

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

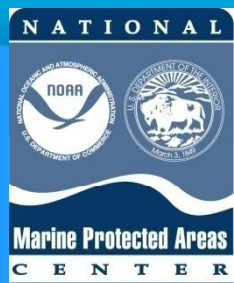
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Cultural Heritage Resources and the National MPA System

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Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management





National System of MPAs



Collaboratively conserving the nation's...



**Natural
Heritage**



**Cultural
Heritage**



**Sustainable
Production**

Priority Conservation Objectives: Cultural Heritage Goal

Goal 2: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea, as well as the uses and values they provide to this and future generations through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 2

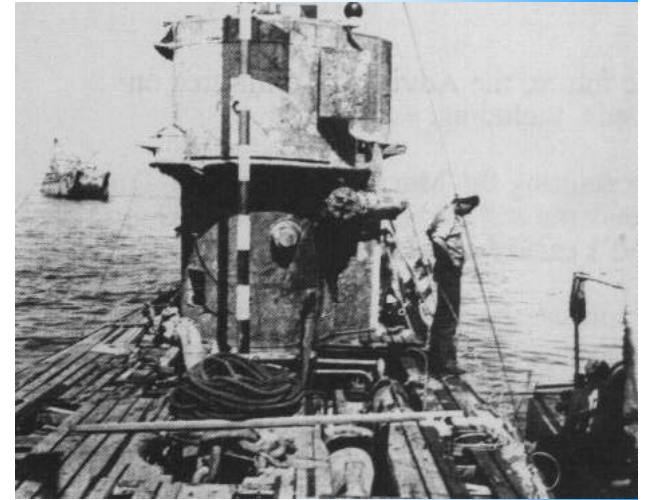
Conserve key cultural and historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	Near Term
Conserve key cultural historic resources determined eligible for the NRHP or listed on a State Register	
Conserve key cultural sites that are paramount to a culture's identity and/or survival	
Conserve key cultural and historic sites that may be threatened	Mid Term
Conserve key cultural and historic sites that can be utilized for heritage tourism	
Conserve key cultural and historic sites that are under-represented	Long Term

Cultural Heritage Criteria

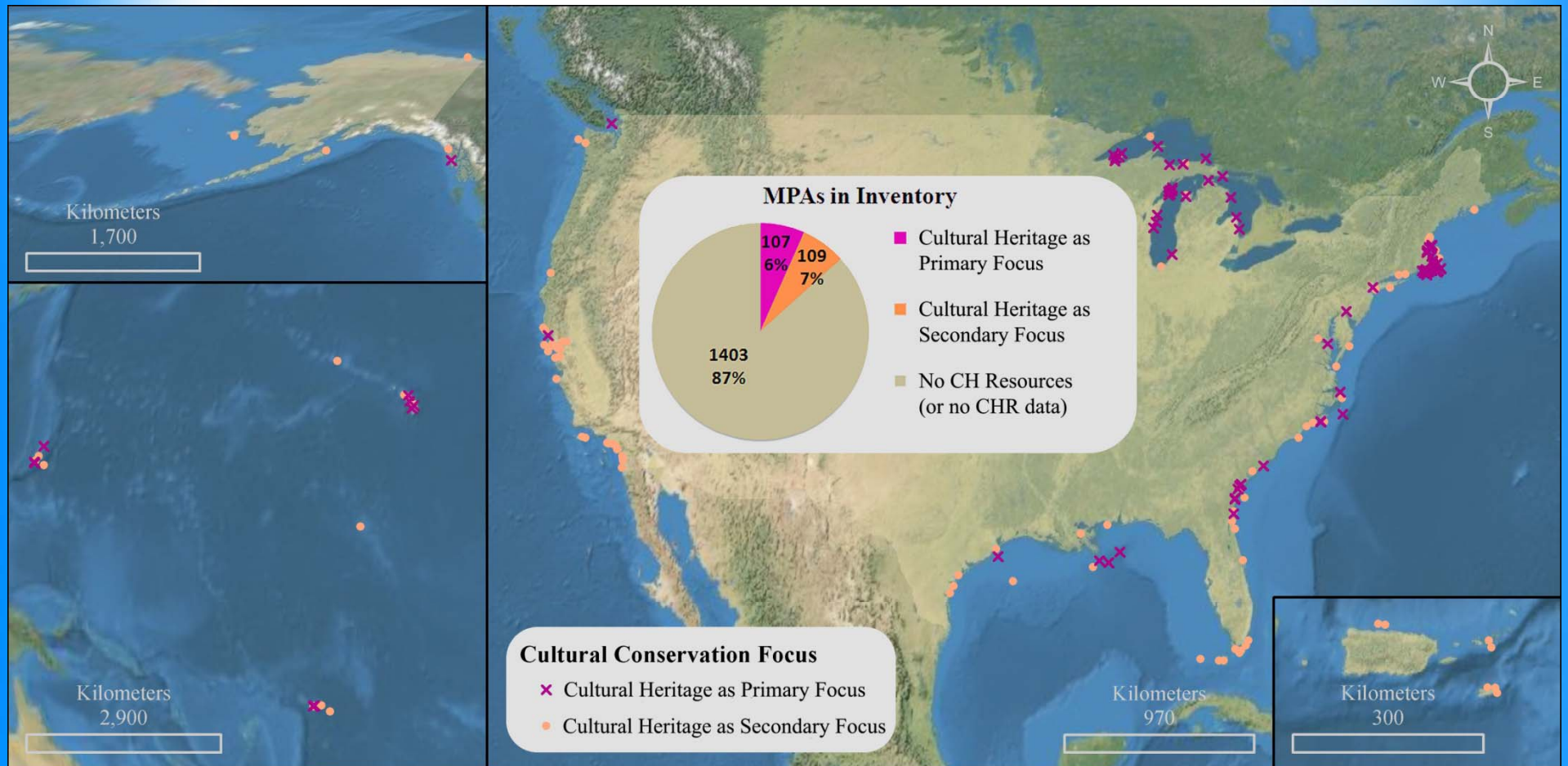
- National Register of Historic Places Criteria

