

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review

NOAA wants to hear from you



Management Plan Review is greatly enhanced by input from members of the public and stakeholder groups. NOAA is accepting public scoping comments through Nov 15, 2019 via:

Online

Comments may be submitted electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov>

Enter the docket number [NOAA-NOS-2019-0110](#) in the search box and click on "Comment Now!"

Mail

Attn: Management Plan Coordinator
NOAA CINMS
UCSB Ocean Science Edu Bldg 514
Mail Code 6155
Santa Barbara, California 93106

In Person

Public comments will be taken at public scoping meetings:

October 22, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Faulkner Gallery
Santa Barbara Public Library
40 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

October 23, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road
Ventura, CA 93003

Close to the mainland, yet worlds apart, the magnificent and diverse waters of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) encompass the ocean environment surrounding five of the eight California Channel Islands. The islands' remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates a seascape with remarkable biodiversity and productivity, home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to massive blue whales.

Public Input

NOAA is inviting the public to help chart the future management and direction of this special place. The sanctuary is updating its Management Plan, which prioritizes resource management issues and describes actions by NOAA and partners to address them. The plan encompasses all programming—research, education, outreach, volunteers, conservation, and enforcement—that protects the ecological and cultural

resources of the sanctuary while supporting responsible uses and enjoyment.

NOAA last updated the sanctuary's management plan in 2009. Over the last decade, sanctuary resources and environmental conditions have changed, creating new challenges and requirements for protecting resources and facilitating compatible human use. At the same time, new tools for effective management have emerged, driven by scientific advances, technological innovation, new partnerships, and other factors.

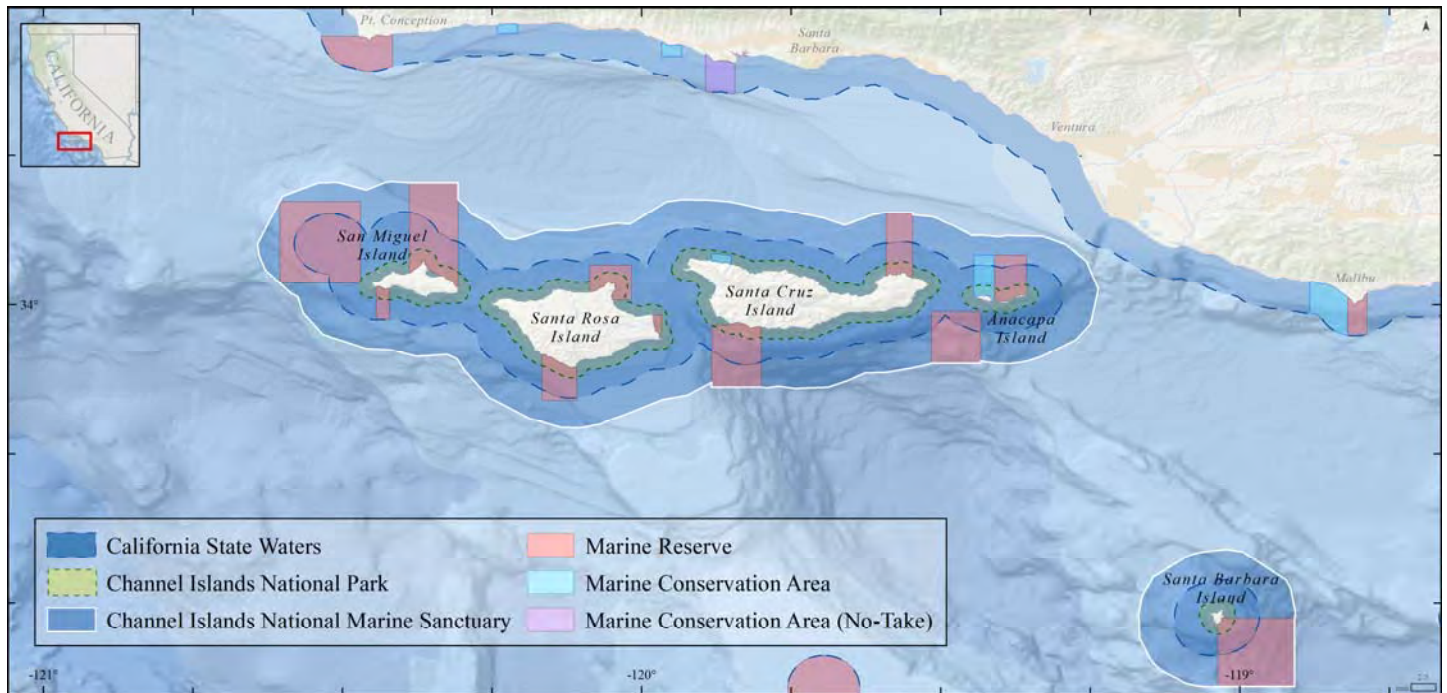
Management Plan Review

NOAA will seek public input throughout the 2-3 year Management Plan Review process. We hope that you attend public meetings and provide your input into the future of your sanctuary.



Photo: Robert Schwenmer/NOAA

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary protects the waters around Arch Point on Santa Cruz Island.



Map: Mari Cajandig/NOAA

What happens next?

Public Scoping (Oct 1 – Nov 15, 2019)

This initial brainstorming and public comment period helps NOAA define the scope of issues that the management plan review will address. During this time, the public can raise issues and strategies for NOAA to consider in developing the new management plan. NOAA will also hold public scoping meetings to provide information about the review process and to accept both oral and written comments.

Issue Identification and Action Plan Development

After the public scoping period, sanctuary staff will review all

comments to identify and prioritize issues to be addressed in the new management plan. NOAA will seek input from the sanctuary advisory council and subject matter experts to help develop tailored action plans to address these issues. These discussions will form the foundation of a new draft management plan.

Draft Environmental Review and Draft Management Plan

NOAA will prepare a draft management plan and an accompanying environmental analysis of the activities proposed in the plan. If regulatory changes are necessary, NOAA will also develop a proposed rule.

Public Review and Comment

NOAA will hold additional meetings and ask the public to review and comment on the draft management plan. NOAA will then review comments and make any necessary changes.

Final Environmental Review and Management Plan

After considering public comments, NOAA will release a Final Management Plan, final environmental review document, and if needed, a Final Rule.

For more information, or to be added to the distribution list for management plan review updates and announcements, please email cinmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov



Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

A recreational fishing vessel plies the waters of the sanctuary.



Photo: Anthony Lombardi

Two blue whales, the largest living creature ever, swim through the sanctuary.

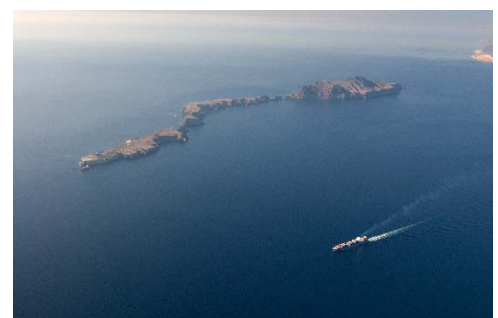


Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

A container vessel passes to the north of Anacapa Island.