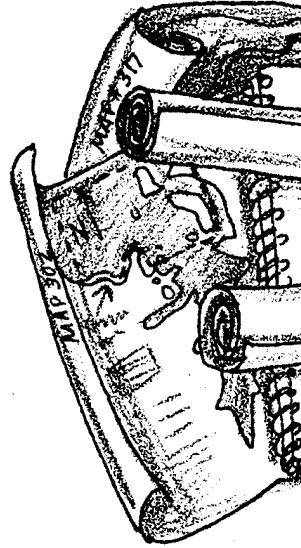


Which Will Be the Next Marine Sanctuary?

Key Concepts

1. The Marine Sanctuary Act was passed to protect unique areas in the oceans and Great Lakes.
2. Latitude and longitude can be used to locate each National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).
3. There are areas within the ocean and Great Lakes, and along the coast that are worth preserving as Marine Sanctuaries.
4. Marine Sanctuaries need public support and involvement.



Background

The designation of a National Marine Sanctuary is a four step process. First, NOAA selects a site from a list of eligible areas known as the “site evaluation list” (SEL). Selection identifies the site as an active candidate.

The second step is called the “scoping” phase. During this step, NOAA solicits written comments from the public, as well as holding meetings to learn the public’s views on the issues to be addressed in a “Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan” (DEIS/MP). NOAA, at this point, wants input on the site’s natural resource values, present and potential uses, and existing management regimes. NOAA also wants ideas relating to the proposed sanctuary’s size, regulations, management, and opportunities for research and education.

The third step is the DEIS/MP Review. The objective of this step is to issue the DEIS/MP and have the public review the information and ideas presented. During the review, the public has the opportunity to present their ideas to NOAA on which alternatives are best, push for essential improvements, and help the agency produce a better plan. However, tug-of-wars can occur over the issues between different groups or organizations, which can stall the process.

The final step is the preparation and review of the “Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan” (FEIS/MP). NOAA produces a final plan for the proposed sanctuary. The plan is meant to reflect the public’s input in previous steps. During the next 45 days, congressional and gubernatorial review of the FEIS/MP occurs. During this time, one of the following three things can occur:

1. Both Congress and the governor may remain silent, signifying approval designation.
2. The governor may veto any aspect of the sanctuary as it applies to state waters (3 miles out from the coast).
3. Congress may disapprove of the designation or change any terms.

Additional background information for “Which Will Be the Next Marine Sanctuary?” is found in the preceding activity “Marine Sanctuaries: An Introduction.”

Materials

For each group of 3–4 students:

- information sheets on proposed sites
- DEIS/MP for the proposed site chosen (may be obtained by writing to NOAA, Sanctuaries & Reserves; 1305 East West Highway, Building 4, 12th Floor; Silver Spring, MD 20910) or you may use regulations at an existing National Marine Sanctuary (See Teaching Hints)).

Teaching Hints

“Which Will Be the Next Sanctuary?” involves the students in the decision-making process of selecting new sanctuaries from a list of proposed sites. The students chose one of the proposed sites, evaluate the site characteristics, regulations, and management; and then decide whether the proposed site will be designated as a marine sanctuary.

Obtain the DEIS/MP for the proposed sanctuary the students decide to evaluate during this activity by writing: NOAA, Sanctuaries & Reserves; 1305 East West Highway, Building 4, 12th Floor; Silver Spring, MD 20910. If time does not permit this, it is possible to have the students evaluate the regulations that exist at another National Marine Sanctuary as if they were the proposed regulations for the proposed site. Toward that end, regulations from three different National Marine Sanctuaries are included at the end of this section.

Assign students to one of the following interest groups:

- commercial fishers
- boaters
- off-shore oil and gas developers
- seafloor miners
- Greenpeace.

After the groups have developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, re-assign students to either a state group or to Congress. The state groups will need to designate a governor, while the Congress groups will need to designate a vice president.

