



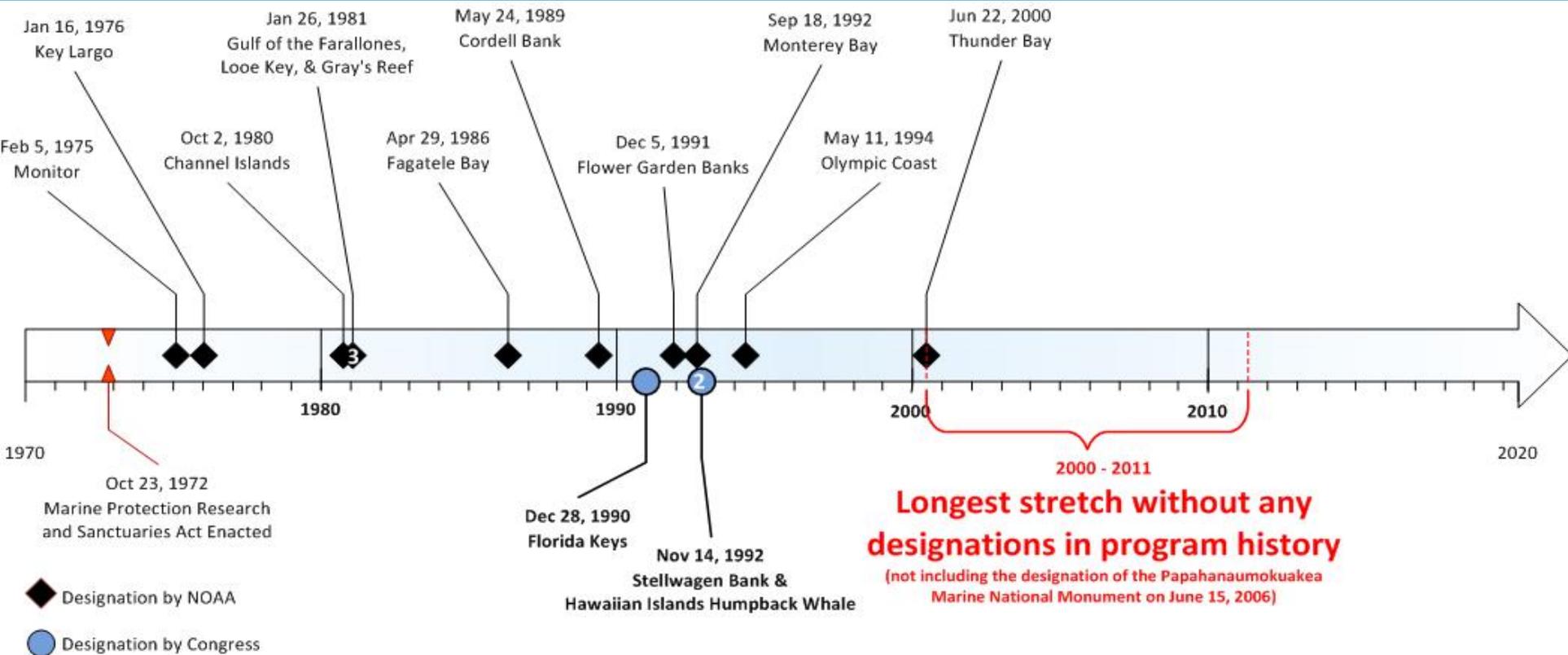
# Sanctuary Site Evaluation List Briefing

