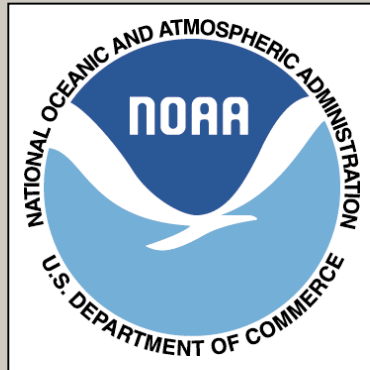




Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

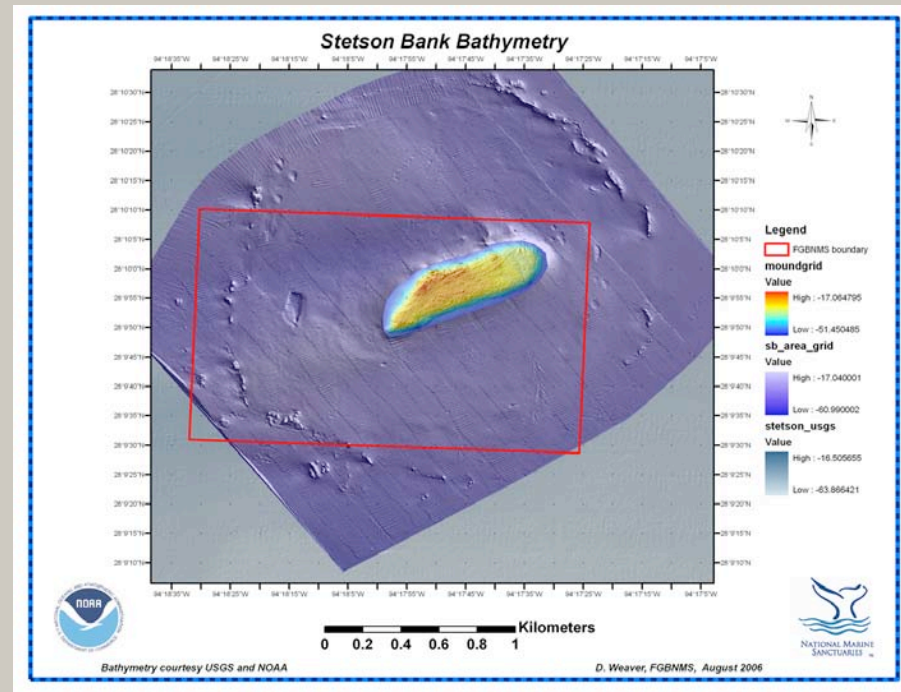


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

Boundary Expansion Workshop

G. P. Schmahl
Sanctuary Superintendent

July 19, 2007





Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



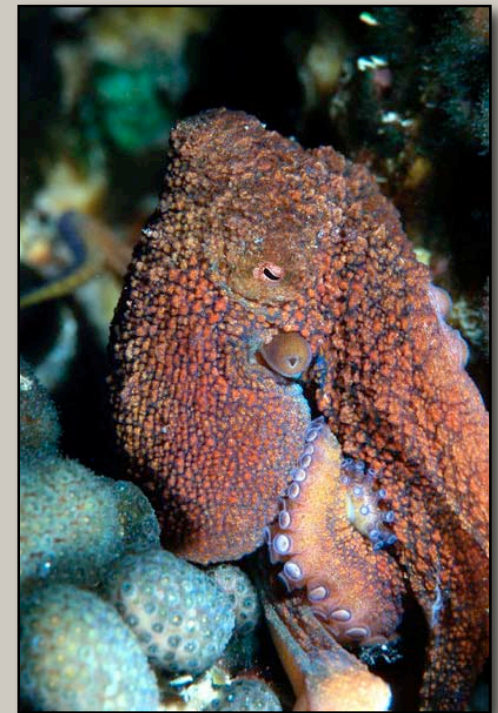


The National Marine Sanctuaries



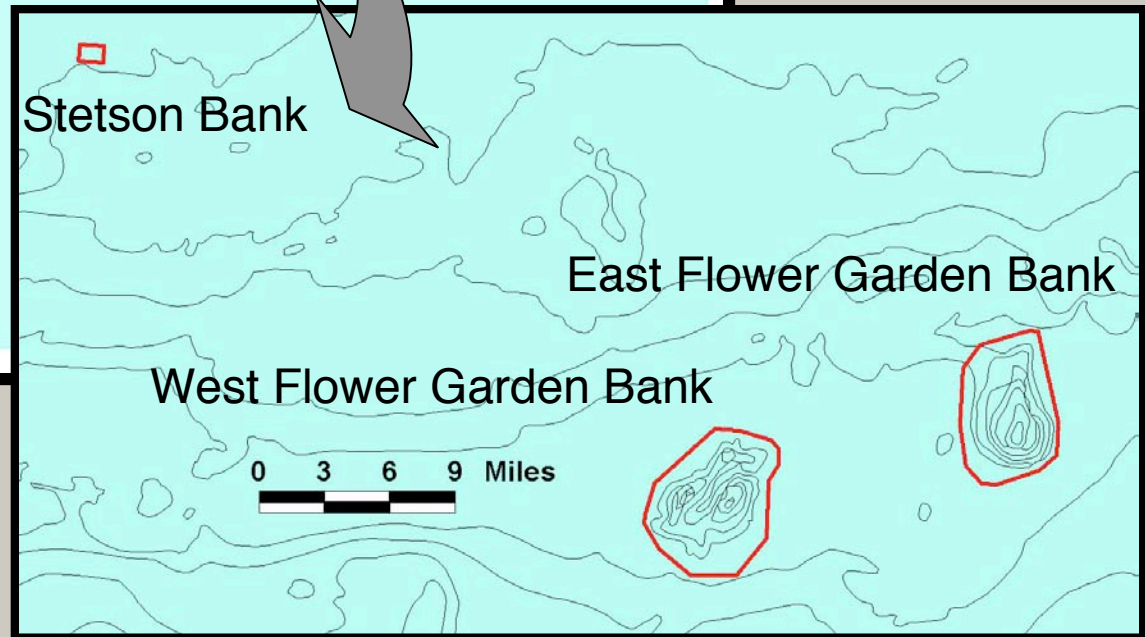
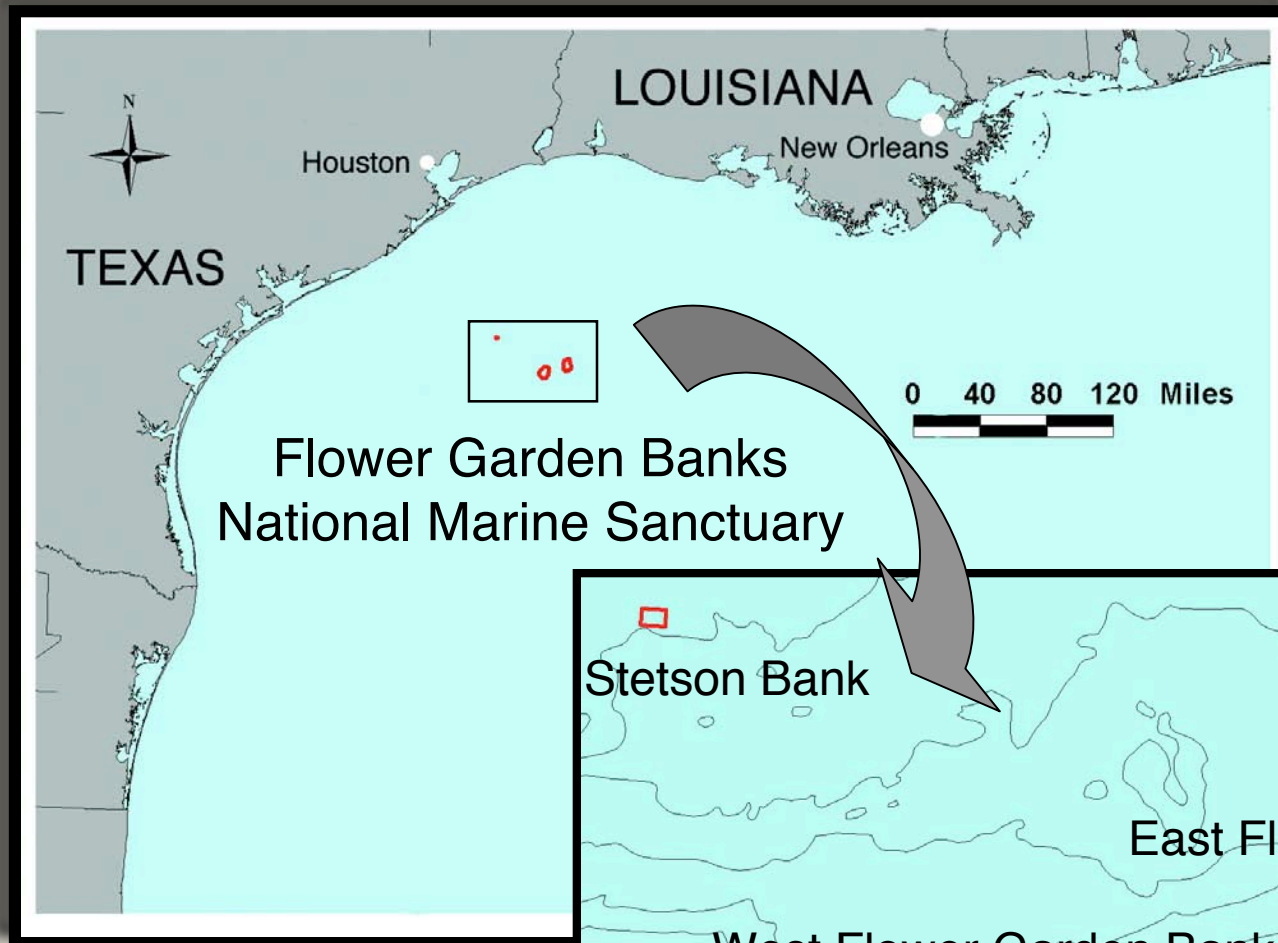
➤ Long-term conservation and protection of sanctuary resources.

