



The National Marine Sanctuary System and Its Role in Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning

**The Role of National Marine Sanctuaries
In Marine Spatial Planning
Congressional Briefing**

**National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
and National Marine Sanctuary Caucus
U.S. Capitol, Room HC-8, 12:00-1:30PM
November 17, 2009**

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



- First enacted in 1972
- Reauthorized six times, latest in 2000
- The idea was to provide authority to [reference slide]
- Primary objective = resource protection

What are National Marine Sanctuaries?

Areas of special ecological & cultural significance

- Focus on Resource Protection
- Community-based Perspective
- Solutions through Partnerships & Public Participation



If there were three things I could tell you about sanctuaries it would be that they:

1. Focus on resource protection
 2. Have a community based focus through a national system [mention SACs]
 3. Use a public participatory process to address management issues
- Uses science to inform process
 - Science is acquired through partnerships
-
- NOAA relies heavily on partnerships to execute its management responsibilities (e.g., enforcement...)



- The whole system about 160,000 square miles
- 140,000 of that is in PMNM
- The rest of the system is distributed among west and east coasts, Gulf of Mexico, great lakes, and western pacific

• Map shows where sanctuaries are located but also illustrates how the relationship between sanctuaries and MSP exists at different scales:

1. *Nationally (or regionally)* to identify those special areas that require special management/protection
2. Regionally play important roles in regional-scale management (outside existing sanctuaries) provide ecological benefits (e.g., replenishing resources outside boundaries---export eggs, larvae). science and



- The primary objective = resource protection
- Sanctuaries and the resources they protect do not exist in vacuum
- Large number of human uses that rely on sanctuaries – or access to sanctuaries
- [reference quote from NMSA]– Although the primary objective of the NMSA is the protection of sanctuary resources....it also instructs us to recognize human uses and to facilitate them to the extent they are consistent with that primary objective.

Marine Spatial Planning (Ehler & Douvère, 2009)

Def: A public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process.

Marine Spatial Planning (Ehler & Douvère, 2009)

Six Characteristics for Effective MSP:

- Ecosystem-based
- Integrated
- Place-based or Area-based
- Adaptive
- Strategic and Anticipatory
- Participatory

Marine Spatial Planning: Ten Steps (Ehler & Douvère, 2009)

- Identifying need and establishing authority.
- Obtaining financial support
- Organizing the process via pre-planning
- Organizing stakeholder participation
- Defining and analyzing existing conditions
- Defining and analyzing future conditions
- Preparing and approving the plan
- Implementing and enforcing the plan
- Monitoring and evaluating performance
- Adapting the spatial management process/plan

Sanctuaries & Marine Spatial Planning

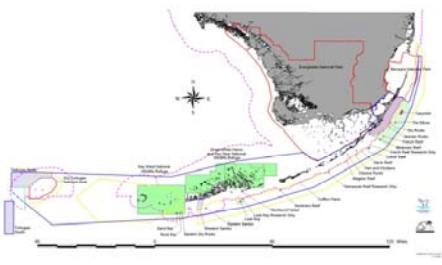

- Long history
- Varying scales
- Full Public Participation
- Testing new approaches



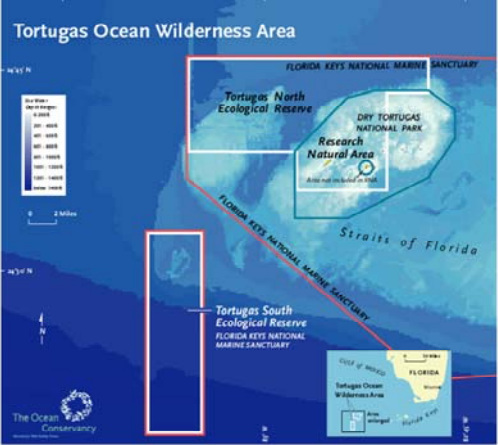
- Map shows where sanctuaries are located but also illustrates how the relationship between sanctuaries and MSP exists at different scales:
 - 1. *Nationally (or regionally)* to identify those special areas that require special management/protection
 - 2. Regionally play important roles in regional-scale management (outside existing sanctuaries) provide ecological benefits (e.g., replenishing resources outside boundaries---export eggs, larvae), science and public involvement/awareness
 - 3. *Locally*—within sanctuaries—to manage actual uses at a finer scale [reference 3 case studies at end]

