

Proposed Designation of Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

PUBLICATION



**June 8,
2022**

NOAA opens a public comment period on the proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is invited to submit comments to the agency via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) using docket number NOAA-NOS-2022-0053.

ENDS

**Aug. 8,
2022**

NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC MEETINGS



NOAA will hold virtual and in-person public scoping meetings. For more information, visit the [Hudson Canyon website](https://www.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon).

DRAFT PROPOSAL



NOAA prepares a draft sanctuary proposal that includes potential boundaries, regulations, and a management plan.

FINAL DECISION



NOAA will consider all public comments prior to moving forward with a sanctuary designation. If NOAA decides to pursue, the agency will prepare final documents. The state and Congress will review the documents before final designation.

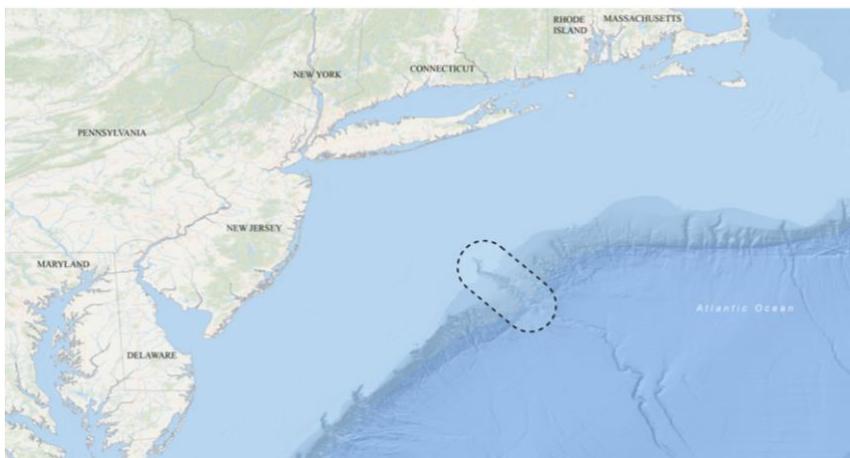
**2-3
years**

About the Nomination

NOAA invites the public to provide comments on an initial proposal to designate an area in and around the Hudson Canyon as a national marine sanctuary, approximately 100 miles offshore of New York and New Jersey. The proposed designation is based on a [2016 nomination](#) by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

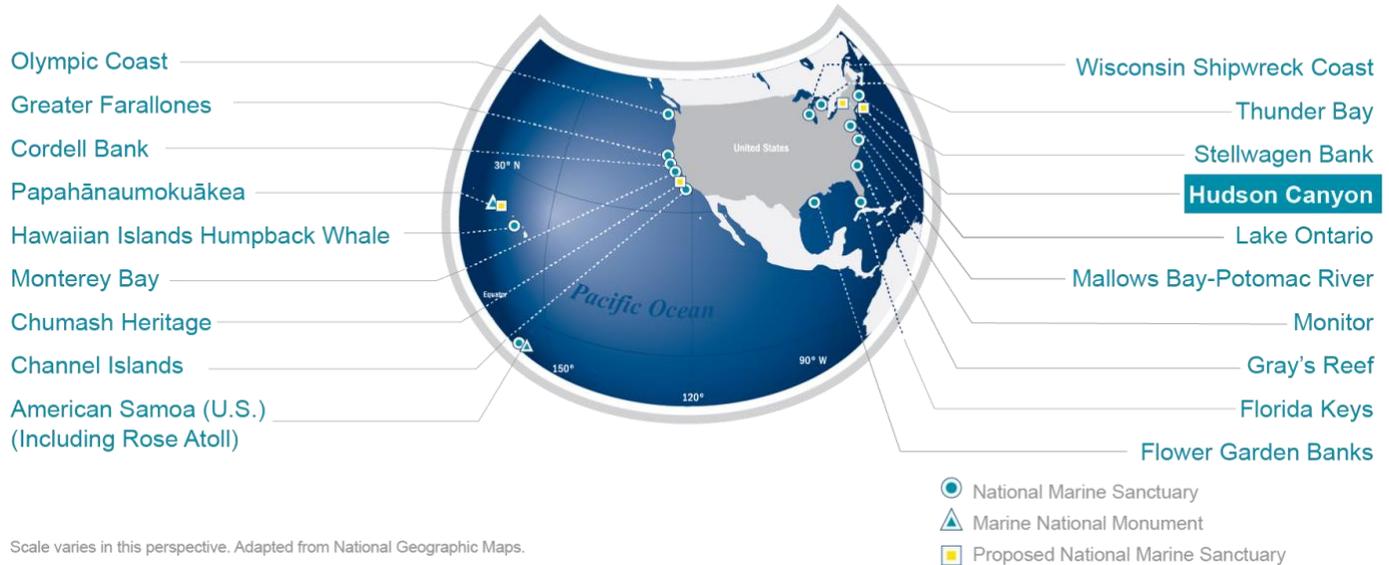
The Hudson Canyon's grand scale, diverse structure, steep slopes, firm outcrops, various sediments, flux of nutrients, and areas of upwelling make it an ecological hotspot for an abundance and diversity of marine wildlife. The goals of the proposed national marine sanctuary designation include supporting conservation of the area's marine wildlife, habitats, and maritime cultural resources; working closely with tribal partners to identify and raise awareness of Indigenous connections to the area; highlighting and promoting sustainable uses of the area; expanding ocean science, monitoring, education, and awareness of the area; and providing a platform for collaborative and diverse partnerships that support effective and inclusive long-term management of the area.

As a first step in the designation process, NOAA invites comments on the scope and significance of management considerations related to designating the Hudson Canyon area as a national marine sanctuary. In particular, NOAA is requesting input on options for the proposed sanctuary boundary to ensure it meets the goals outlined above; the location, nature, and value of natural and cultural resources in the area under consideration; specific threats to these resources; information on the Indigenous and tribal heritage of the area; the regulatory framework most appropriate for management of the proposed sanctuary; and a permanent name for the proposed sanctuary.



The map displays the general area under consideration for a new national marine sanctuary. This visual is for reference only and does not represent an official boundary proposal from NOAA. Image: NOAA

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Preserving History

The ancestors of the Indigenous communities in the area have inhabited the region for more than 10,000 years and have relied upon the natural resources of Hudson Canyon. While a number of paleo-shorelines have been identified, the offshore submerged lands of the canyon may include archeological resources worthy of study and conservation.

The waters surrounding Hudson Canyon also hold historical and cultural

importance to those living along its shores in New York and New Jersey. The types of shipwrecks found within the area under consideration vary from freighters to U.S. military radar platforms, some dating to the mid-19th Century.

A national marine sanctuary in this area could complement other resource management efforts by raising awareness, supporting research, and guiding coordinated and comprehensive ecosystem-based management.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa.

For more information Contact LeAnn Hogan, Eastern Regional Office at: LeAnn.Hogan@noaa.gov



A skate was seen while diving in Hudson Canyon during a NOAA expedition in 2021. Photo: NOAA



Sea anemones and crabs can be found along the seafloor in Hudson Canyon. Photo: NOAA



This small octopus was seen by an ROV from the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*. Photo: NOAA