- Raising public awareness and understanding of the marine environment through education and outreach.
- Improving management through research, monitoring and characterization.
- Helping coastal economies by keeping sanctuary resources healthy.
- Facilitating uses that are compatible with the primary function of resource protection.



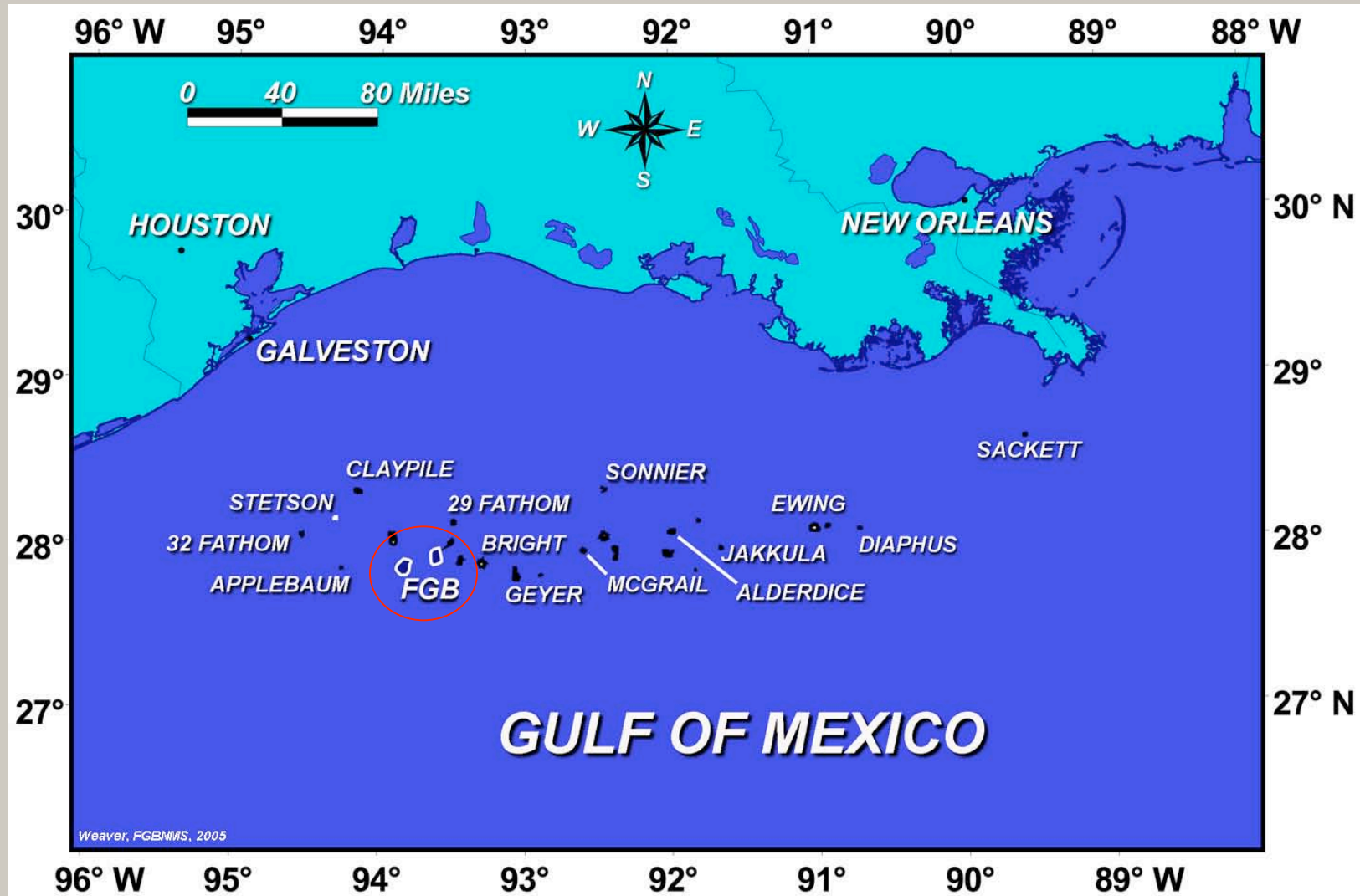


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary





Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



Reefs and Banks in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico

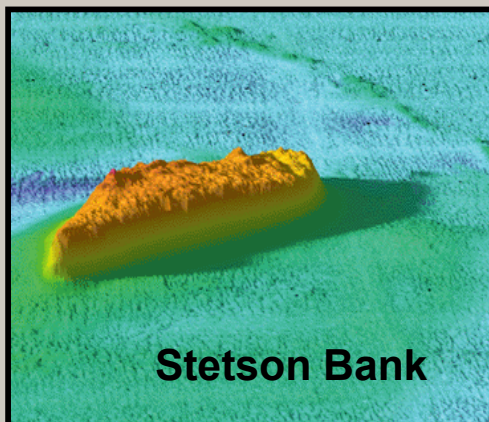
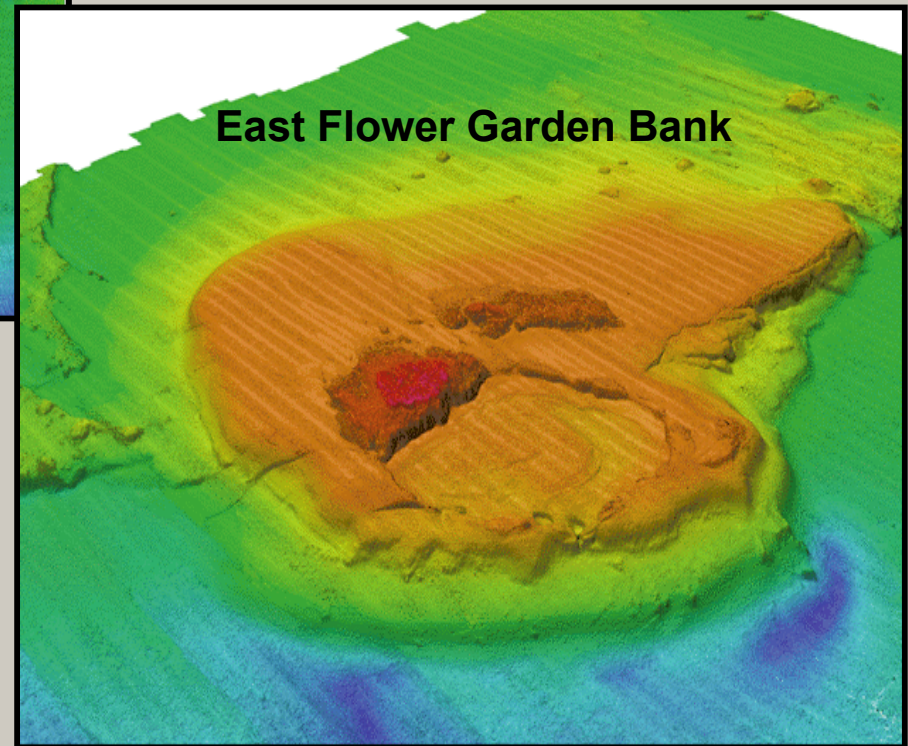
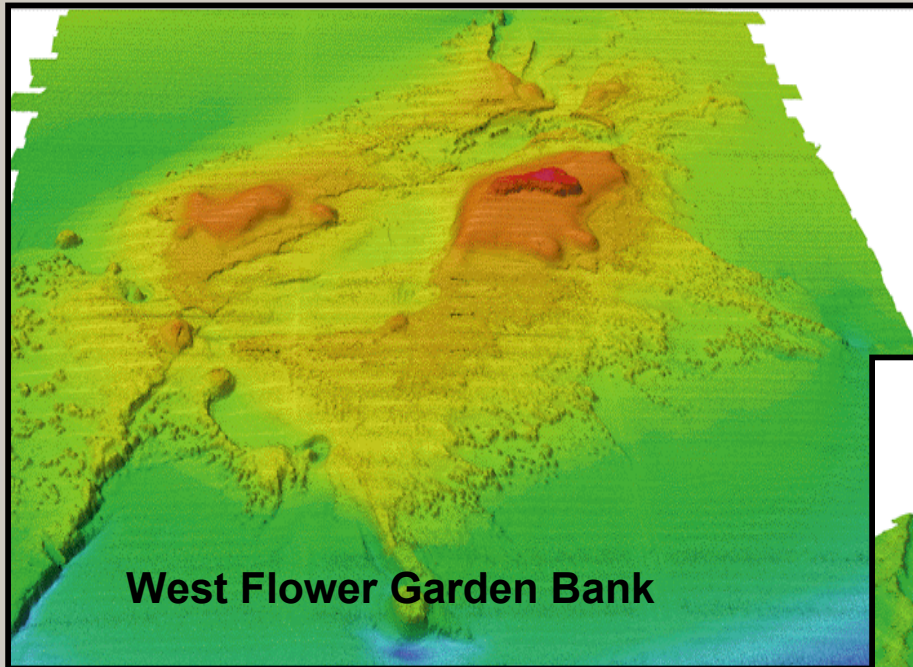


