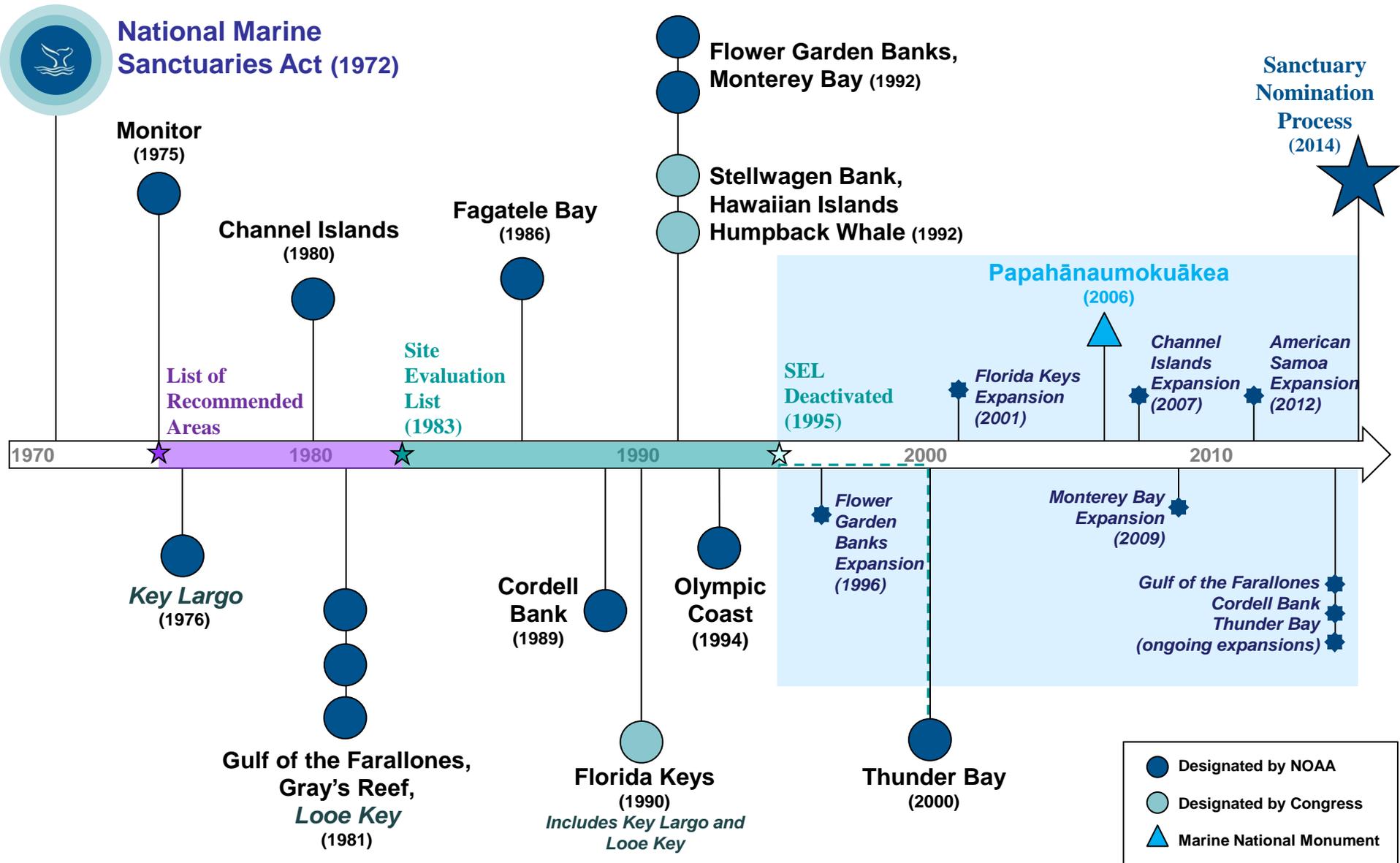
○ National Marine Sanctuary

△ Marine National Monument

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.



History of the Sanctuary System



Why create a new process?



