

SANCTUARY WATCH

National Marine Sanctuary System Receives Budget Increase

On December 21, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed appropriations bill (Public Law 106-553) that increases the National Marine Sanctuary System's budget by \$10 million. This new bill brings the national system's total appropriation to \$35.5 million which includes a \$3 million increase for construction projects.

This important funding allows the National Marine Sanctuary System to continue to reach toward baseline operational levels at all of the 13 sanctuaries.

Increased funding will enable the sanctuary staff to review and update individual sanctuary management plans. These management plans are vital to the system's ability to properly protect resources given contemporary threats and challenges. This process also evaluates existing regulations, location and boundary, and marine zoning concerns.

Within the areas of education and outreach programs, new programs directed at specific target audiences and expanded community outreach efforts are being planned. In addition, a systemwide education and outreach plan will be implemented.

It is expected that additional funds will quicken the creation of visitor center exhibits and help the American public to more fully appreciate and understand our nation's valuable marine resources.

As current sanctuary programs, e.g., site specific research and monitoring programs continue, added funding allows the system to effect a new systemwide

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New Director Named for the National Marine Sanctuaries

On January 10, 2001, Dr. James D. Baker, the NOAA's Administrator and Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, was pleased to name Daniel J. Basta as Director of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Both headquarters and field staff, who served under Basta in his role as acting sanctuary director for the past year, greeted the announcement with enthusiasm.

"It's time for the National Marine Sanctuary System to have a strong leader like Dan Basta at the helm. He has tremendous leadership skills and is extremely capable of focusing the program on achieving the mission and goals we have established," said Billy Causey, Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

"Dan's familiarity with NOAA and the various line offices will help build cooperation and establish partnerships within our agency as well as outside. We'll

Dan Basta assumes leadership of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System.



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MPAs Online and Weather Service Updates...

New Marine Protected Area Website Responds to Executive Order

In May 26, 2000, federal agencies were directed to strengthen the protection of U.S. ocean and coastal resources through new actions on marine protected areas. This directive was a significant milestone for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) stewardship of U.S. ocean resources. For the first time in history, federal agencies were directed to work closely with local, state, territorial, tribal, and other stakeholders to strengthen existing MPAs and to build a scientifically-based, national system.

The new Marine Protected Areas of the United States Website provides information as required by Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas, signed on May 26, 2000. As required by the Order, the new site was established to provide information on MPAs and is jointly managed by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior.

The website will be used as a principal medium to promote sharing of information, to foster collaboration among participating agencies, and to enhance the protection of existing areas and promote establishment of new protected areas.

Following guidance from the Executive Order, the site primarily targets marine protected area managers and staff in federal agencies, state, territorial and local governments, and tribal councils. It is also designed to inform federal and state policy makers in the congressional and executive branches on national progress being made on a comprehensive system of marine protected areas. Other important users include marine researchers, educators, and students.

The site answers questions about MPAs and describes their benefit to the nation and the challenges they face. It includes pages that contain a MPA list and inventory, information about the MPA Library and MPA Center, the proposed MPA Advisory Committee, and Agency Progress Reports. To visit the website, go to <http://mpa.gov/>.

Sanctuary System Welcomes Weather Service Partnership

Mariners studying weather forecasts before heading out into sanctuary waters can now listen to forecasts for all 13 national marine sanctuaries courtesy of an innovative project between the National Marine Sanctuary System and the National Weather Service (NWS). Effective December 4, 2000, the NWS forecasts will now contain specific references to sanctuary waters. These forecasts will not only help mariners to stay informed about local sea conditions but also raise awareness of the sanctuaries within local boating and coastal communities.

“This is the first small step in expanding our working relationship with the National Weather Service. This new venture offers tremendous opportunities in sharing resources and products with our shared constituents” said Sanctuary Director Dan Basta.

One sanctuary has already benefitted from NWS efforts. Gray’s Reef Sanctuary forecasts have been included in daily NWS forecasts for Georgia’s offshore waters for the last three years. The sanctuary benefits from a NWS weather buoy located within the sanctuary.

The NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services worked with the sanctuary program last Fall on identifying mutual education and outreach opportunities. These include new weather kiosks and weather radio displays at future sanctuary visitor centers.

The new policy directs 11 regional NWS offices to reference the various sanctuaries in appropriate marine forecast area designators or synopsis designators. Current official marine area designations will not change but offer additional information when a sanctuary is within a forecast area. Access links to forecasts for each sanctuary are available at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marinelsanctuary/sanctuary.htm>.

—Michael T. Murphy

National Marine Sanctuary Newsmakers...



Dr. Hudson is congratulated by Sanctuary System Deputy Director Commander Craig McLean and Director Dan Basta.

“Reef Doctor” Employee of the Year

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Biologist **Dr. Harold Hudson** aka “The Reef Doctor” was named NOAA’s Employee of the Year in a ceremony on December 14, 2000.

The six nominators--staff from the Office of Response and Restoration, the National Marine Sanctuary System, the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary--noted the importance of Dr. Hudson’s “extraordinary contributions to protecting and restoring the nation’s coral reefs.”

In his 40 years of government service, Dr. Hudson has guided state-of-the-art restoration projects around the world.

