



OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

[HTTP://SANCTUARIES.NOAA.GOV/](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/)

Daniel Basta, Director

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MISSION: To serve as the trustee for the National Marine Sanctuary System and conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Resource protection
- Education and outreach
- Maritime heritage
- Sanctuary management
- Science and exploration

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DRIVERS

Legislative Drivers:

- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Florida Keys Protection Act
- Oceans Act 1992
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Oil Pollution Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act

Policy Drivers:

- Proclamation 8031 – Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- E.O. 13158 – Marine Protected Areas
- E.O. 13089 – Coral Reef Protection
- Ocean Action Plan
- Ocean Research Priorities Plan
- Gulf of Mexico Regional Alliance
- West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Coastal Enterprise Report

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

- **Budget Line:** ORF: Marine Sanctuary Program Base; PAC: Marine Sanctuaries Construction/Acquisition
- **FY08 Budget:** \$64.3 million (PAC and ORF)
- **Personnel:** 172 FTE

KEY PARTNERS

- States of Florida, Hawaii, California, Michigan
- Sanctuary Advisory Councils (400 + members)
- Research Institutions (e.g., Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Mote Marine Laboratory)
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Releasing draft management plans** for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts. The plans lay the foundation for protecting these marine areas and recommend actions to better manage each area and its resources.
- **Advancing efforts to protect blue whales** in the Santa Barbara Channel, California, following the deaths of five blue whales within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary during 2007. NOS forwarded a draft emergency response plan to members of a special Subcommittee of the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The plan calls for increased surveillance of whales and ships in the Channel, improved coordinated response to possible strandings, and the initiation of precautionary management actions should high-risk conditions appear.
- Commemorating the **designation of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)** by the International Maritime Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. The monument, which provides habitat for more than 7,000 marine species and contains 4,500 square miles of pristine coral reefs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, is the twelfth PSSA in the world. The PSSA designation deems an area deserving of special protection because of its ecological, socioeconomic, or scientific significance and its potential vulnerability to damage from international maritime activities.
- Leading a scientific **research expedition to the site of the remains of three sunken German submarines** off the coast of North Carolina. As part of an effort to properly document and protect the wrecks, NOS conducted a non-invasive archaeological survey that included photo documentation of the vessels' visible sections and the biological communities found at the sites.

ORGANIZATION

- The **Technical Programs Support Division** supports science and maritime heritage teams, socioeconomic work, geographic information systems work, and research coordination.
- The **Conservation Policy and Planning Division** supports system-wide regulations, legislation, management plans, permitting, consultation, and sanctuary advisory counsels.
- **Communications, Outreach, Education** supports system education, outreach, media, constituent, and legislative communications programs as well as visitor centers and video programming.
- The **Northeast and Great Lakes Region** provides coordination of the Thunder Bay, Stellwagen Bank, and Monitor sanctuaries.
- The **Southeast, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Region** provides coordination of Florida Keys, Gray's Reef, and the Flower Garden Banks national marine sanctuaries.
- The **West Coast Region** provides coordination of the Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay, and Olympic Coast national marine sanctuaries.
- The **Pacific Islands Region** provides coordination of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale and Fagatele Bay national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.