- At least 50 years old unless otherwise determined to be unique to the nation's maritime history or traditional connections to the sea
- Significant

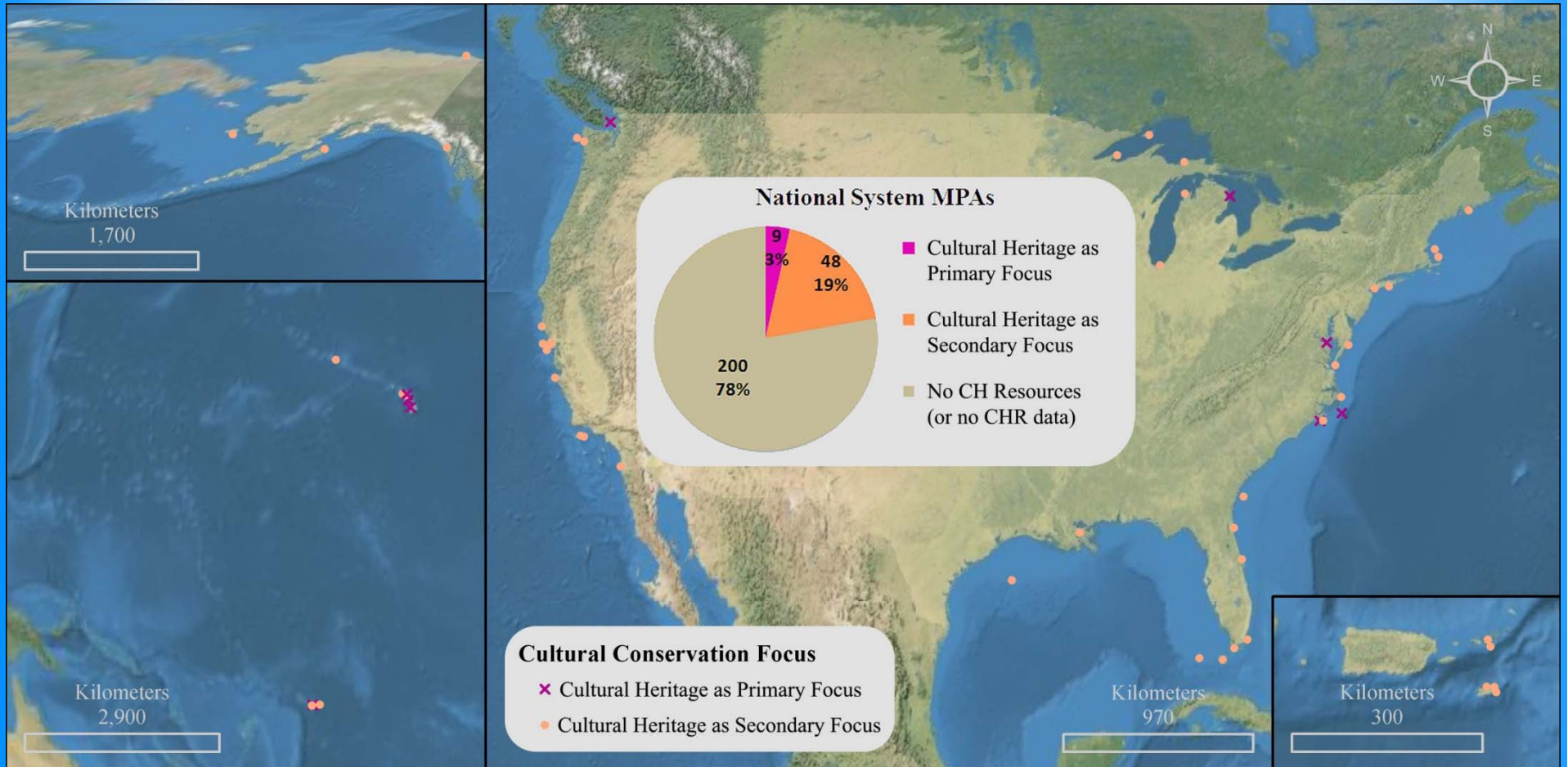
- Events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns or our history
- Associated with the lives of significant persons in our past
- Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, etc.
- Yield information important in history or prehistory



