



## Sanctuary System Business Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 25, 2023

12:00 to 1:00 pm ET

### Meeting Goals:

- Approve minutes from December 1, 2022 council meeting.
- Discuss and vote on the proposed National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy public comment letter to be submitted to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

### Meeting Resources:

- [Council Member Bios](#) and Name Pronunciation Guide (attachment)
- [Meeting Minutes](#) from December 1, 2022
- Proposed Public Comment from Council (attachment)

### Action Item - Approve Minutes:

- Minutes were unanimously approved

### Introduction of Letter:

- [Final letter](#)
- Business Advisory Council co-chair Betsy López-Wagner gave an overview of how the letter came about and how the ideas and opinions stated in the letter came from the whole council.
- Betsy highlighted the main themes of the letter: Sustainable Ocean Economy, Equitable Access and Experiences, Just Transition, Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes Priorities, and An Informed and Responsive National Strategy, and emphasized *“the importance of a racially, ethnically, culturally and gender diverse workforce, inclusive of multigenerational individuals of all backgrounds, along with additional opportunities for those of marginalized backgrounds and identities, as well as neurodivergencies.”*

### Discussion of Letter:

- Discussed in a previous working group meeting: how members wanted to highlight that, “Coastal communities in the U.S. are home to over 128 million people, or almost 40 percent of our nation's population.” Also wanted to highlight how important recreation and tourism should be to the National Strategy.

### Administrative Updates:

- Matt Stout, Chief of Staff, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) gave an overview of current updates of the program.
- In April, the White House and ONMS issued a Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping and to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Designation of a



National Marine Sanctuary for the Pacific Remote Islands (770,000 square miles), launching the designation process. announced PRI 700,000 square miles. ONMS is working on completing the process in 18 months.

- ONMS is also working on the designation process for Lake Erie. The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would encompass approximately 740 square miles of Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters, from the shoreline to the Canadian border.
- ONMS went from 2000-2016 without designating, but now we have 6 sanctuaries in the designation process.
- The Inflation Reduction Act has 30 million dollars helping with the designation efforts.
- Hoping to designate proposed Lake Ontario NMS soon.
- Director, John Armor will be out there meeting with local and Indigenous groups to hear from them on the new proposed sites.
- Links shared:
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/pacific-remote-islands/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-erie/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/ HUDSON-CANYON/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/papahanaumokuakea/>
  - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photo-contest.html>
- Maite Arce asked about if the workload has changed, how has this changed the workforce?
  - Matt answered that ONMS is working with more partners and hiring more contractors to fill in the gaps. ONMS is trying to grow as the future needs.
- Greg Jacoski discussed how a big part of the letter is the infrastructure needed, IRA funding, what are the priorities of ONMS for updating the infrastructure of the system?
  - Matt answered that there has been a high priority discussion with senior management since november. ONMS leadership are looking at where we need to invest for our process and deliver to the public. There are 5 priorities that are external looking and internal: streamlining our hiring process making it more diverse, streamlining paperwork and condition reporting, making management plans are based 5-10 years, and to improve baseline delivery tools to do our jobs better (Examples: real time condition reports, websites where the public can look, vessel traffic, water quality, looking at trends of species, investing in our people and technology).

**Public Comment:**

- No public comments received.

**Action item - Vote on Letter:**



- The Business Advisory Council voted yes to submit a letter to the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The voting record can be found at the bottom of the [letter](#).