FAQ #26: What are the Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments, and where are they?

On October 23, 1972, Congress passed the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act which, among other things, established the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Title III of the law was later renamed the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for this network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. The graphic in Figure 76 depicts the locations and names of the US National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments. Geographical extents for each marine sanctuary can be downloaded from: https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/imast_gis.html.

![Our National Marine Sanctuaries](image_url)

*Figure 76. Locations of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments.*