SAMPLE REGULATIONS

Monterey Bay

Prohibited:

1. Exploring for developing or producing oil, gas, or mineral deposits.
2. Designing new dredged material sites.

Regulated:

1. Discharge or depositing any materials.
2. Flying aircraft below 1000 feet along portions of the coast.
3. Altering the seabed or constructing any structures on the seabed.
4. Moving, injuring, possessing, historical resources.
5. Injuring or harassing marine mammals, turtles, and sea birds.

Flower Garden Banks NMS

Regulated:

1. Anchoring or mooring vessels.
2. Exploring, developing, or producing oil, gas, or minerals, within the no activity zones.
3. Fishing within the sanctuary.
4. Taking any marine mammals or turtles within the sanctuary.
5. Possessing a sanctuary resource.
6. Possessing or using any fishing gear, device or equipment, or means, except a conventional hook and line gear within the sanctuary, except while passing through the areas without interruptions.
7. Discharging or depositing certain chemicals.

8. Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the seabed of sanctuary or constructing, placing, or abandoning, any structure, material other matter on the seabed of the sanctuary.
9. Possessing or using explosives or releasing electrical charges within the sanctuary.

Stellwagen Bank

Prohibited:

1. Exploring for, developing, or producing sand and gravel resources.
2. Discharging or depositing any materials.
3. Altering the seabed or constructing any structure on the seabed.
4. Moving, injuring or possessing historical resources.
5. Incineration of any material on board any vessel.
6. "Lightering" (transfer of petroleum based products/materials from vessel to vessel).

Additional information for each sanctuary is available by writing to each sanctuary and/or by locating the articles cited in the bibliography on each "Information Sheet". The addresses for each sanctuary are:

Channel Islands NMS

113 Harbor Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 966-7107 or

Sea Center

211 Stearns Wharf
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 962-0885

Cordell Bank NMS

Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 556-3509

Fagatele Bay NMS

P.O. Box 4318
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
(684) 633-7354

Florida Key's NMS

9499 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 743-2437

Flower Garden Banks NMS

1716 Briarcrest Dr., Suite 603
Bryan, TX 77802
(409) 847-9296

Gray's Reef NMS

10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-2345

Gulf of Farallones NMS

Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 556-3509

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

726 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753
(808) 879-2818

Monitor NMS

NOAA, Building 1519
Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5544
(804) 878-2973

Key Largo NMS

P.O. Box 1083
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-1644
Route 1, Box 782
Big Pine Key, FL 33043
(305) 872 4039

Monterey Bay NMS

299 Foam Stree, Suite D
Monterey, CA 93940
(408) 647-4201

Olympic Coast NMS

138 West First Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 457-6622

Stellwagen Bank NMS

14 Union Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
(507) 747-1619

Proposed Sanctuaries

NOAA, Sanctuaries & Reserves
1305 East West Highway
SSMC 4, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-3125

Key Words

DEIS/MP - Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan - a document prepared to assess the potential changes due to some proposed action; in this case, the creation of a marine sanctuary. Draft documents are prepared to solicit citizen input.

FEIS/MP - Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan - a revised DEIS/MP document including changes in response to public comment.