NOAA's job is to –through partnerships and public

Marine Spatial Planning at FKNMS

- Clearly defined goals & objectives
- Planning process both top-down and bottom-up
- Transparent process
- Incorporate principles of adaptive management

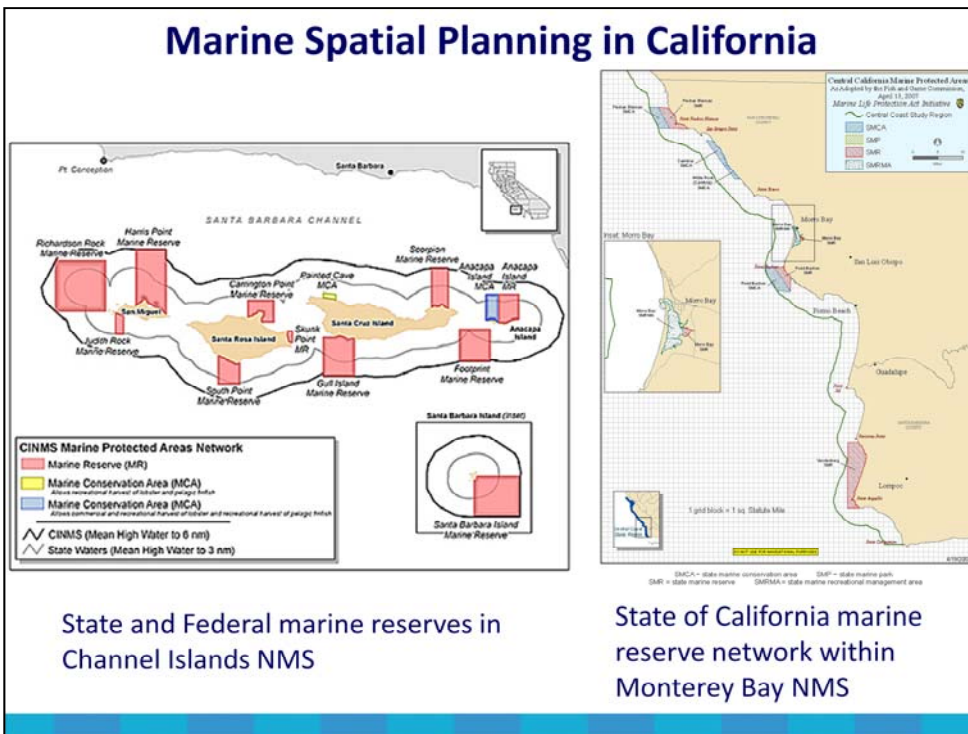


Excellent example of enabling recreation and tourism while maintaining the resources that attract the same users.

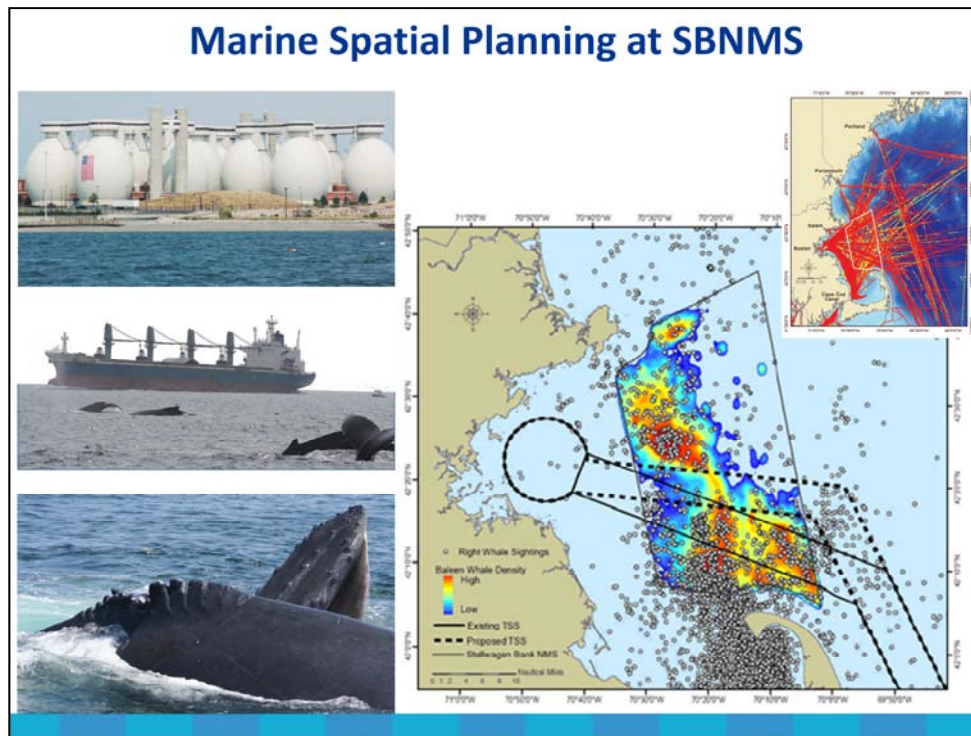
Three million visitors per year, major driving force in Florida's economy.