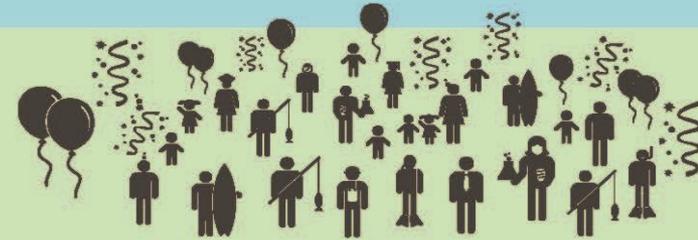
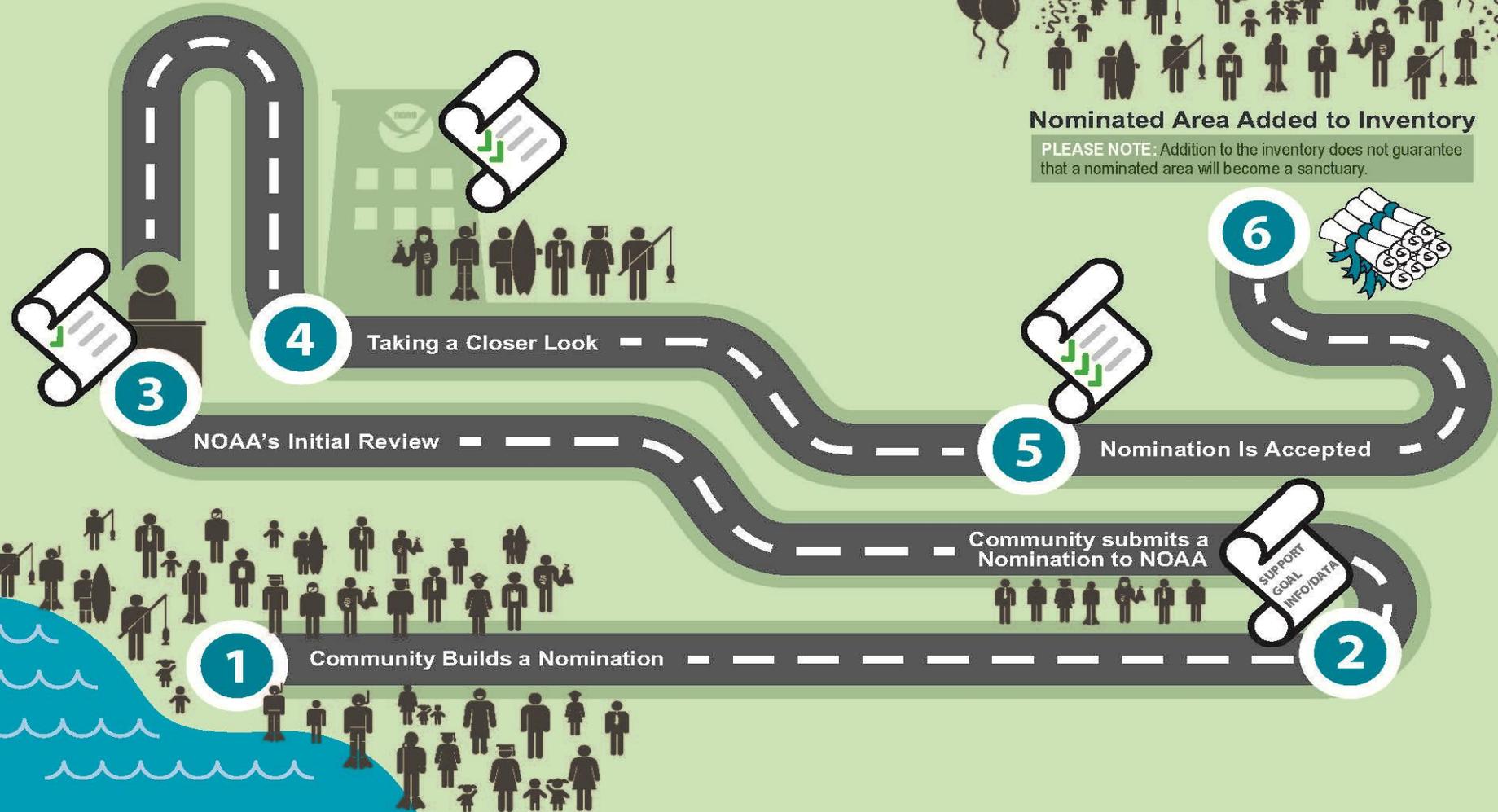
The Road to Nomination

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.



Nominated Area Added to Inventory

PLEASE NOTE: Addition to the inventory does not guarantee that a nominated area will become a sanctuary.

National Significance Criteria

1. The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to:
 - biological productivity or diversity;
 - maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function;
 - maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages;
 - maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both;
 - or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.
2. The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that:
 - individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
 - have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark;
 - or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.
3. The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.
4. The publicly-derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Management Considerations

1. The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.
2. The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.
3. Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.
4. A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.
5. The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.
6. There are commitments or possible commitments for partnership opportunities such as cost sharing, office space, exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.
7. There is community-based support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests, such as: individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., friends of group, chamber of commerce); local, tribal, state, or national agencies; elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

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www.nominate.noaa.gov



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<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>