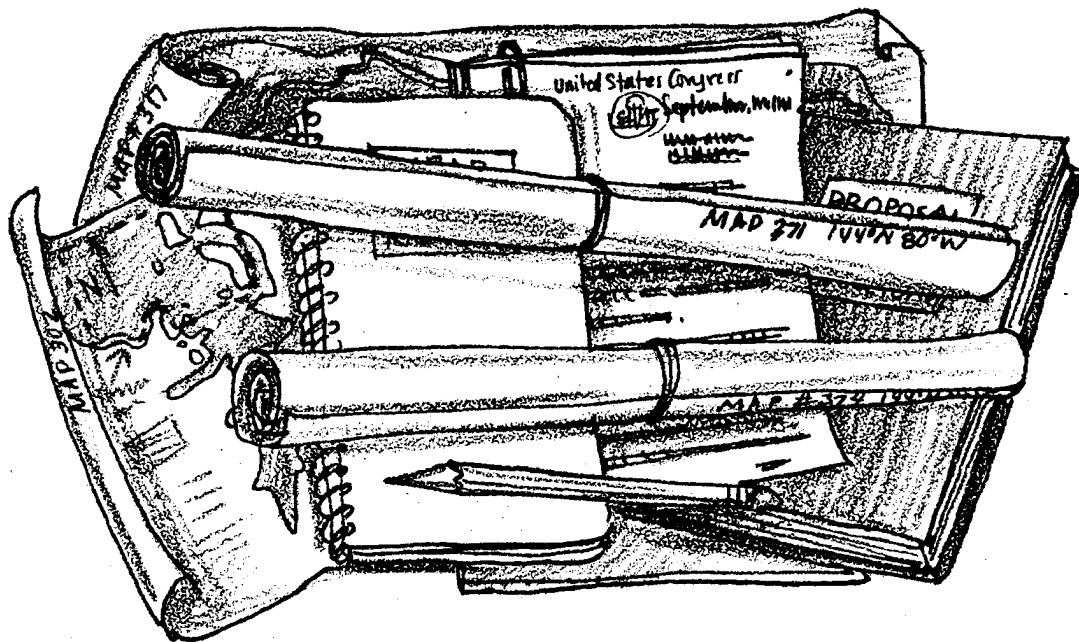
Extensions

1. Have students write to the head of the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to voice support for their choice for the next marine sanctuary:

Chief
NOAA, Sanctuaries & Reserves
1305 East West Highway
Building 4, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

2. Have students write to their members of Congress indicating their choice for the next marine sanctuary and asking for congressional support in making the sanctuary a reality.

Which Will Be the Next Marine Sanctuary?



Introduction:

Creating a new marine sanctuary is complicated business. The designation of a National Marine Sanctuary is a four step process. First, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) selects a site from a list of eligible areas. This selection identifies the site as an active candidate.

The second step is called the “scoping” phase. During this step, NOAA solicits written comments from the public. They also hold meetings to learn the public’s views. NOAA is very interested in the issues to be addressed in a “Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan” (DEIS/MP). They hope to learn about the sites natural resources, present and potential uses, and what’s presently being done with the site. NOAA also wants ideas relating to the proposed sanctuary’s size and opportunities for research and education.

The third step is the DEIS/MP Review. NOAA has gathered information and written a report. Now the report is presented. The public is asked to review the information and ideas presented. Citizens help the agency produce a better plan. However, not everyone thinks the same way. Tug-of-wars can occur over the issues between different groups. These debates can stall the process.

NOAA takes the new information and changes the DEIS/MP. They prepare

a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan (FEIS/MP). During the next 45 days, congress and affected state governor review the FEIS/MP. One of three things can occur:

1. Both Congress and the governor may approve.
2. The governor may veto any aspect of the sanctuary as it applies to state waters (3 miles out from the coast).
3. Congress may disapprove or change any terms.

For example, Congress changed the plan for Cordell Bank. They voted for stronger protection for the park.

In the following activity, you will go through the steps used to create a new sanctuary. First, you will select a site as an active candidate. Then you will review a management plan for the site. Finally, you will take part in approving or disapproving the site.

Materials:

- Proposed National Marine Sanctuary Information Sheets
- additional information on each site

Procedure:

1. Obtain a set of “Proposed National Marine Sanctuary Information Sheets”.
2. Select one of the proposed sites to evaluate during this activity.
3. Collect the following information on the selected site:
 - natural resources present
 - size
 - regulations
 - existing management
 - opportunities for education
 - opportunities for research.
4. Your teacher will assign you to a designated “interest group”. In your

interest group, discuss and answer the following questions:

- a. Do you agree with the proposed management of the site? (Remember, answer from the point of view of your interest group.) Why do you agree? If you don't agree, what would you change and why?

 - b. Do you agree with the proposed regulations for the site? (Again, answer from the point of view of your interest group.) Why? If you don't agree, what regulations would you change and why?

 - c. Do you agree with the proposed opportunities for research and education? (Answer from the point of view of your interest group.) Why? If you don't agree, what would you change and why?
-
5. Discuss your answers with the class. Create a FEIS/MP about which all of the interest groups can agree.

 6. Time to change roles out of your special interest group and into the government. Your teacher will reassign you into either the state or congress group.