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Multibeam Bathymetry
USGS, 1997





Regulated Activities

- **Anchoring - all anchoring prohibited**
 - Mooring buoys provided
 - Vessels over 100' cannot moor on buoys
- **Discharges - prohibited, with some exceptions**
- **Taking coral or invertebrates - prohibited**
- **Fishing - only hook and line fishing allowed**
 - Spearfishing is prohibited
 - Possession of unauthorized gear prohibited
 - Vessels with unauthorized gear (shrimpboats, longliners) cannot stop or moor within the sanctuary



Management Plans: Our Blueprints For Action

- **Establish management priorities and performance measures for all site programs**
- **Five-year time frame**
- **Community-based public process**



Installing mooring buoy anchors at the *Flower Garden Banks NMS*



Sanctuary Advisory Council

- Recreational Diving
- Dive Operators
- Oil and Gas Industry
- Recreational Fishing
- Commercial Fishing
- Education
- Research
- Conservation

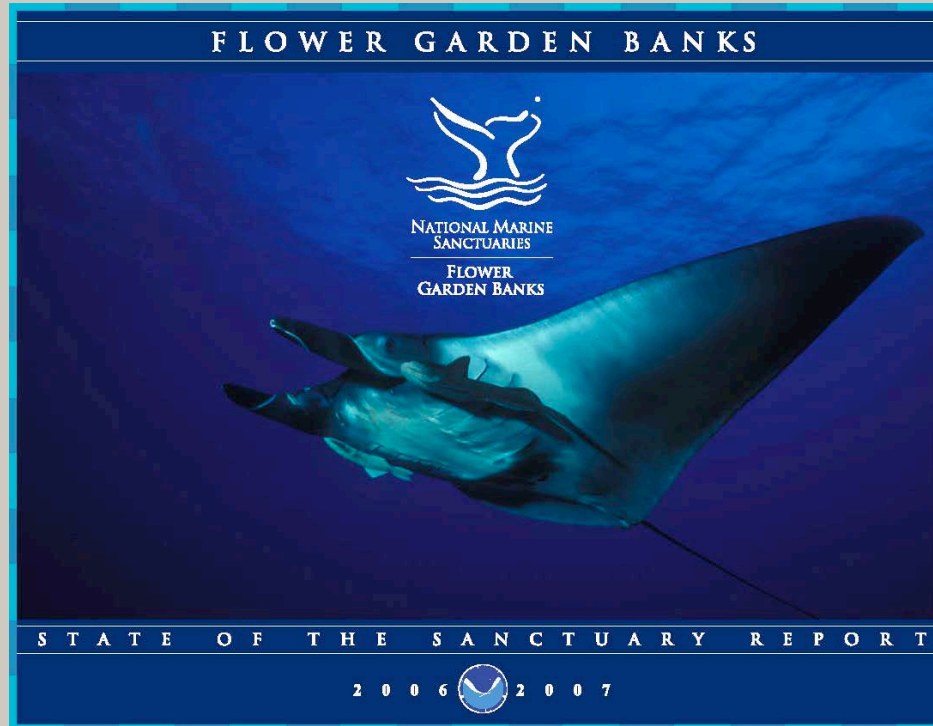


AGENCY (NON-VOTING)

- NOAA Fisheries
- Minerals Management Service
- U.S. Coast Guard



“State of the Sanctuary” Report



**Sanctuary status, Existing conditions, Goals & Objectives,
Management programs, Emerging issues, Process description**

Available from: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>



PRIORITY ISSUES (Sanctuary Advisory Council - 8/06)

