

## Quick Guide on Monuments & Sanctuaries— What’s the difference when managed/co-managed by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries?



Explore sanctuaries above and below the water! Photos: David Ruck/NOAA

Our National Marine Sanctuary System comprises 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. Though they sound similar, national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments are actually two different types of protections.

### National Marine Sanctuaries

Under the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#), NOAA or Congress can designate a national marine sanctuary. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act is the only federal law written specifically to protect ocean areas ranging from discrete geographies to entire ecosystems. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act provides the authority to develop management plans and issue regulations for each sanctuary and the system as a whole. These regulations are developed and updated through a public process.

NOAA takes nominations for potential new national marine sanctuaries from local communities. If they meet certain criteria, NOAA accepts the nomination for a new national marine sanctuary to the inventory of areas that could be considered for designation. If NOAA decides to move forward with the designation process, NOAA then consults with Congress, other federal agencies, state, territorial and local government entities, fishery management councils, and the public. This process, based on requirements in the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, provides multiple opportunities for public engagement and official public comment.

### Marine National Monuments

Marine national monuments are designated by presidential proclamation under the [Antiquities Act of 1906](#), which authorizes the president to establish national monuments on federal lands that contain "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest."

Marine national monuments are typically managed by multiple government agencies, which may include NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and other federal and state partners. The specific management partnerships vary depending on the details of the management arrangement established in the presidential proclamation.

Moreover, although no public process is required under the Antiquities Act before designation, the designation of Pacific marine national monuments by President George W. Bush and the expansion of one of those monuments by President Barack Obama were all preceded by public engagement. Additionally, the development of marine national monument management plans and regulations is carried out through a public review process.

One thing remains the same: monuments and sanctuaries protect our nation's underwater treasures.

	Monuments	Sanctuaries
Protect habitat	✓	✓
Conserve natural and cultural resources	✓	✓
Volunteer opportunities	✓	✓
Provide education programs	✓	✓
Open for recreation	✓	✓
Managed by NOAA	✓	✓
Co-managed by state / territorial governments	✓	✓
Co-managed by other partners	✓	
Designated by the president	✓	
Designated by NOAA or Congress		✓
Formally nominated by communities		✓
Management plans developed via public process	✓	✓
Management plans reviews via public process	✓	✓
Advisory Councils required		✓

# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



**It often takes longer to create a national marine sanctuary than a marine national monument.**

Because the president can create a marine national monument by presidential proclamation, monuments can be created quickly. This means that public areas of national importance can be set aside without delay, ensuring that they are protected for future generations.

When national marine sanctuaries are created under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, it may take several years to complete the designation process because of the high level of public input NOAA receives. This input allows NOAA to balance protection with current and future compatible uses of the area's resources.

**National marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments are managed differently.**

National marine sanctuaries are managed by NOAA through its Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and in some cases, in

partnership with state governments. We can't do it alone: we manage these special places in a way that integrates the local community.

Marine national monuments are typically managed by multiple government agencies, which may include NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and other federal and state partners. The specific management partnerships vary depending on the details of the management arrangement established in the presidential proclamation. For example, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is co-managed by the Department of Commerce through NOAA, the Department of the Interior, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

**For NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, community engagement plays a crucial role in the management of marine national monuments and national marine sanctuaries.**

There is no obligation under the Antiquities Act for a monument to have education programs, an advisory council, or public and community

engagement. However, Rose Atoll Marine National Monument receives public input through the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council; and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument consults the public through its Reserve Advisory Council.

**While most national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments are distinctly separate, sometimes the two work together.**

Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, for example, was established in 2009 under the Antiquities Act with the direction that NOAA initiate the process to add the marine areas of the monument to Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. When Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary became National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa in 2012, it was expanded to include several other areas -- including Rose Atoll.

**These special places are sources of national pride, and when we take care of them, we strengthen our nation now and for future generations.**



Photo: Kate Thompson/NOAA

Visitors to Hawai'i experience traditional Hawaiian boating practices.



Photo: Ahmed Tashkandi, Saudi Arabia, Ocean for Life 2013

The sanctuary system provides outdoor space for kids of all ages to play and learn.



Photo: NOAA

Whale watching is a popular activity among sanctuary system visitors.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>