Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

Merry Camhi
Wildlife Conservation Society’s New York Aquarium
April 12th 2017
Presentation Outline

• Intro to Wildlife Conservation Society
• National Marine Sanctuaries
• WCS sanctuary nomination
15 Priority Regions

Improving Fisheries across the World's Most Vulnerable Ecosystems
The New York Seascape

>16,000 sq miles from Montauk, NY to Cape May, NJ + Long Island Sound
NY Seascape Biodiversity

- 338 fishes
- 26 sharks
- 14 skates/rays
- 5 sea turtles
- 4 seals
- 15+ cetaceans
- cold-water corals
- seabirds and invertebrates
Most urbanized marine ecosystem in the U.S

- >22 million people living along coast
- NY-NJ Harbor one of world’s busiest
- 3rd largest container port in country; largest on the East coast
- $23 billion from fisheries, tourism, healthy waters
- Increasing demand on our waters

How ensure a safe place for marine wildlife?
DEEP SEA CORALS AMENDMENT (2015)
- 117 drawings
- 772 petition signatures
- 75 sq ft pledge walls
- 12,011 e-activist action alerts

UNMANAGED FORAGE OMNIBUS AMENDMENT (2016)
- 437 poems and drawings
- 698 petition signatures
- 100 sq ft pledge walls with 228 drawings
- 4,062 e-activist action alerts
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast
Greater Farallones
Cordell Bank
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Monterey Bay
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.)

- Wisconsin - Lake Michigan
- Thunder Bay
- Stellwagen Bank
- Mallows Bay - Potomac River
- Monitor
- Gray's Reef
- Florida Keys
- Flower Garden Banks

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.
Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Nomination

November 2016

New York Aquarium
## National Marine Sanctuary Nomination Process

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   - February 2017

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Current Status
Supporter Breakdown for Hudson Canyon NMS Nomination

US House of Representatives: 13
New York State Senate: 7
NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee: 16
New York City Borough Presidents: 3
New York City Council Members: 6
Environmental Organizations: 9
Economic Development, Business and Tourism Organizations: 8
Recreational Divers: 17
WCS Online Supporters: 3,800
WCS In-Park Supporters: 4,250
Did you know that there are deep sea corals in Hudson Canyon? They come in many shapes and sizes and provide homes for many different animals. Draw some more coral and some animals that might be hiding there.

Tilefish dig burrows in Hudson Canyon. These burrows help them hide from predators and provide homes for other animals too! Draw some more tilefish and other animals like crabs and lobsters at home in their burrows.

Dear Dr. Kathryn Sullivan,
NOAA Administrator

I visited the Wildlife Conservation Society’s and learned all about the marine wildlife in Hudson Canyon. Please help protect this special place. I would be so excited for Hudson Canyon to become a National Marine Sanctuary.

Thank you,

Your Name Here
City, State

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

In 1925, ocean explorer and WCS scientist William Beebe became the first person to explore the dark depths of the Hudson Canyon and observe the animals that live there! Draw what you’d think you’d see if you were an explorer!
Hudson Canyon Sanctuary
WCS Nomination Goals

- Support conservation of marine wildlife and habitats
- Highlight and promote the sustainable economic uses
- Enhance science and monitoring
- Expand ocean education and awareness
Figure 1. Number of species that have designated essential fish habitat in the proposed sanctuary boundaries including highly migratory species (left) and 39 species under federal management in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast (right) (MARCO 2016).
Figure 3 Historic lease drill sites from the 1970's and 1980's in the vicinity of Hudson Canyon. (Amato and Bielak 1990)
“...It would also begin the process of undoing Obama’s actions to indefinitely block drilling in certain areas of the Arctic and Atlantic....”
Sanctuary-supported workshops provide information about local marine resources and research. A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) building workshop for teachers is among the programs offered in the past.

**See a Spout**

This short course is intended for boaters interested in whalewatching. Learn the six tips for safer boating around whales.
Sanctuary Socioeconomic Benefits

• All NMS →, ~$8 billion annually generated in local coastal and ocean dependent economies, including commercial fishing, research, and recreation/tourism-related activities.

• Within 4 NMS in California (2010 and 2012), → $69.2 million (aver annual) revenue from in commercial catch & landings

• Whale watching in MA (2000 study): 80% of New England whale watching trips in MA and almost all of these in Stellwagen NMS (→ $31.3 million/yr)
National Marine Sanctuary Designation Process (NOAA)

**Scoping Period**
- Public Comment Period
- Public Meetings
- Scoping Report

**NEPA Analysis**
- Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- NEPA Alternative Development and Analysis
- Inter-Agency Coordination

**Review Draft Documents**
- Public Comment Period
- Public Meetings
- Inter-Agency Briefings

**Consider Comments**
- Modify Based on Public Comments
- Select Preferred Alternative
- Present Proposed Management Plan to Governor
- Inter-Agency Briefings

**Final Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement**
THE HUDSON CANYON

Greetings from the #CityBelow

The Hudson Canyon is a deep, mighty underwater canyon - the equivalent of 10,500 feet - that was created millions of years ago 100 miles off New York City's shore and hosts a vibrant community of diverse marine wildlife.

Cold water corals live in this range

How Deep is the Hudson Canyon?

You would have to stack the Coney Island Parachute Drop end-to-end 42 times to reach the deepest parts of the Hudson Canyon.

Depth of Hudson Canyon: 10,500 ft

Paraclute drop: 250 ft high
Thank you!
We Stand for Wildlife™
A Long History of Scientific Exploration in Hudson Canyon
Sanctuaries and Monuments

National Marine Sanctuaries Act
1972
NOAA can designate and manage areas of the marine and Great Lakes environment that are nationally significant

Process and Designation:
Public scoping, public comment period, DEIS, DMP, comment period, public hearings, FEIS, FMP, agency review and consultations, approval

Management:
Managed by NOAA/ONMS, and in some cases, in partnership with state governments

Antiquities Act
1906
Presidential authority through an Presidential Proclamation/Executive Order to create national monuments on federal lands to protect significant natural, cultural or scientific features

Process and Designation:
No public process required under the Antiquities Act but designation and expansion of marine national monuments were all preceded by some level of public engagement.
Development of management plans and regulations carried out after designation

Management:
Typically managed by multiple government agencies, which may include NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and other federal and state partners

Source: NOAA