- **ENFORCEMENT**
- **FISHING IMPACTS**
- **POLLUTANT DISCHARGE**
 - **Oil and Gas, Vessels**
- **WILDLIFE IMPACTS**
 - **(Physical contact)**
- **REGIONAL WATER QUALITY**
- **INVASIVE SPECIES**
- **INCREASING VISITOR USE**
- **CORAL DISEASE**
- **HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**





FGBNMS Management Plan Review 2006 Public “Scoping” Meetings

- October 17th - Webster, TX
- October 19th - Corpus Christi, TX
- October 24th - New Orleans, LA



Scoping Period Ended: November 10, 2006



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



Public Scoping Comments Comment Frequency

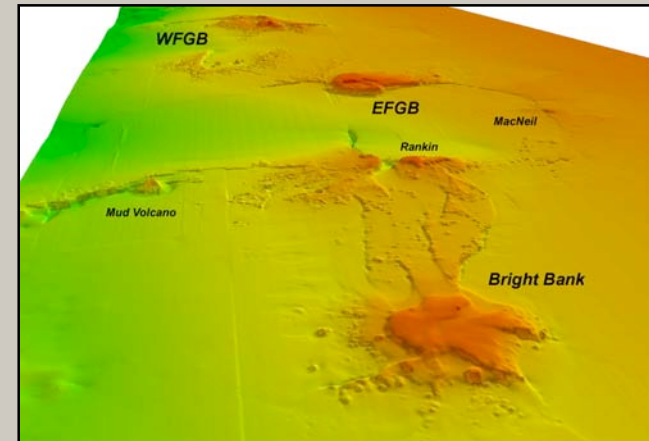
Comment Topic	Number of Comments
Fishing	51
Ban	46
Allow	5
Spearfishing	42
Ban	40
Allow	2
Pollution	2
Oil & Gas Structures and Exploration	3
Keep	2
Remove	1
Sound/Light	3
Global Warming	1
Limit Diving	4
Administration (Regulation, Funding, and Management Styles)	13
Public Outreach/Education	21
Publicity	10
Education	11
Endangered Species	5
Boundary	39
Expand	39
Do Not Expand	0
Invasive Species	7
Anchoring (Disallow/Add Mooring Buoys)	16
Research	11
Enforcement Concerns	10

There were comments submitted from 82 individuals, organizations, and agencies.



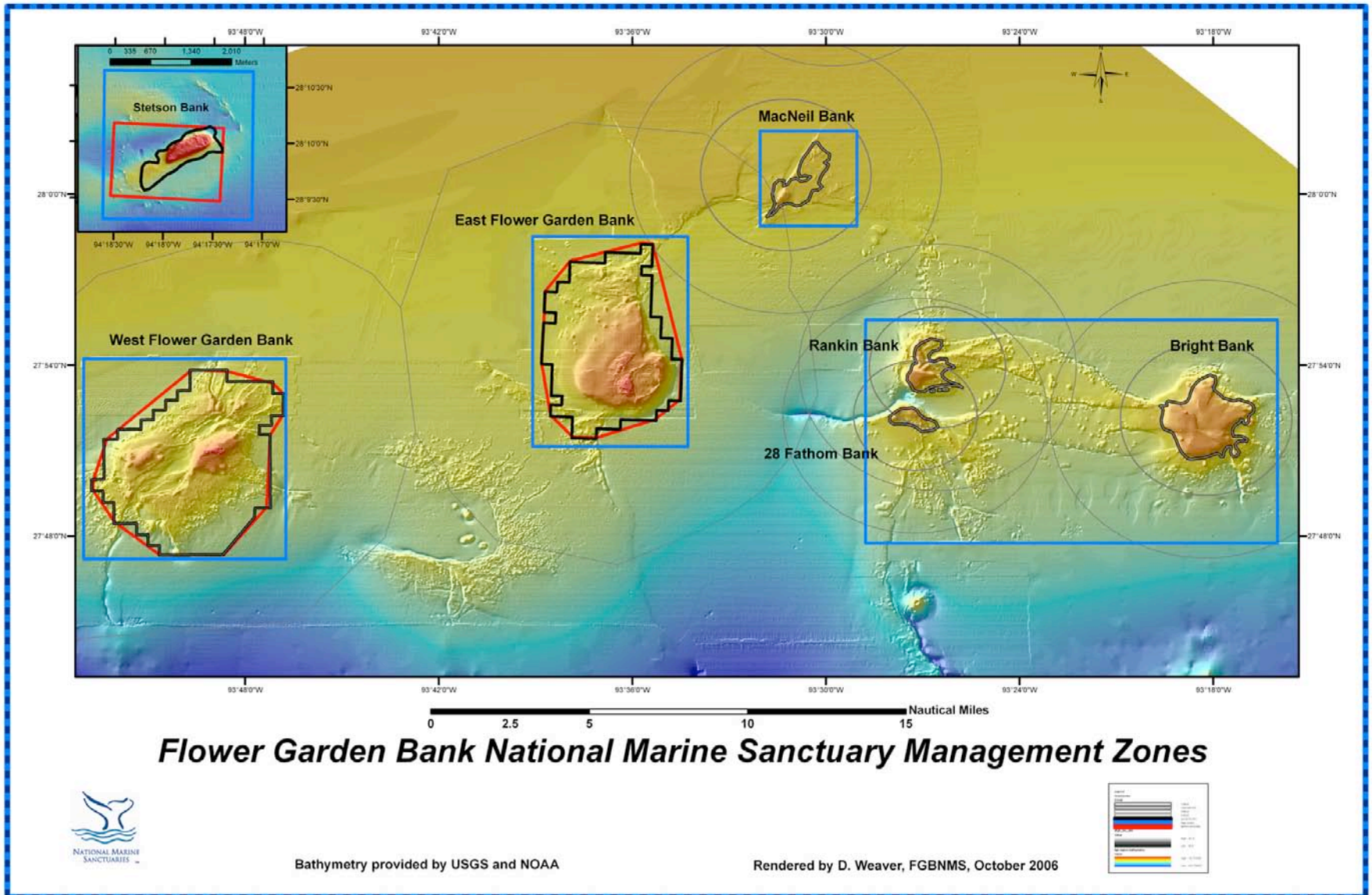
Flower Garden Banks NMS - Priority Issues

