

National Marine Sanctuaries & National Estuarine Research Reserves

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

Sanctuaries Nomination Process

- Finalized in June 2014
- National Significance Criteria
- Management Considerations
- Process
- Nearly 18,000 comments on 2013 proposal



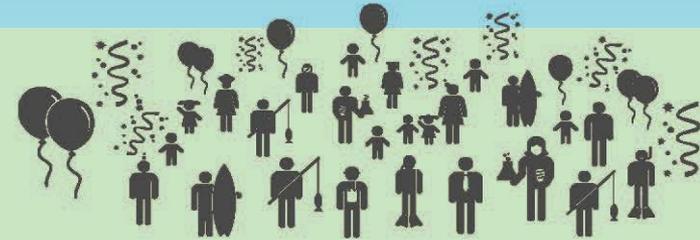
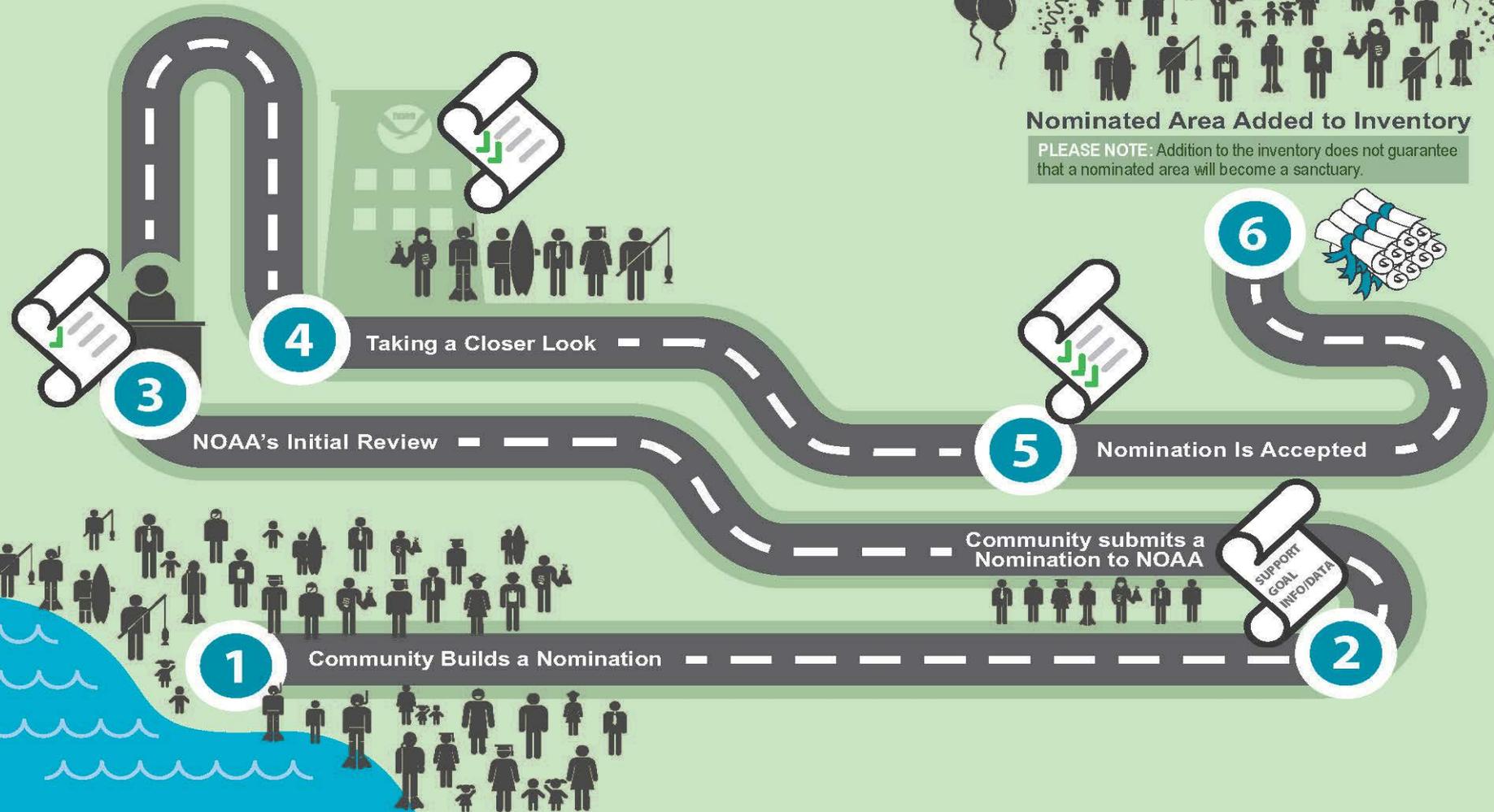
The Road to Nomination

For the first time in two decades, NOAA invites communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries.

