

Proposed Designation **Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary**

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National Marine Sanctuary System



Sanctuaries Carry Out Diverse Programs



- Resource Protection
- Maritime Heritage
- Science – Research and Monitoring
- Education and Outreach
- Volunteers
- Water Quality
- Community Partnerships
- Promoting Recreation and Tourism

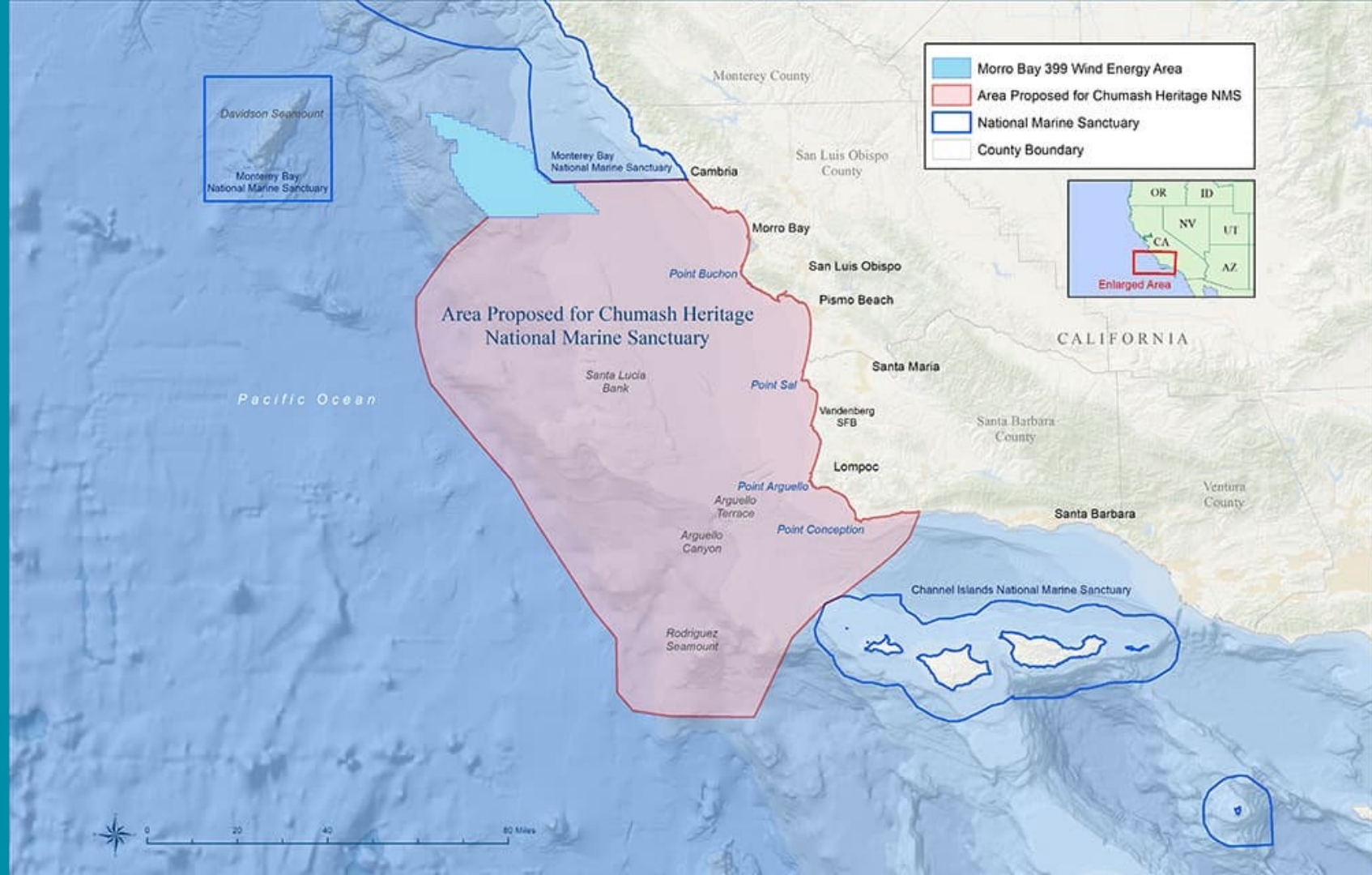


Principal Focus on Resource Protection



- Maintain balance between resource conservation and sustainable uses over time
- Employ innovative, community-based problem solving with a focus on non-regulatory solutions
- Regulations are customized to meet the needs, features of individual sanctuaries
- Can issue permits to allow certain activities
- Enforcement of laws and regulations involves education