- **Clearly defined goals & objectives**
- **Planning process both top-down and bottom-up**
- **Transparent process: share information fully & welcome opposing views**
- **Incorporate principles of adaptive management – explicit plan for evaluation, review, and revision including time frame**

Marine Spatial Planning in California



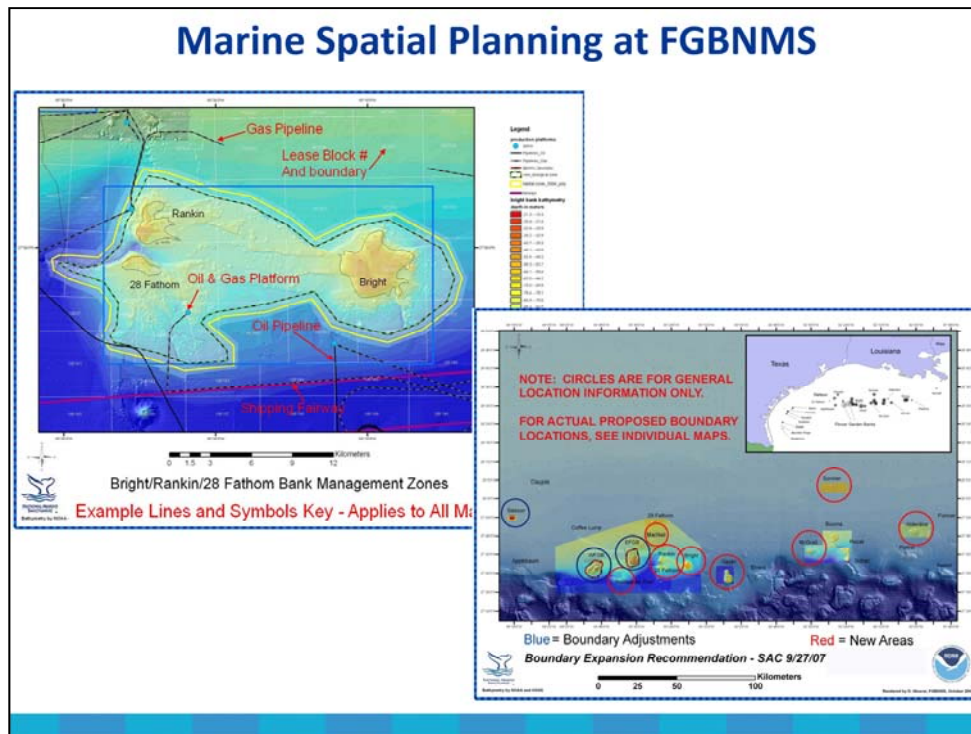
Excellent example of state/federal cooperation/coordination in an MSP process that resulted in optimally placed and sized marine reserves



Excellent example of how NOAA and USCG used the best available scientific information to inform public process

Context: shipping lanes through area of sanctuary with high density of whale sightings; LNG proposals to increase shipping; and increasing numbers of ship strikes on highly endangered right whales (and other whales)

Worked with industry to shift lanes into/out of Boston slightly to north to avoid highest density of whale sightings



Ongoing process (started in Oct 2006) (scoping - meetings in 3 cities Houston/Gallveston, Corpus Cristi, New Orleans)

Advisory Council formed a “Boundary Expansion Subcommittee” which met in 2007

BESC submitted recommendations to the full SAC in September 27, 2007

Full Council voted (in December 6, 2007) to recommend adding 9 banks to the FGBNMS boundary

Several issues to consider: existing infrastructure

Science for Marine Spatial Planning A Symposium

Visit

http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/msp_symposium.html for archived presentations, to be posted by 11/20/2009