State group: Choose one person to be governor. The governor then polls the other state citizens to determine their support for the FEIS/MP. As a citizen, you'll vote your own will. If the majority supports the formation of the new sanctuary, then the governor must also support it.

Congress group: Choose one person to be Vice President. The Vice President then polls the senators and congress people to determine their support for the FEIS/MP. As a congress person, you'll vote your own will. If the majority supports the formation of the new sanctuary, then the Vice President must also support it.
 7. If both the governor and the Vice President are in favor of the sanctuary, the

next marine sanctuary has been established. If either the governor or the Vice President is not in favor, the site is not designated as a sanctuary.

8. Answer the following questions based on what you learned during this activity:

a. When you were in your interest group, was it easy to agree on the size, regulations and management of the proposed site? Why or why not?

b. Did everyone in your state or congress group support the FEIS/MP?

c. How did the majority of your state or congress group reach its decision?

d. This activity was designed to mimic parts of the process that NOAA uses to create a new sanctuary. Do you think all proposed sites become National Marine Sanctuaries? Why or why not?

e. Do you think this is a fair way of determining whether a proposed site

becomes a National Marine Sanctuary? Please explain your answer.

f. In your opinion, what is the best or fairest way of designating marine sanctuaries?

9. Happy with your choice? Why not write to the head of the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to voice support for your choice for the next marine sanctuary:

Chief
NOAA, Sanctuaries & Reserves
1305 East West Highway
Building 4, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

10. While you have your word processor on, why not write to your members of Congress. Tell them of your choice for the next marine sanctuary and ask for their support in making the sanctuary a reality.

Proposed National Marine Sanctuaries Information Sheet

Northwest Straits

Location: North of Seattle, Washington; the waters surrounding the San Juan Islands, north to the Canadian Border. All these waters fall under Washington State jurisdiction.

Size: About 275 square miles

Features: The area is characterized by rocky shore, deep water, and shallow embayments. A large variety of algae, invertebrates, fishes, marine mammals, and sea birds are found in this area. Migratory fish that use the area include salmon, trout, anchovy, pollack, and halibut. Seals, sea lions, porpoises, river otters, and five species of whales occur at least part of the year. The resident killer whales are the longest studied pods of killer whales in the nation. Over 200 bald eagles winter here, making it the largest single concentration of this bird in the continental United States. The area is subject to a 12 foot tidal range, exposing a variety of marine organisms including 200 species of algae.

This area also supports many recreational activities such as boating, fishing, kayaking, hiking, and whale watching. These activities contribute significantly to the local economy. Fisheries throughout the area have been a major economic influence from early tribal subsistence fishing to modern day salmon fishing. Other important fisheries are herring, cod, dogfish, and sole. Crab, shrimp, and shellfish are also important for commercial and recreational harvesting.

Proposed National Marine Sanctuaries Information Sheet

Thunder Bay

Location: Located in Lake Huron in northeast Michigan, Thunder Bay is the only freshwater site in the National Marine Sanctuary Program

Features: This area is an underwater limestone sink hole. The bottom is highly sculptured. The habitat supports terns, gulls, and great blue herons and game fish including black bass, brown trout, steelhead, salmon, and trout.

There is a large collection of historical shipwrecks with over 100 identified including wooden-hulled schooners, steamers, barges, tugboats, and freighters. The proposed sanctuary is an important recreational area for the region.

Proposed National Marine Sanctuaries Information Sheet

Norfolk Canyon

Location: 60 miles from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

Features: This area has a deepwater submarine canyon containing large tree corals and "pueblo villages". Pueblo villages are areas along the canyon where invertebrates and finfish carve out deep "caves." These depressions serve as shelter and nurseries for a number of species. Gorgonian tree corals also occur here. These corals can grow up to 2 meters (6') high. Fifty species of fish are known in the area. A diverse group of migratory species also use the area. At least eight endangered and/or threatened species have been sighted, as well.

Commercial and recreational fishing occur in the area for flounder, bluefish, swordfish, mackerel, sea bass and others. Two former ocean dump sites are located near the canyon.