Presentation to OCNMS Advisory Council, January 2013

# Summary of SEL in Regulations; History

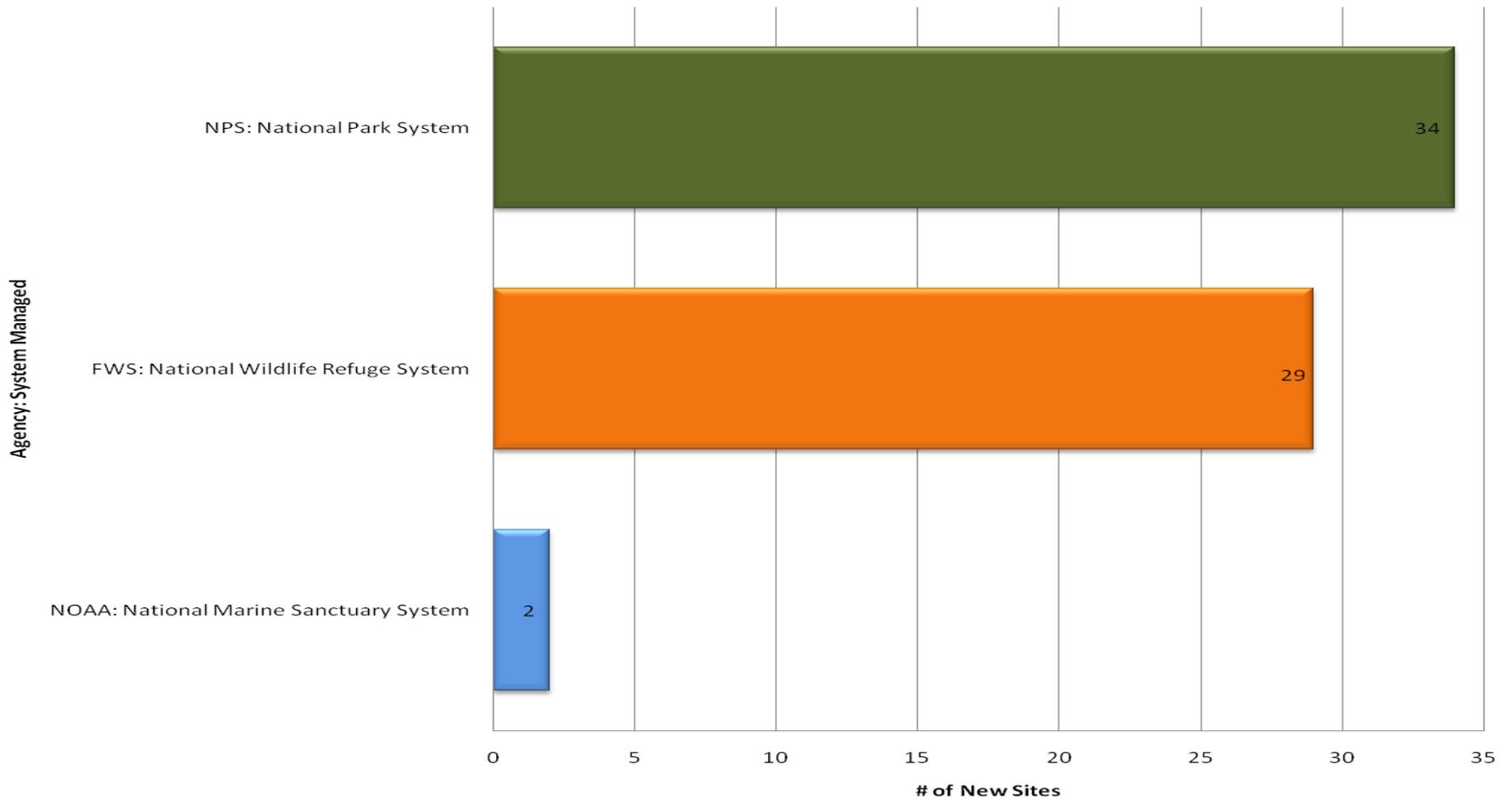
- The Site Evaluation List (SEL) is *“a comprehensive list of marine sites with high natural resource values and with historical qualities of special national significance that are highly qualified for further evaluation for possible designation as National Marine Sanctuaries.”*
- The SEL was deactivated by the ONMS Director in 1995.
- ONMS regulations (15 CFR 922.10) require:
  1. The ONMS Director to issue criteria for inclusion of marine sites on a revised SEL, with public notice and opportunity to comment, when he determines that the SEL should be reactivated; and
  2. Only sites on the SEL may be considered for subsequent review as active candidates for designation.

# Site Designation Timeline



# Context: Interesting Comparisons

**Designations of New Protected Areas (2000-2010)**



# Why Reinitiate SEL

- NMSA commands Secretary of Commerce to identify and designate the most significant areas as national marine sanctuaries
- Recent push to improve federal and state efforts to better plan marine waters has identified the need for areas where greater protection is needed
- National marine sanctuaries offer only comprehensive federal tool to conserve special places in US waters
- Communities around the country are clamoring for new sanctuaries to be designated

# Proposals for New and Expanded Sanctuaries

- 16 distinct proposed new areas submitted to NOAA, Secretary of Commerce, or President in the last five years
- Proposed sites are on both coasts, Gulf Mexico, Great Lakes, Arctic, and Western Pacific
- Proponents include members of Congress, tribes, scientists, sanctuary advisory councils.
- To date, 9 Advisory Councils have passed resolutions to support SEL reactivation, 1 council deliberating.

# Closing Thoughts

- The administrative process to designate new NMS takes many years, begins with SEL
- Limitation in NMSA deals with designations not consideration of new sites; budget decisions are therefore years away
- Are all the best, most significant, special marine places in America protected?