In response to ongoing widespread interest from the public, NOAA has launched a new, locally driven sanctuary

nomination process developed with input from more than 18,000 public comments. Throughout the nomination process, NOAA will be available to answer questions and provide guidance to nominating communities and other interested parties. NOAA will also update nominators on the progress of the agency's review of their nomination.

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination is not the same thing as sanctuary designation. Designation occurs as a separate process that by law, is highly public and participatory and often takes several years to complete.



Nominated Area Added to Inventory

PLEASE NOTE: Addition to the inventory does not guarantee that a nominated area will become a sanctuary.

National Significance Criteria

1. Natural Resources

- biological productivity or diversity
- ecosystem structure and function
- ecologically or commercially important species
- critical habitat or biogeographic assemblages
- connectivity to other ecologically significant resources



2. Maritime Heritage Resources

- National Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmark
- Special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation



3. Supports economic uses

- Tourism
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Subsistence and traditional uses
- Diving
- Other recreational uses



4. The publicly-derived benefits

- Aesthetic value
- Public recreation
- Access to places

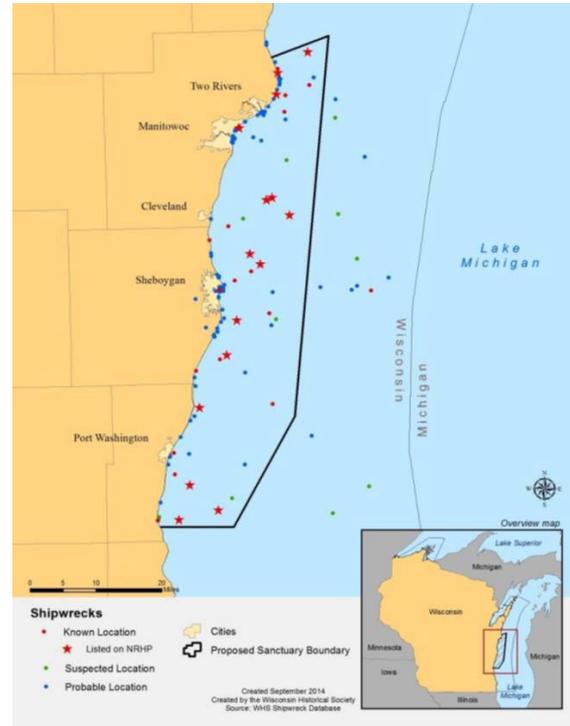
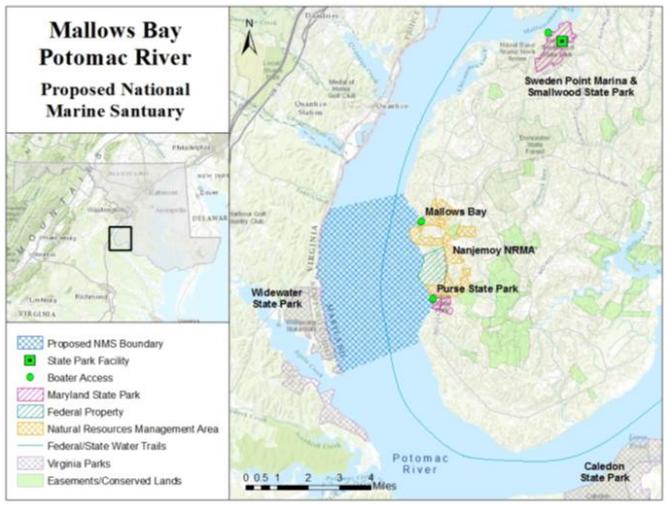


Management Considerations

1. Research opportunities
2. Education opportunities
3. Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities
4. Unique conservation and management value of a national marine sanctuary
5. Current regulatory and management authorities
6. Partnership opportunities
7. Broad community support
 - Individuals
 - Locally-based groups
 - Local, tribal, state, or national agencies
 - Elected officials
 - Topic-based stakeholder groups at the local, regional or national level



