



# Designation of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and Tribal Co-Stewardship

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Monterey Bay  
National Marine  
Sanctuary

Monterey Bay  
National Marine Sanctuary

## Final Boundary

4,543 sq. mi.

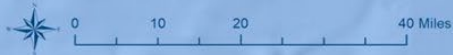
116 mi. coastline

11,580 ft. deepest point

60 mi. distance from shore

Final Preferred Alternative  
Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Pacific Ocean



Cambria

San Luis Obispo  
County

Kern County

Morro Bay

Point Buchon

Diablo Canyon  
Power Plant

San Luis Obispo

Pismo Beach

Santa Maria

CALIFORNIA

Point Sal

Vandenberg  
SFB

Santa Barbara  
County

Lompoc

Point Arguello

Arguello  
Terrace

Gaviota

Point Conception

Arguello  
Canyon

Rodriguez  
Seamount

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary





# Sanctuaries Carry Out Diverse Programs



## Examples include:

- Resource Protection
- Maritime Heritage
- Science – Research and Monitoring
- Education and Outreach
- Volunteers
- Water Quality
- Community Partnerships
- Promoting Recreation and Tourism



# Sanctuary Designation Process



## Step 1:

- Nov 2021: Initiated designation process.
- Dec 2021 – Jan 2022: Public scoping meetings.

## Step 2:

- Feb 2022 – Aug 2023: Reviewed public comments, held workshops, meetings. Prepared draft designation documents.

## Step 3 (Current Step):

- **August 24-25, 2023: NOAA released draft designation documents, opened public comment period.**
- **October 25, 2023: Public comment period ends.**

## Step 4:

- Throughout 2023 into 2024: NOAA will prepare responses to comments, make necessary changes to designation documents, conduct consultations, and meet with interested parties.

## Step 5:

- NOAA Final Rule published October 15, waiting for effective date after 45 day session of Congress (~Dec 2).

# Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary



- Area is important ecological transition zone with high biological productivity; important habitat to many endangered species
  - Supports dense aggregations of marine life, including nationally significant biodiversity of sea birds, marine mammals, invertebrates, and fishes
  - Upwelling that nourishes important ecosystems down current





# Need for CHNMS



- Area contains hundreds of shipwrecks of historical importance
- Region has been home to coastal, ocean-going Indigenous tribes for more than ten thousand years
  - Submerged village sites may exist along paleoshorelines



# Need for CHNMS



- Additional protections are needed due to myriad ongoing and emerging threats to the area from human uses and climate change
  - Offshore energy development
    - Oil and gas
    - Offshore wind
  - Pollution (offshore and onshore sources)
  - Increased vessel traffic and transportation
  - Increased coastal development
  - Climate change





# Prohibited Activities



- Oil, gas or mineral development other than from existing platforms & reservoirs
- Discharges - within or into; beyond that enters and injures; from a cruise ship
- Disturbance of the submerged lands
- Take, disturbance, removal, or possession of a maritime heritage resource
- Take or possession of a marine mammal, sea turtle, or bird
- Deserting a vessel or leaving harmful matter aboard a deserted vessel
- Attracting a white shark
- Special protections for Rodriguez Seamount below 1,500 ft (other than fishing)
- Introducing an introduced species (other than striped bass catch and release)
- Interfering with an enforcement action

# Final Management Plan



## Contains 12 Action Plans:

- Indigenous Cultural Heritage
- Climate Change
- Maritime Heritage
- Offshore Energy
- Water Quality
- Blue Economy
- Wildlife Disturbance
- Education and Outreach
- Resource Protection
- Research and Monitoring
- Operations and Administration
- Boundary Expansion

Action Plans each have separate strategies and activities; outline non-regulatory programs for the new sanctuary.

