The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Monterey Bay (Designation: September 1992)
Known as the “Serengeti of the Sea,” Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary contains vast kelp forests, incredibly diverse habitats, near-shore deep-ocean environments and one of North America’s largest underwater canyons.

Channel Islands (Designation: September 1992)
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary contains a productive ecosystem and protects sensitive species, habitats, and shipwrecks and other maritime heritage artifacts.

Thunder Bay (Designation: September 2000)
Nicknamed “Shipwreck Alley,” Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects one of America’s best-preserved and nationally significant collections of shipwrecks.

American Samoa (Designation: April 1986)
Located in the South Pacific and containing Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is the most remote sanctuary and the only true tropical reef in the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Papahānaumokuākea (Designation: June 2006)
One of the largest fully protected conservation areas in the United States, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was created to protect an exceptional array of natural and cultural resources. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed for both its outstanding natural and cultural heritage.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale (Designation: November 1992)
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary protects the breeding, calving and nursing grounds used by the majority of humpback whales in the North-Pacific.

Stellwagen Bank (Designation: November 1992)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is one of the world’s premiere whale watching destinations, a historically important fishing ground, and the resting place for significant shipwrecks that reveal our maritime past.

Monitor (Designation: January 1975)
Designated as the nation’s first national marine sanctuary, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS Monitor.

Gray’s Reef (Designation: January 1981)
Gray’s Reef is Georgia’s amazing underwater park. The natural live-bottom reef teems with marine life and is part of the endangered North Atlantic right whale’s calving grounds. Loggerhead turtles nest at the reef, where scientists have identified more than 200 fish species.

Florida Keys (Designation: November 1986)
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is home to the world’s third-largest barrier coral reef, extensive seagrass beds, mangrove islands, and more than 1,500 species of marine life. Architectural treasures such as shipwrecks, anchors, cannon and glassware represent the rich maritime history of the Keys.

Gray’s Reef

Florida Keys

American Samoa

Papahānaumokuākea

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale

Stellwagen Bank

Monitor

Gray’s Reef

Florida Keys

American Samoa

Papahānaumokuākea

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale

Stellwagen Bank

Monitor

Gray’s Reef

Florida Keys

Olympic Coast (Designation: July 1994)
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary hosts one of North America’s most productive marine ecosystems and spectacular undeveloped coastlines. The sanctuary also has a rich cultural and historical legacy, particularly for the contemporary culture of the Quinault Nation and Makah, Quileute and Nootka tribes.

Greater Farallones (Designation: January 1987)
Encompassing highly productive marine habitats and home to diverse wildlife, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary protects one of the most bountiful marine environments in the world.

Cordell Bank (Designation: May 1988)
Cordell Bank rises from the soft sediments of the seafloor and provides a rocky habitat that is home to colorful and abundant invertebrates, algae and fish. Plentiful food in these waters attracts mammals, seabirds and turtles from around the Pacific Ocean.

Flower Garden Banks (Designation: January 1992)
Home to manta rays, whale sharks, sea turtles and large coral heads, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary includes underwater communities sitting atop submerged mountains called salt domes that rise from the depths of the Gulf of Mexico.
**Visiting Sanctuaries**

**WEST COAST**

1. **Sanctuary Exploration Center**
   - LOCATION: Santa Cruz, California
   - Located just steps from the beach, the Exploration Center is a highlight of any visit to Santa Cruz.
   - Features include a 3D map of the Sanctuary System and an interactive display that turns visitors into stewards.

2. **Coastal Discovery Center**
   - LOCATION: San Simon, California
   - Enjoy the beautiful view of San Simon Bay while you visit the Coastal Discovery Center.

3. **Greater Farallones Visitor Center**
   - LOCATION: San Francisco, California
   - Located in a historic Coast Guard station at the mouth of San Francisco Bay, this center offers a stunning view of the Golden Gate Bridge and a wealth of educational resources about wildlife and conservation.

4. **Olympic Coast Discovery Center**
   - LOCATION: Port Angeles, Washington
   - Plan your hikes or kayak trips along the coast, discover local marine life, and learn about the sanctuary's rich history.

5. **Channel Islands Boating Center**
   - LOCATION: Oxnard, California
   - Visit the Channel Islands Boating Center to enjoy engaging and interactive exhibits that feature Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

6. **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center**
   - LOCATION: Alpena, Michigan
   - Explore a full-size replica of a ship-wrecked Great Lakes schooner and walk along the waterfront.

7. **Mokupāpua Discovery Center**
   - LOCATION: Hilo, Hawaii
   - Learn about Hawaii's most remote and spectacular coral reefs at the Moku-āpapa Discovery Center in Hilo.

8. ** Hearthstone Visitor Center**
   - LOCATION: Pago, American Samoa
   - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS**

9. **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Visitor Center**
   - LOCATION: Lahaina, Hawaii
   - Learn about Hawaii's diverse marine life and rich culture in a scenic beachfront setting.

10. **Great Barrier Reef Discovery Center**
    - LOCATION: Coffs Harbor, Australia
    - Experience the world's largest coral reef system, home to thousands of species of fish and marine life.

11. **East Coast**
    - **USM Monitor Center**
      - LOCATION: Newport News, Virginia
      - Located in The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, the USS Monitor Center is an extraordinary exhibit that highlights the iconic Civil War vessel.

12. **Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center**
    - LOCATION: Key West, Florida
    - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

**Southwest Gulf of Mexico**

13. **Flintstones National Marine Sanctuary**
    - LOCATION: Key West, Florida
    - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

**South Pacific**

14. **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**
    - LOCATION: Hawaii
    - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

15. **Cordell Bank National Monument**
    - LOCATION: Northern California
    - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

16. **Fagatele Bay National Marine Monument**
    - LOCATION: American Samoa
    - Immerse yourself in the Keys with the living reef exhibit, a park with living corals and tropical fish, and learn what it's like to live beneath the waves in Aquatrails, the world's only underwater ocean laboratory.

**EAST COAST**

**Partners**

- **Want to see more?** Our sanctuaries partner with aquarium and marine science museums to provide interpretive and hands-on exhibits highlighting the ocean and Great Lakes' natural and cultural resources. Check out the New England Aquarium, the USS Monitor Center, the Bettis Aquarium in St. Petersburg, and the Ipala, Alabama Science Center.

**Get Into Your National Marine Sanctuaries**

- **Things To Do:**
  - Diving and Snorkeling
  - Kayaking and Paddleboarding
  - Fishing
  - Whale Watching
  - Surfing
  - Boating
  - Tide Pools
  - Sightseeing & Heritage Trails
  - Stewardship

- **Timeline:**
  - NOAA established National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) Program established
  - Channel Islands NMS designated
  - Florida Keys NMS designated
  - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS designated
  - Thunder Bay NMS designated
  - Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument established
  - Fagatele Bay NMS expanded; change to NMS of American Samoa

- **For more information:** sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/things-to-do.html