About the Proposed Sanctuary



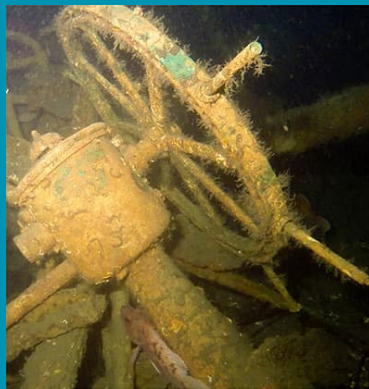
- Proposed Area
 - San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties
 - 156 miles of coastline
 - App. 7,000 square miles of ocean
 - Santa Rosa Creek (near Cambria) - Northern Boundary
 - Gaviota Creek - Southern boundary
- Indigenous Culture and History



About the Proposed Sanctuary



- Nationally-significant Natural Resources
 - Kelp forests, sandy beaches, coastal dunes, wetlands
- Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Whales, turtles, shorebirds, sea otters, abalone
- Special Geomorphological Features
 - Santa Lucia Bank, Rodriguez Seamount, and Arguello Canyon
- Sense of Place for Coastal Communities
- Hundreds of Shipwrecks





Need for Comprehensive Planning



- Proponents identified numerous threats to the area's marine resources
- Sought a mechanism for comprehensive planning and ecosystem management to address myriad threats:
 - Oil and gas development
 - Platform abandonment
 - Seismic survey testing
 - Decommissioning of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
 - Offshore wind and wave energy development
 - Fiberoptic cables
 - Climate change
 - Potential discharge of central valley waste water
- Sought new management approach to protect the ecosystem as well as local businesses dependent on a healthy ocean, like fishing and tourism

Focus on Indigenous Heritage



Proponents for CHNMS identified the need to the new sanctuary to highlight Indigenous heritage and cultures

- Some of the oldest recorded human occupation in North America
- The Northern Chumash Tribal Council focused on Chumash culture
- ONMS is also interested in other Indigenous Communities, like Salinan and ensuring all Tribal Bands feel included
- Ideas for highlighting diverse Indigenous culture
 - Educational programming?
 - Research about potential paleo-shorelines?
 - Resource protection programs?
 - Collaborative management approaches?

Public Involvement Shapes Designation Process



Public Scoping Process

- 80 days for public to comment - closes Jan. 31, 2022
- NOAA evaluates public comments

Use Public Comments to inform Draft Documents

- Draft management plan
- Proposed rule
- Draft environmental impact statement
- Intergovernmental and stakeholder consultations



Public Review of Draft Documents

- 90 days for review including public hearings
- Review comments; produce final rulemaking, NEPA, and mgmt plan documents

Overall Process Takes approximately 2 to 2-1/2 years

NOAA is Seeking Comments On:



- What should be the sanctuary's **boundaries**? What about **boundary alternatives**?
- What is the **location, nature, and value of the resources**?
- What are potential **threats and impacts to resources** and how to **protect** resources?
- How best to highlight the **Indigenous history and culture**, both Salinan and Chumash?
- How to support research/monitoring and **advance scientific understanding** of the area?
- What **historic properties** exist in the area and potential effects on them?
- How to best **benefit the blue economy** of the region?
- What should be the **potential name** for the new sanctuary?
- Where should an **administrative office** and other **coastal facilities** be located?
- What **other information relevant to sanctuary designation** should be considered?

Regulations - Summary of Prohibitions (Monterey Bay NMS)



- **Exploring for, developing or producing oil, gas or minerals**
- **Drilling, dredging or altering submerged lands; or placing or abandoning structures or matter on or in submerged lands**
- **Deserting a vessel aground, at anchor or adrift; or leaving harmful matter aboard a grounded or deserted vessel**
- **Discharging or depositing any material or matter within or into the sanctuary (e.g. pollutants, trash, objects, etc.), or from outside the boundaries if it subsequently enters and injures the sanctuary** (exemptions include lawful fishing, permitted dredge material at approved sites)
- **Taking, disturbing, injuring or possessing any sanctuary resource below 3,000 feet within the Davidson Seamount Management Zone**
- **Introducing or releasing introduced species**
- **Attracting any white shark, regardless of intent**
- **Disturbing, taking or possessing any marine mammal, sea turtle or bird within or above the sanctuary** (except if approved under other statute)
- **Moving, removing, injuring or possessing historical resources**
- **Operating motorized personal watercraft** (except in zones)
- **Interfering with enforcement**