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**To:** [Randal Bowman](#)  
**Cc:** [Wendi Weber](#); [Kahan, Scott](#); [Graham Taylor](#); [Brooke, Samantha](#); [Jeff Rupert](#)  
**Subject:** Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument Briefing  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017 2:30:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Secretary Briefing.pdf](#)  
[Secretary Briefing on Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.docx](#)

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Hi Randy,

In advance of our conference call tomorrow at 10 a.m. to discuss the briefing with the Secretary on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, I've attached a couple of documents to supplement our discussion. One is the presentation I gave for the Secretary and the other is a word document summary.

Look forward to our call tomorrow.

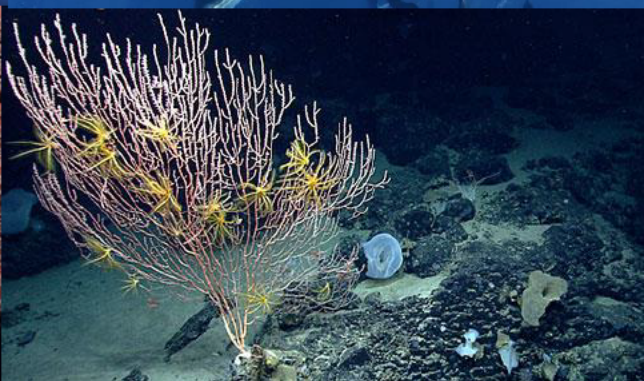
Brian

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Brian Benedict

Interim Superintendent- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument

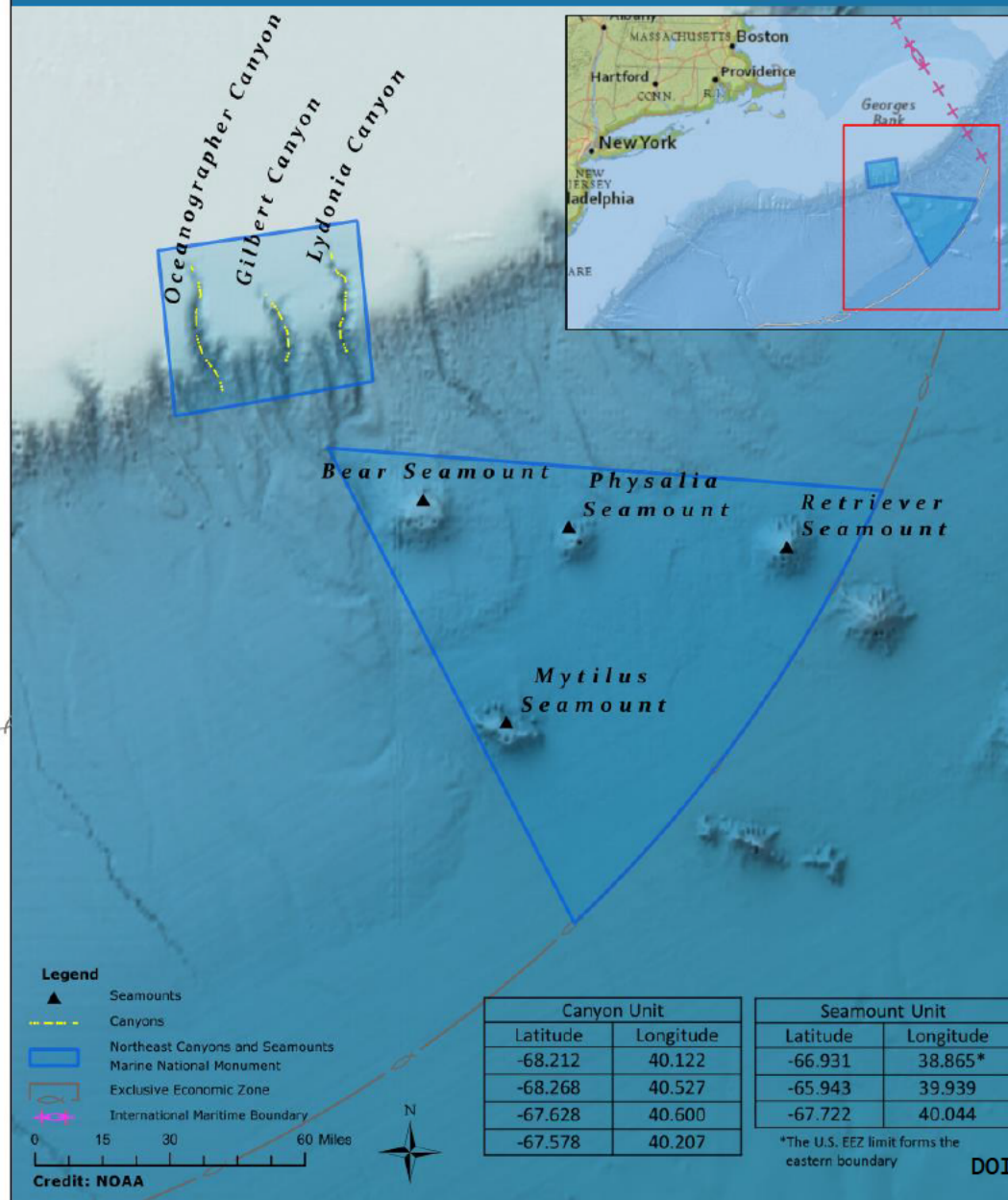
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# Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument



# Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument



# Outreach to Stakeholders Prior to Designation

- News reports/commercial fisherman – little to no opportunity for input
- Sept. 3, 2015 – NOAA public comment period to create a marine monument – over 2,500 hand written cards received
- Sept. 15, 2015 – NOAA held a town hall meeting in Providence, RI – 300 attended, 65 verbal comments received
- Sept 2, 2015 and August 30, 2016 meetings held at NE and Mystic Aquariums – over 750 attended



# Outreach to Stakeholders Prior to Designation

- Spring and late summer of 2016 – administration officials traveled to New England and met privately with stakeholders including fishery industry representatives, environmental organizations, and other local stakeholders

# Stakeholder's Input Drives Changes to Boundary

- Based on the comments and impacts to fisherman Jeffreys Ledge, Heezen and Nygren Canyons removed and the area around the remaining Canyons and Seamounts was reduced.
- Canyon area was reduced in size by 60%
- Six lobsterman and one full time and one part time vessel fish for red crab in the Monument.
- Seven year grace period for lobster and red crab fisherman to transition to new fishing ground
- Monument area represents 1.5% of U.S. federal waters on the east coast.



# Monument Established – Sept. 15, 2016

- 60 days to close commercial fishing
- Except lobster and red crab fishing – 7 years
- Notification to all commercial fisherman
- Joint Communications Team formed between FWS and NOAA
- Website established for Q and As
- Informational flyer developed to educate fisherman

# FWS/NOAA Partnership Cultivation

- Video call with Senior Leadership – introductions
- Meet with Pacific Monument Managers  
- Oct. 17-20, 2016
- Face to Face meeting with RD, RA and SLT  
- relationship building, laws roles, responsibilities of each agency
- Management Planning Meeting – work plan, scoping, draft vision and goals, permitting



# Planning

- Joint Management Plan to be developed by FWS and NOAA – 3 years to develop
- NOI drafted to close commercial fishing awaiting release
- Fisheries will be handled by NOAA in a separate planning process from Joint Management Plan
- Draft Vision and Goals, public scoping planning, work plan
- April 26 – EO – all work on hold

# Public/Private Collaboration

- Commercial charters and tour boats
- Transport visitors to enjoy:
- Recreational saltwater fishing – trophy fish
- Whale watching – species not encountered nearshore
- Seabird watching



# Public/Private Collaboration

- New England and Mystic Aquariums, Woods Hole, Universities
- Outreach, education, and research
- Incredible outreach potential – 2.3 million visitors annually
- Website, movie, coming display
- 50 million people in the Northeast – Monument System outreach through partners

# Budget and Staffing

- Interim Superintendent – 1/3 of FTE
- Time from Senior Leadership Team, Planning, and External Affairs
- Dedicated funds for NECSMNM in FY17
- \$180,000 – supporting staff, travel, planning