Nominations - Inventory



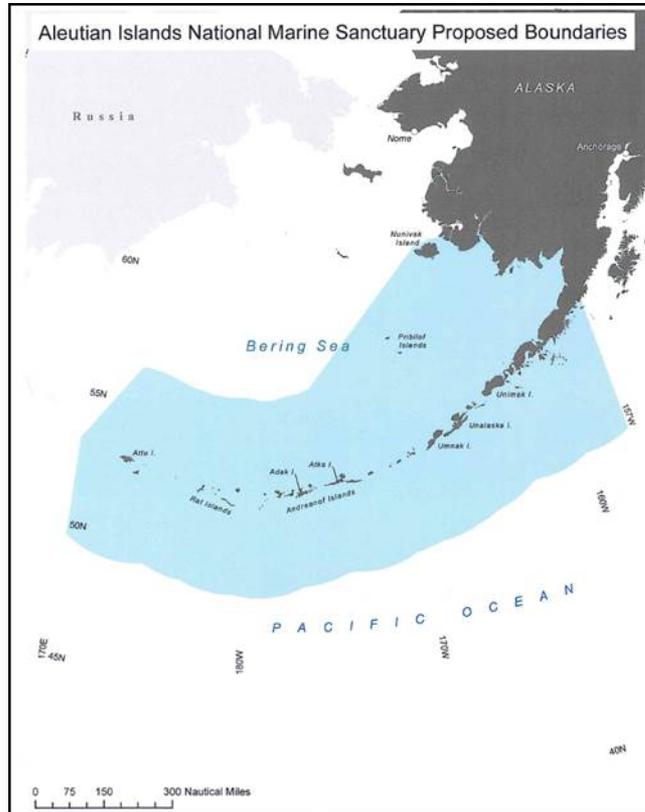
Resubmitted - July 2015

Maps taken from nominations (available at www.nominate.noaa.gov)

Nominations - Declined



Submitted - September 2014
Resubmitted - August 2015



Submitted - December 2014



Submitted - February 2015

NMSA Designation Process



1. Scoping and Proposal Development

- Public Comments, Working Group Input

2. Sanctuary Proposal

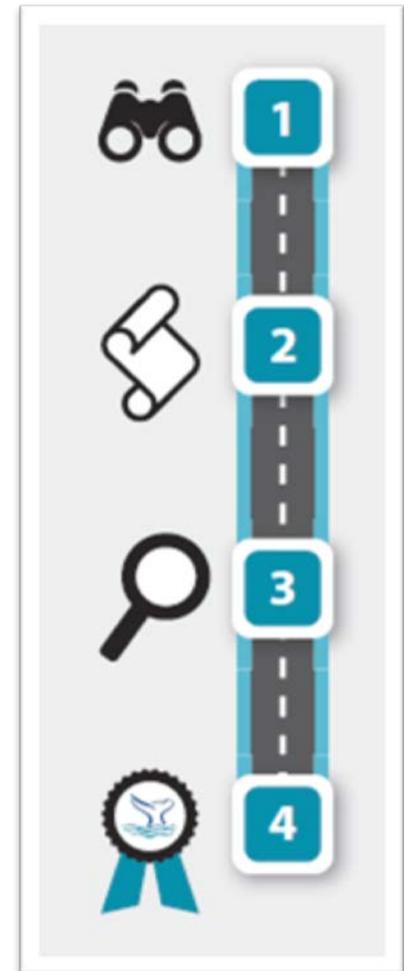
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Draft Management Plan
- Proposed Regulations

3. Public Review

- Consider DEIS alternatives

4. Sanctuary Designation

- Congressional & State Review before effective



More details, including a nomination guide
and Q&As, are at:

www.nominate.noaa.gov



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>



NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM



Over 1.3 million acres protected for:

- Long-term research and monitoring
- Education
- Resource stewardship



National System



Promoting stewardship of the nation's estuaries through science and education ...

Using a system of locally owned and managed protected areas ...



