

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program



Public Participation





- **Education**
- **Sanctuary Advisory
Committees**
- **Management
Plan Review**



What is an Advisory Committee?

A Sanctuary Advisory Council is a community-based advisory group established to provide recommendations to a Sanctuary Manager on the designation and/or operation of a National Marine Sanctuary. The National Marine Sanctuary Program is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of councils at all sanctuaries.

- Continually involving the public in management priorities and planning.
- Members represent diverse interests (tourism, fishing, government, conservation, etc.)
- 11 SACs chartered and operational.
- Over 200 members, 115 alternates.
- Additional 3 SACs by 2004



GROWTH

Site	Year Council Established
•FKNMS	1991
•HIHWNMS	1992
•MBNMS	1992
•SBNMS	1992
•OCNMS	1995
•TBNMS/UP	1997
•CINMS	1998
•GRNMS	1999
•NWHICRER	2001
•GFNMS	2001
•CBNMS	2001



National Meeting of Advisory Committee Chairs

- 2001: First meeting of Chairs and Coordinators. They shared site-specific accomplishments and challenges each SAC has faced; identified solutions to problems that some or all Councils have in common, and participated in a mini-workshop that focused on planning and conducting effective meetings. (27 participants)
- 2002: The Chairs and Coordinators met for the second time. The meeting included a number of presentations and discussion on procedural issues related to enhancing the operation of Councils. (22 participants)
- 2003: This meeting continued the tradition of the Chairs making presentations about their Councils. This meeting also marked the first time that the NMSP sought input from the Chairs on a variety of policy topics facing the NMSP on a national level. (32 participants)



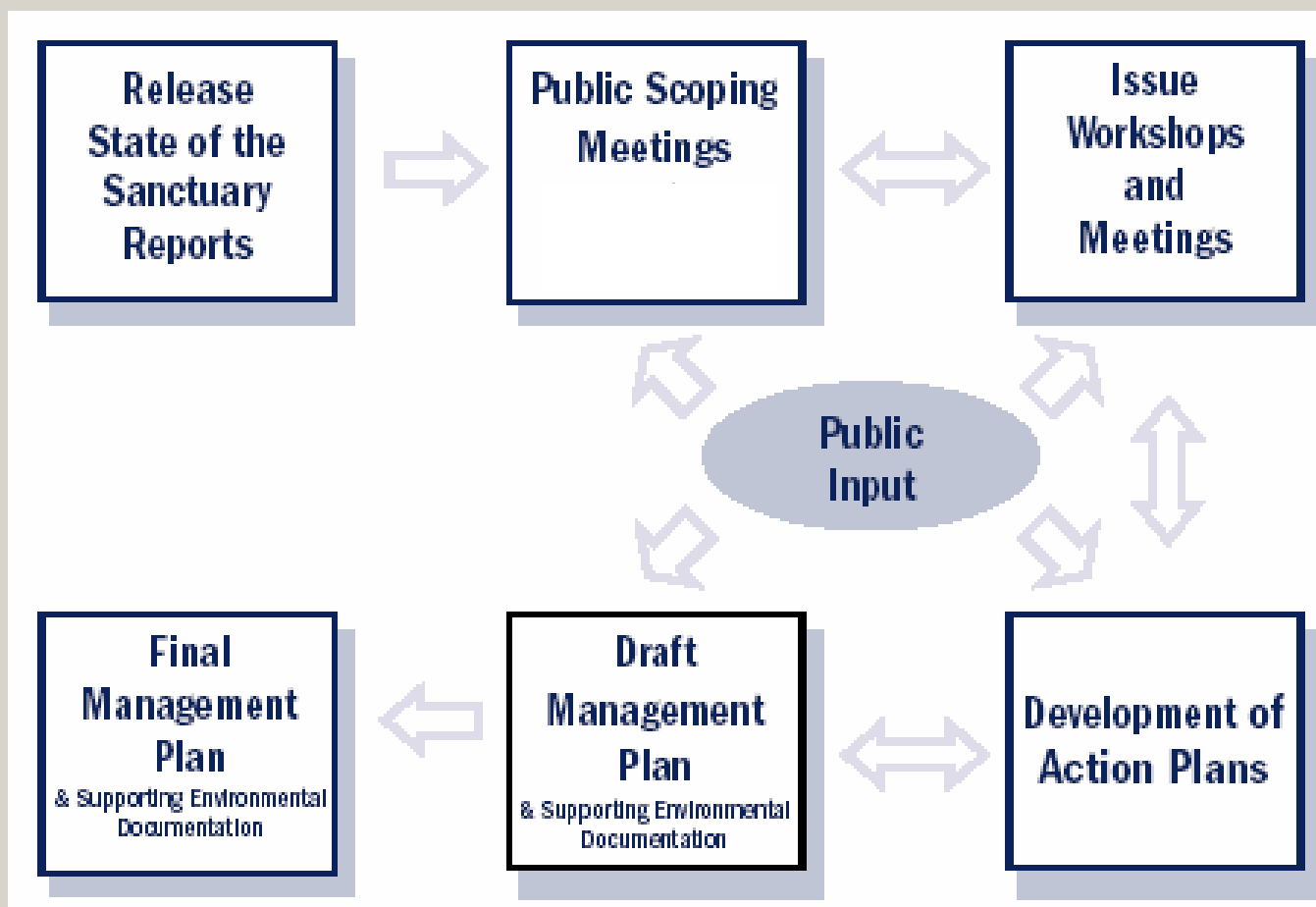
How is the public involved

The public management plan review process provides an unprecedented public participation mechanism. It enables citizens to be directly involved in formulating actions and strategies that affect them.

- Starting with attending scoping meetings
- Followed by providing written comments
- Participate on working groups
- Comment on the development of the draft and final management plans
- Commit to new roles in implementation



Where the public is involved





Sites involved in Management Plan Review FY 2002 and 2003

- ✓ Florida Keys NMS
- Grays Reef NMS
- Stellwagen Bank NMS
- Channel Islands NMS
- ✓ Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

Joint Management Plan Review

- Monterey Bay NMS
- Cordell Bank NMS
- Gulf of the Farallones NMS



Joint Management Plan Review For North/Central California

Some Stats

- 20 scoping meetings
- Approximately 12,500 scoping comments
 - 8,500 written via mail, email and petitions
 - 4,000 from scoping meetings
- 35 working groups
- Each working group included 5 – 20 participants (including NMSP staff, constituent groups and content experts.)



Concluding Thoughts



Sanctuaries are America's ocean treasures.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is evolving public participation to a new level in Resource Management. A new Paradigm is being created.