- Fishing impacts
- Boundary expansion
- Visitor use impacts
- Pollutant discharge impacts
- Enforcement
- Education and outreach





Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



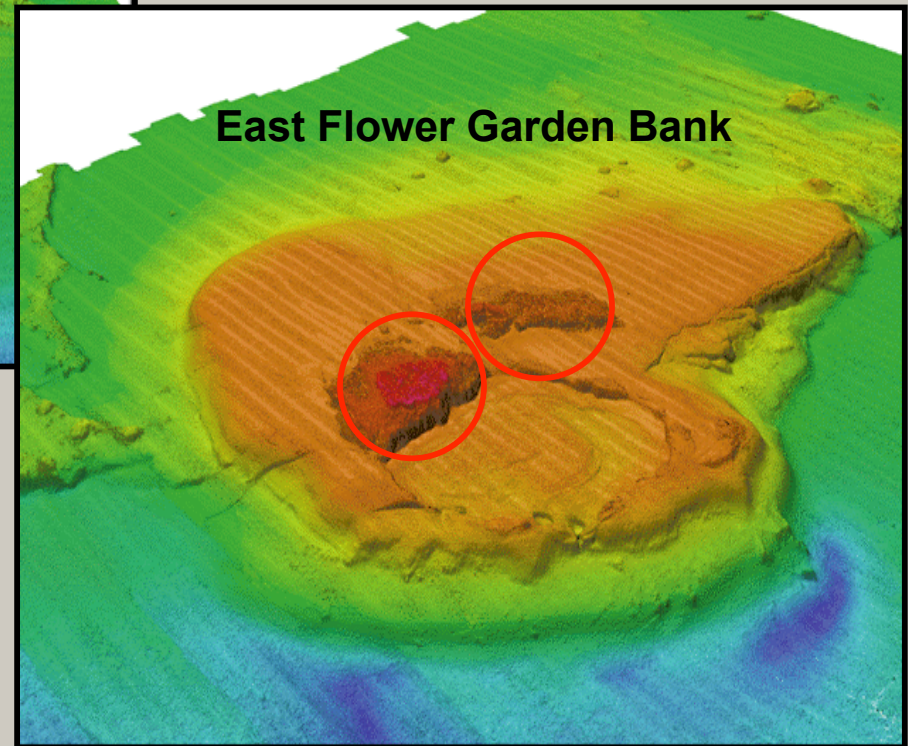
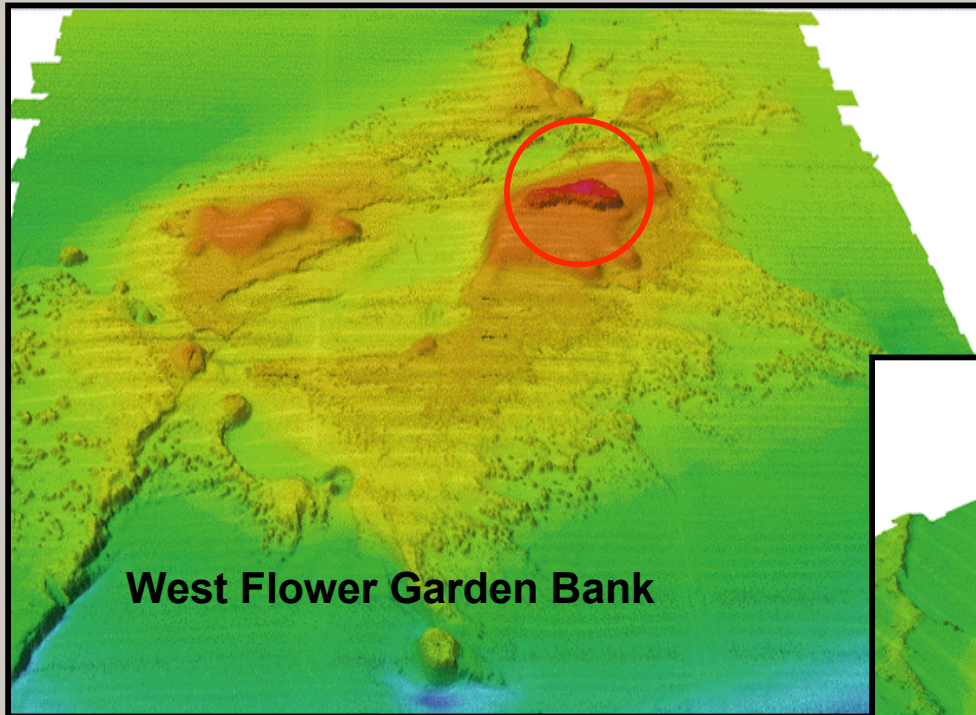