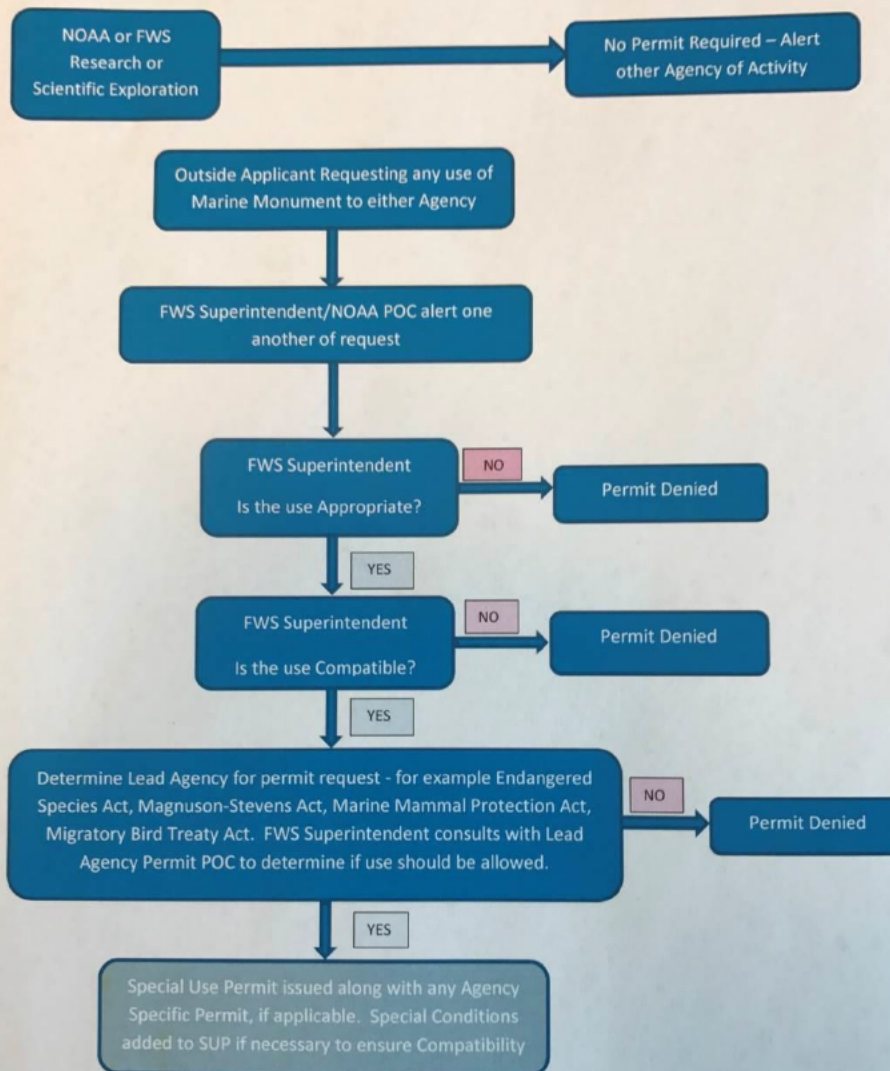


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Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument

Interim Marine Monument Permitting



\*\*No permitting is required for emergencies, law enforcement, and U.S. Armed Forces activities, and activities that do not impact monument resources including: sailing, and bird or marine mammal watching, so long as those activities are conducted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations including the Marine Mammal Protection Act.



## Secretary Briefing on Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument

June 16, 2017 – New England Aquarium

**Participants:** Brian Benedict, Interim Superintendent, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts

Scott Kraus, Vice President of Research, New England Aquarium

Laurence Maden, Vice President of Research, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

**Agenda:** Tour of the NE Aquarium - 45 minute with a focus on species found in the Monument

Conference room virtual tour of resources by Scott Kraus and Laurence Maden - Powerpoint .

Monument Briefing by Interim Superintendent included:

➤ ***An overview of the Monument location*** – 130 miles south-east of Cape Cod, 3.1 million acres in size and includes a Canyon Unit of three undersea canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon and the Seamounts Unit with four seamounts taller than any mountains east of the Rockies (the only seamounts found in the Atlantic U.S. waters).

➤ ***Outreach to stakeholders prior to Monument designation*** –

Sept. 3, 2015 – NOAA public comment period on the concept of creating a Marine Monument – 2,500 comment letters received.

Sept. 15, 2015 – NOAA held a town hall meeting in Providence, RI – 300 attended, 65 verbal comments received

Sept 2, 2015 and August 30, 2016 – meetings held at New England and Mystic Aquariums – over 750 attended

Spring and late summer of 2016 – administration officials traveled to New England and met privately with stakeholders including fishery industry representatives, environmental organizations, and other local stakeholders.

➤ ***Changes to Monument's Proposed Boundary Due to Commercial Fisherman Input***

Stakeholders input through comments significantly changed the boundaries from what was initially proposed to reduce impacts to fisherman. Canyon area was reduced by 60% to respond to trawler fisherman, canyon and seamount units separated to allow for important fishing area for tuna and swordfish, and lobster and red crab fisherman were provided a seven year grace period to

transition to new fishing grounds. The Marine Monument accounts for 1.5% of U.S. Federal waters on the east coast.

➤ ***Monument Establishment, Management, Planning***

Monument established on Sept. 15, 2016 by President Obama. Once established there was 60 days given to close commercial fishing except for red crab and lobster (seven year grace period). Joint NOAA/FWS Communications Team formed to respond to media, Congress, and fisherman. A website was established for frequent questions and answers and an informational brochure was produced to educate fisherman about the Monument.

FWS/NOAA partnership cultivation included meeting with Pacific Monument Managers, and meetings with senior leadership of both agencies to review laws, roles, and responsibilities of each agency in Monument Management. The second meeting primarily focused on management planning which NOAA and FWS are tasked with producing a Joint Monument Management Plan within 3 years of establishment. NOAA has drafted an NOI for closure of the commercial fisheries (awaiting release) and fisheries related issues will be part of a separate planning process that NOAA will lead. The Agencies have worked on drafting vision and goals, public scoping planning, and a work plan for the Management Plan. As of April 26, 2017, when the Executive Order for Monument reviews was issued, all work on planning has been put on hold.

Public/Private partnership opportunities were discussed including working with commercial charters and tour boats to support whale and seabird watching, and recreational fishing. Collaboration with New England and Mystic Aquariums for outreach and education was also highlighted given that they have 2.3 million visitors annually and their mission aligns well with ours. Outreach on the Monuments through the aquariums has already begun with information on Mystic's website and a coming display.

Budget and staffing is limited to 1/3 of an FTE for the Interim Superintendent, as well as staff time from our Senior Leadership team, Planning, and External Affairs staff. In FY17 dedicated funds of \$180,000 was provided to support staff, travel and planning efforts.