MPAs with CH Resources

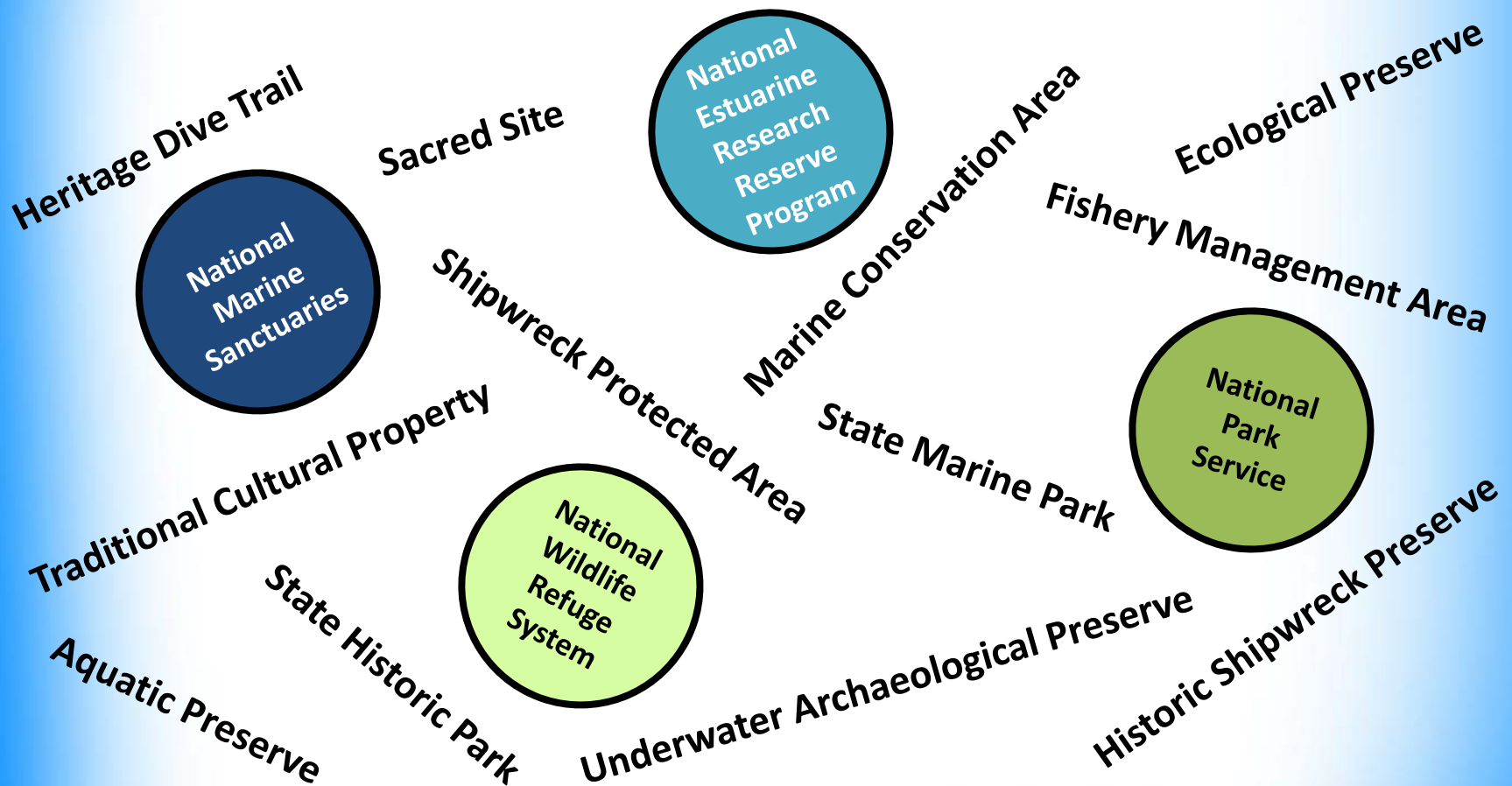


MPAs with CH Resources



Protecting Marine CH

There is no U.S. program or statute providing comprehensive protection of Submerged Cultural Heritage Resources.



Laws Protecting CHR

Federal Waters

➤ **Antiquities Act (1906) and Archaeological Resource Protection Act (1979)**

- Only apply to CHR on federal lands

➤ **National Marine Sanctuary Act (1972)**

- Offers strongest protection to CHR outside state submerged lands

➤ **National Historic Preservation Act (1966)**

- Fed. agencies must consider effect of fed. undertakings on CHR
- Leaves CHR vulnerable to loss or destruction from private activities

➤ **Sunken Military Craft Act (2005)**

- U.S. retains title to all sunken military craft, and also recognizes foreign sunken military craft in U.S. Waters
- Exempts these wrecks from Law of Salvage and Law of Finds



Laws Protecting CHR

State submerged lands

- Federal government has delegated to individual states the responsibility for protection and management of CHR
 - Usually protected under a broad state law that protects all cultural resources on state submerged lands
- **Abandoned Shipwreck Act (1987) gives ownership to the state of abandoned shipwrecks embedded in, or resting on state submerged lands, which are of historical significance.**
 - These shipwrecks are exempt from Law of Salvage and Law of Finds
 - Directs states to establish a multiple-use management regime for protection of shipwrecks that also incorporates the protection of natural resources





Complex Scope of Management

- Likely >100,000 shipwrecks in U.S. waters, most within state waters
- Many other types of CHR (prehistoric sites, traditional cultural places, and remains of historic structures)
- 9 of the 35 coastal states have programs/specialists in CHR
 - Average number of people in these programs is 1
- There is no template for CHR management within states
- State submerged lands are often under the jurisdiction of multiple agencies
 - Often the office/agency in charge of managing CHR is not the same as the agency in charge of issuing permits
- For Federal Agencies that have some responsibility for managing or protecting CHR, working with CHR is generally a small part of the work they do, and therefore is of lower priority



Benefits of National System for CHR

- Increases recognition of marine cultural resources
- Provides a mechanism to work across federal and state jurisdictions, and across disciplines
- Recognizes multiple resource values
- Improves ability to curb potentially damaging activities
- Efficient use of funds and assets between agencies
- Creates sustainable access
- Promotes knowledge to the widest possible audience through interpretation and access
- Provides verifiable benefits

CHR and Ecosystems

- CHR are a part of the ecosystem and part of a broader cultural landscape
- Affected by changes in the marine environment
- Have the ability to affect the marine environment and ecosystems