Dr. Hudson’s work in development and application of assessment and restoration methods is extensive. He developed the initial concept for use of mooring buoys and their attachment to the seafloor to avoid boat anchor damage on coral reefs and advanced a treatment for black band disease through the use of an aspirator. In addition, Dr. Hudson developed a prefabricated module unit for rebuilding injured reef colonies and bolt anchoring systems and techniques to help in reef restoration.

Dr. Hudson was also awarded the Commerce Department’s Silver Award in 2000 for assisting the NOS Office of Response and Restoration in restoring damaged coral reefs in Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa. To learn more about the Samoan coral reef restoration, visit <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/news/features/news000101.html>.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Featured on the History Channel

“Raise the *Monitor*,” a two-hour special documentary on the USS *Monitor* and the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary aired on December 11 at 9 p.m. on the History Channel. The film was repeated throughout the month.

The *Monitor* Sanctuary has received a flood of inquiries and congratulations as a result of this program.

“We are extremely pleased with the amount of press and documentary coverage the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary has received this year,” said Sanctuary Research Assistant **Jeff Johnston**. “I think this amount of press is probably unprecedented in the history of the sanctuary program and has allowed us to show the public that NOAA is fully committed to protecting not only our ocean’s natural resources, but it is equally dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of our nation.”

The History Channel’s series *Civil War Journal* will also be featuring the *Monitor* on January 29 at 8 a.m. To learn more other viewing dates, visit <http://www.historychannel.com/>.

Managers Take Sanctuary Story to International Forums

Billy D. Causey, Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, joined coral reef specialists from around the world at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium, which convened in Bali, Indonesia in October 2000. Causey’s presentations, “Designing Marine Protected Areas: The Need to Integrate the Scientific and Practical Approaches” and “Linking Coral Bleaching to Global Warming: The Next Steps for Coral Reef Management” highlighted important links between science and management in coral reef environments.

Monitor Sanctuary Manager **John Broadwater** completed a lecture tour in Australia that included meetings with representatives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Environment Australia, a federal agency that manages Australia’s marine protected areas program.



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our vision People value marine sanctuaries as treasured places protected for future generations.

our mission To serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy.

February/March 2001 Calendar

Natural events Gray whales on their annual migration north to Alaska pass through the Channel Islands Sanctuary. Hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays school in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. In March, bald eagle nesting and egg laying commences in the Olympic Coast Sanctuary.

February 2001 • The Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary begins a year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary.

February 24 • The 5th Annual Sanctuary Ocean Count, an islandwide count of humpback whales and marine mammals from various shoreline sites, is held on Kona, Hawaii.

March 16-18 • Monterey Bay Sanctuary Symposium "Fishing for Our Future." Sanctuary Currents 2001. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Coconut Grove, Santa Cruz, CA.

March 27 • Robert Lyn Nelson exhibits his sanctuary painting, "From Sea to Shining Sea." 8 p.m. Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

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science plan. The new plan enables sanctuary managers to better assess changes in the health of marine resources. Some of the increase will also go to continue the system's support of deep ocean exploration in partnership with the NOAA and the National Geographic Society's Sustainable Seas Expeditions.

For the past three years, the National Marine Sanctuary System acquired increases to its budget. In FY1997, the system's budget increased from \$11.7 million to \$14 million, an increase of \$2.3M. The following year, the system received a \$350K increase, and a \$8 million increase followed in FY 2000. Overall, the system has grown from a \$5 million program in FY1992 to a \$32.5 million program in just nine short years. Overall, this increase in funding helped the system to expand its education and research programs and provide services and information to visitors and local communities.

—Bruce Jackson

New Director Charts Sanctuary System Course *(Cont'd from pg. 1)*

see an enormous amount of energy and focus on helping site operations improve and meet our resource management goals," Causey said.

The new director has outlined a variety of innovations and approaches to further the system's success through community-based management, increased partnerships, monitoring, education and outreach, monitoring and ocean exploration.

"The National Marine Sanctuary System is the world leader in demonstrating the effectiveness of marine protected areas," said Basta. "As director, I'm committed to see the system remain as a leader through a stronger emphasis on protection of both living marine resources and our submerged cultural resources from important shipwrecks to pre-historic settlements."

Trained as an environmental engineer, Basta joined NOS in 1979 as the founding chief of the Strategic Assessments Branch (later the Strategic Environmental Assessments Division). He later served as Director of NOAA's National Ocean Service Special Projects Office.

Over the last two decades, Basta specialized in environmental quality and natural resources management throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, Mexico, China, and Canada. He co-authored more than 50 publications in his field including textbooks on environmental modeling, atlases of U.S. coastal and ocean regions, and reports and books on national and international environmental problems.

Before joining NOAA, Dan Basta held positions at Resources for the Future in Washington, DC, the Environmental Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences, and John Hopkins University.

The National Marine Sanctuary System, under his direction, includes 13 protected areas in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the Great Lakes. A 14th sanctuary has been proposed for designation in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Sanctuary Watch is a publication of the National Marine Sanctuary System, Communications and Development Branch.

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The National Marine Sanctuary System is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service.