

**Subject:** OCNMS MANAGMENT PLAN REVIEW  
**From:** Lance Morgan <saltylance@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Fri, 14 Nov 2008 09:44:12 -0800  
**To:** OCNMSmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Dear OCNMS,

I was a scientist on the 2004 expedition to the Sanctuary that first discovered the deep sea coral *Lophelia pertusa* was first discovered. Since that time scientific cruises have discovered additional deep water coral habitats in the Sanctuary that appear to also be important as fish habitat. Over the next 5-10 years I believe the Sanctuary should focus on two topics related to these discoveries and look to strengthen its management and conservation.

***Protecting marine biological diversity***

The protection of marine biological diversity should be recognized as the primary goal of the management plan. The sanctuary was created with the primary mandate of resource conservation, and the management plan should put conservation front and center and provide a roadmap for meeting said mandate.

***Conserving deep-water corals***

Deep-sea corals provide habitat to fish and invertebrates, are vulnerable to disturbance, and need centuries to recover from damage, if at all. The vulnerability of these living habitats merits particular conservation attention. The management plan should outline the sanctuary's coral protection efforts over the next five to 10 years.

Sincerely,

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