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

**Coral Reef Areas
< 100'**





“Scoping”

Identification of Issues

Issue Prioritization

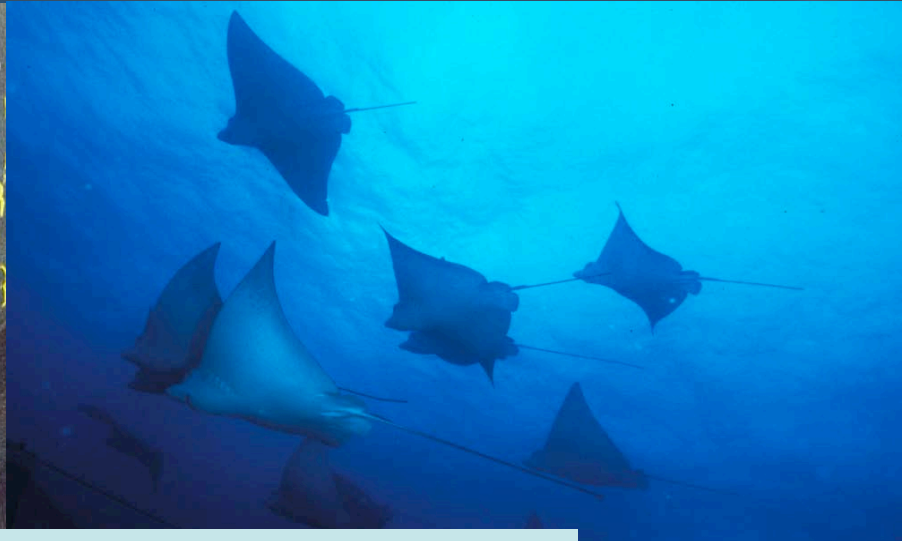
Issue Analysis & Action Plan Development

Prepare Draft Management Plan

Public Meetings on Draft Plan

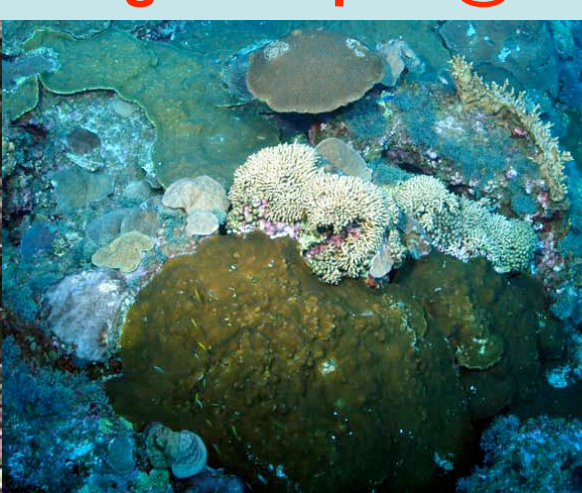


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



More Info: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

Or contact: fgbmanagementplan@noaa.gov





NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES TM