State-Federal Partnership

State role

- Land ownership and management
- Staff
- Program implementation (30% match)

Federal role

- Funding (70%) *All NERRS receive the same funding if they participate in all programs*
- National coordination
- Technical assistance



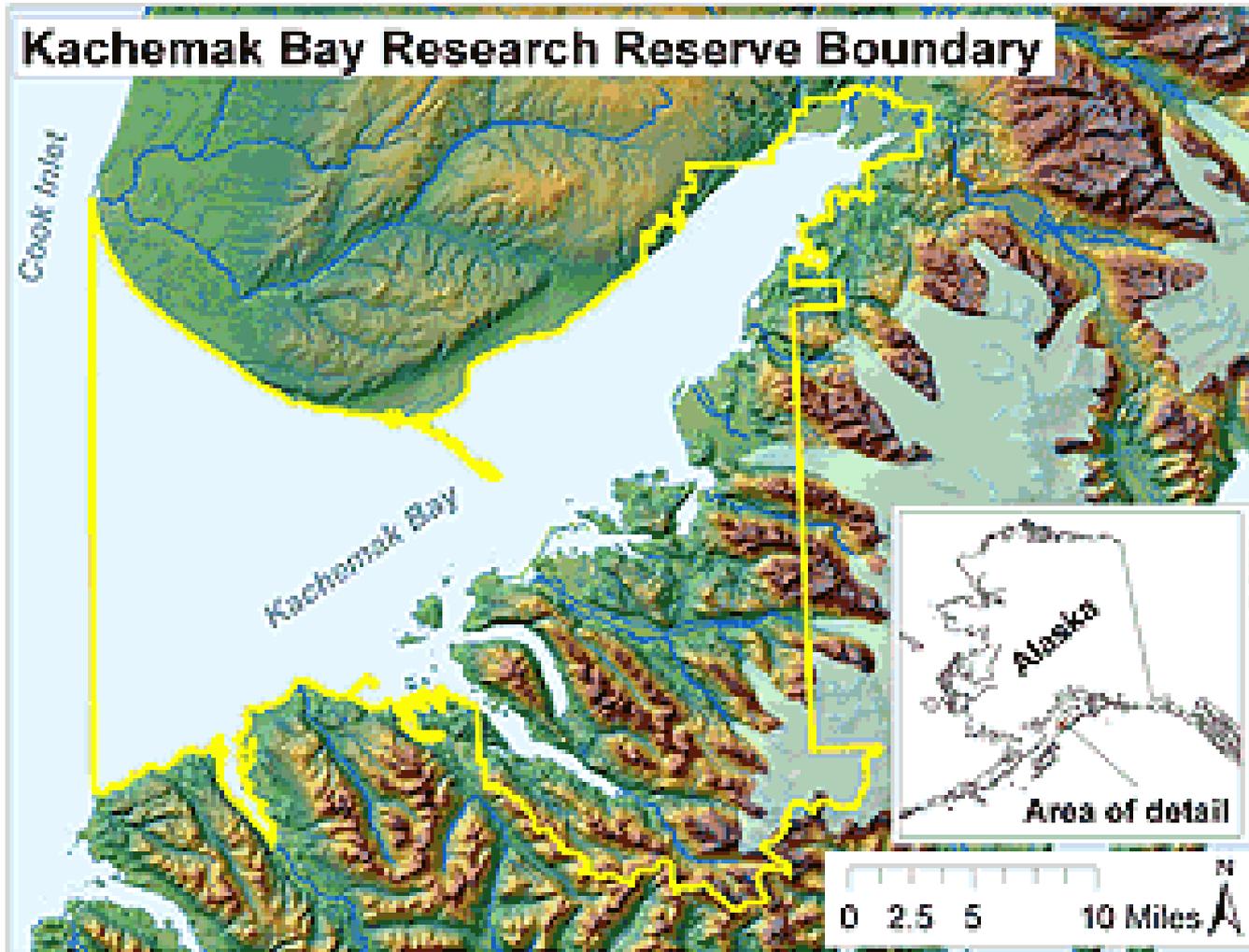
National Programs

- System-wide Monitoring Program
- Coastal Training Program
- Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- K-12 Estuarine Education Program (KEEP)
- NERRS Science Collaborative





Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Boundary



National Marine Sanctuaries Act

- **Designations Standards (section 303)**
 - standards and consultation requirements
- **Designation Procedures (section 304)**
 - sets up multi-year process
 1. **Public Scoping**
 - Should we create a national marine sanctuary?
 - How should we manage resources are in the area?
 2. **Draft Designation Documents**
 - Draft environmental impact statement (DEIS)
 - Draft management plan
 - Draft regulations - including terms of designation
 3. **Public Comments**
 - Ask for public comments
 - Input on the range of alternatives in DEIS (e.g. boundary, regulation options)
 4. **Final Documents**
 - Use public comments to prepare final documents
 - Congressional and State review period

