



# Sanctuary Nomination Process and Business Advisory Council

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# Sanctuary Nomination Process

- Replaces inactive Sanctuary Evaluation List (SEL) with new process for local communities and other interested parties to nominate areas as new national marine sanctuaries
- Proposed rule published June 13, 2013; closed August 27, 2013
- Nearly 19,000 comments received, majority in support
- Rule proposes criteria by which NOAA would evaluate potential new sanctuaries, and process by which public would nominate
- NOAA is currently drafting responses to all substantive comments, and drafting the final rule
- We anticipate a final rule sometime in the first half of 2014

# Expansions of Existing Sanctuaries

- Thunder Bay NMS proposed to expand from 400 square miles to 4000 square miles, to protect multiple nationally significant shipwrecks
- Widespread support from local and regional communities, including elected officials
- Bringing the “experience of Alpena” north to other communities along Lake Huron
- Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank NMSs proposed expansions would add protection to nationally significant habitats and heritage resources north of Bodega Bay to Point Arena
- Gulf of the Farallones NMS proposed to expand from 1,300 square miles to 3,300 square miles
- Cordell Bank NMS proposed to expand from 530 square miles to 1,300 square miles
- Strong support from local and regional communities; NOAA currently reviewing draft rule, management plan and EIS

# Business Advisory Council Background

- First system-level advisory council
- Fifteen members representing different sectors
- Will operate according to NMSA requirements and policies
- Will provide advice on how to engage and partner with the corporate sector
- Will not advise on policy, regulatory, or management matters, or site issues

# Business Advisory Council

## Next Steps

- Currently vetting first members (seven confirmed corporations, two more expected shortly)
- In process of inviting six more
- First meeting is scheduled for January 29 in Washington, DC
- Future meetings to be determined in consultation with the BAC