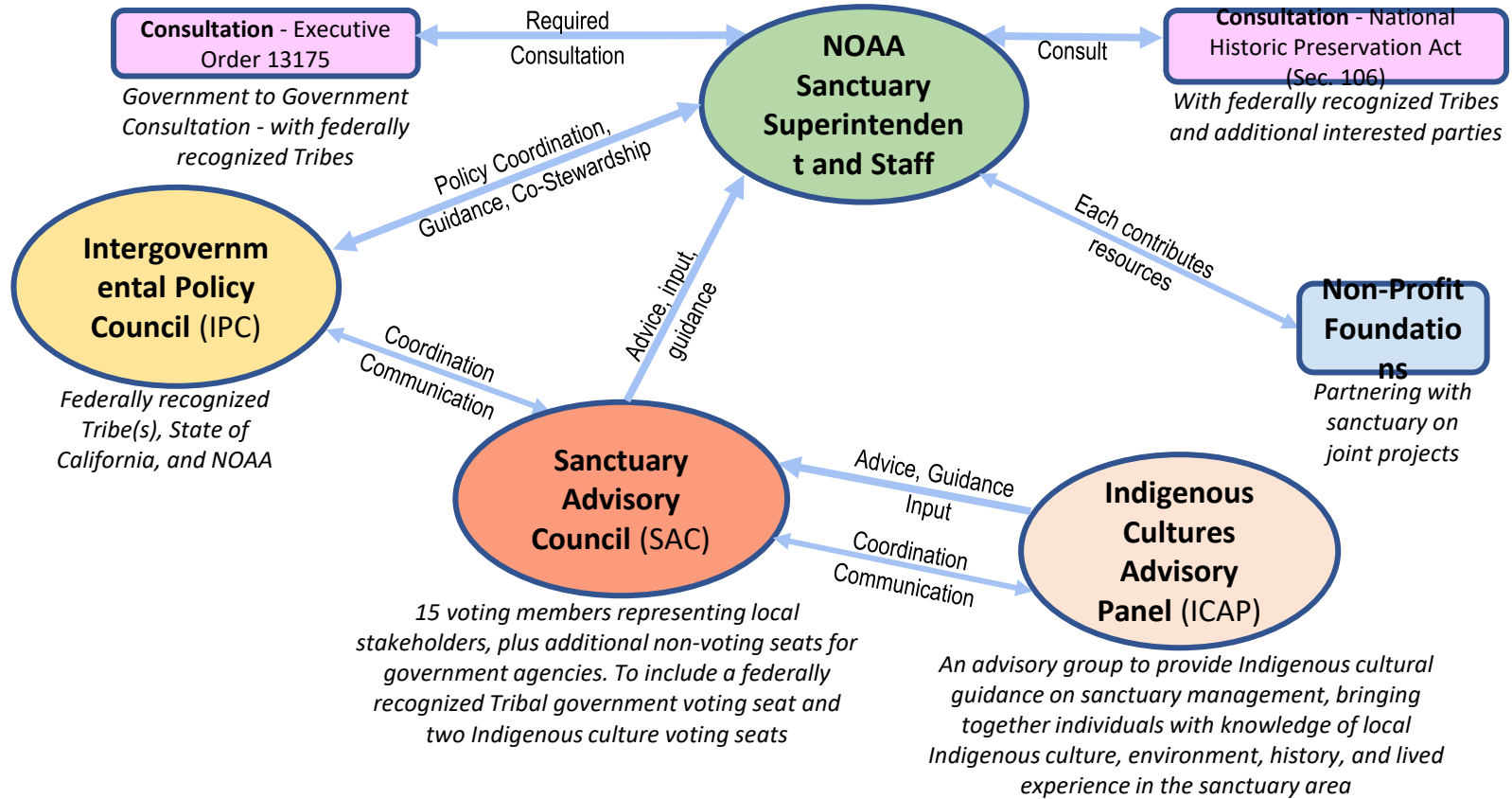
# Tribal Collaborative Management



- Unprecedented opportunity, from the time of designation, to involve Tribes and Indigenous community members in collaborating on sanctuary management.
- NOAA held about 45 meetings with Chumash (6 bands) and Salinan (2 bands) Tribes to listen to their ideas. Reviewed tribal papers and other models within Sanctuaries and elsewhere.
- Co-Developed Framework for Tribal Collaborative Management
- Management Plan describes this framework in detail, including the multiple benefits from this high level of collaboration in managing the new sanctuary.



# Indigenous Collaborative Co-Stewardship Framework



# Tribal Collaborative Management



## **NOAA Sanctuary Superintendent and Staff**

*Working with all groups to benefit the sanctuary and its resources*

NOAA responsibility and legal authority to designate and manage sanctuaries (hiring federal staff, budget execution, regulations - enforcement, facilities, establishing advisory council).

## **Government to Government Consultation**

Required Government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes per Executive Order 13175.

## **Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC)**

Group for federally recognized tribes and the State of California, allowing for direct input to NOAA as it administers the new sanctuary. Similar structure in place at OCNMS.

## **Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC)**

Critical group for ensuring meaningful community and tribal involvement in advising the sanctuary and linking to constituents.

## **Indigenous Cultures Advisory Panel (ICAP)**

A working group of multiple tribal interests to provide essential advice. Open to individuals possessing relevant Indigenous cultural knowledge linked to the sanctuary area.

## **Non-Profit Foundation(s)**

*Partner using Joint Project Authority. Includes Foundation Director, Board, Staff, sub-groups*

Partnership arrangements with one or more non-profit entities. Create Joint Project Agreements that support tribal community involvement in sanctuary programs.

# Opportunities and Challenges



- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Sanctuary Community Fund
- Udall Foundation assistance
- Sanctuary Advisory Council recruitment and establishment in early 2025
- The Framework currently does not enjoy universal tribal support
- Long-standing challenges amongst Chumash about authenticity and other intra-Chumash conflict and history
- Santa Ynez Band (only federally-recognized) status and strong positions about NOAA treatment of non-federally-recognized Chumash bands
- NOAA "staying in its lane" – Focus is on marine protection, NOT settling tribal issues = = = This will take a long time to work out!



# Questions/Discussion



Resources: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/>