does not involve extraordinary circumstances precluding the use of a categorical exclusion. Therefore, this action is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A Environmental Review Procedures, and the NOAA NEPA Companion Manual. As defined in the NOAA NEPA Companion Manual, Appendix E, categorical exclusion category G7, the proposed action is a notice of administrative and legal nature and for which any environmental effects are too broad and speculative to lend themselves to meaningful analysis at this time and will be subject later to the NEPA process, as applicable. Should NOAA decide to propose the designation of a national marine sanctuary, each individual national marine sanctuary designation process will be subject to case-by-case analysis, as required under NEPA and as outlined in section 304(a)(2)(A) of the NMSA.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq., unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Nominations for national marine sanctuaries discussed in this notice involve a collection-of-information requirement subject to the requirements of the PRA. OMB has approved this collection-of-information requirement under OMB control number 0648–0682.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.

John Armor,


[FR Doc. 2022–11954 Filed 6–7–22; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping and To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold public scoping meetings and prepare a draft environmental impact statement; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is initiating a scoping process to consider designating a national marine sanctuary in the Hudson Canyon area approximately 100 miles offshore southeast of New York City. NOAA is initiating this scoping process based on the area’s diverse qualities, which are described in the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS’s) November 2016 Hudson Canyon national marine sanctuary nomination. Specifically, WCS’s nomination provides important context and background regarding the natural and cultural resources in the region, the potential benefits of national marine sanctuary designation, recommendations for management of the sanctuary, and a proposed sanctuary boundary, which NOAA will take under consideration, but does not represent an official boundary proposal at this time. As a first step in this scoping process, NOAA invites comments on the factors that will contribute to its determination of whether to designate the area as a national marine sanctuary; designation would include preparation and release of a draft environmental impact statement (including national marine sanctuary boundary alternatives), proposed regulations, and a draft management plan. This scoping process will also inform the initiation of any consultations with Federal, State, or local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties, as appropriate. In support of the scoping process, the nomination package and additional information regarding the qualities of the Hudson Canyon area can be found at https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon/.

DATES:

Comments due: August 8, 2022.

Public Meetings: NOAA will host four public meetings during the scoping process, two virtual and two in-person. The virtual public scoping meetings will occur at the following dates and times:

- Thursday, June 23, 2022, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Wednesday, August 3, 2022, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- The in-person scoping meetings will occur at the following dates and times:
  - New York City, NY; Date: July 19, 2022; Location: Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House, Naval Officers Room; Address: 1 Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004; Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m.
  - West Long Branch, NJ; Date: July 21, 2022; Location: Monmouth University, Urban Coast Institute, Edison Building Atrium-E201; Address: 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764; Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Please check https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon/ for meeting links and the most up-to-date information, should plans for these public meetings change. NOAA may end a virtual or in-person meeting before the time noted above if all participants have concluded their oral comments.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NOS–2022–0053, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to https://www.regulations.gov and enter “NOAA–NOS–2022–0053” in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comment.
- Mail: Send any hard copy public comments by mail to: LeAnn Hogan, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Note the docket number (i.e., NOAA–NOS–2022–0053) at the top of the comment.

Public Scoping Meetings: Provide oral comments during public scoping meetings, as described under DATES. Webinar registration details and additional information about how to participate in these virtual and in-person public scoping meetings is available at https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudson-canyon/.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NOAA. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on https://www.regulations.gov without change. All personally identifiable information (for example,
name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise
sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the commenter will be
publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in
the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Comments that are not
responsive or contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate
language will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
LeAnn Hogan, (202) 731–0678, LeAnn.Hogan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Area Under
Consideration

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act
(NMSA), 16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.,
authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to designate and protect as
national marine sanctuaries areas of the
marine environment that are of special
national significance due to their
conservation, recreational, ecological,
historical, scientific, cultural,
archeological, educational, or aesthetic
qualities. The primary objective of the
NMSA is to protect the resources of the
National Marine Sanctuary System. Dayto-day management of national marine
sanctuaries has been delegated by the
Secretary to NOAA’s Office of National
Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS).

In November 2016, WCS submitted a
nomination to NOAA through the
Sanctuary Nomination Process (79 FR
33851), asking NOAA to consider
designating the Hudson Canyon area as
a national marine sanctuary to conserve
its nationally significant ecological and
biological resources and to expand upon
existing local and state efforts to study,
interpret, and promote the area’s
ecological and biological uniqueness.

The nomination was endorsed by a
diverse coalition of organizations and
individuals at local, state, and national
levels including elected officials,
businesses, shipping industry
representatives, recreational users,
conservation and academic
organizations, tourism companies,
aquariums and zoos, historical societies,
and education groups. NOAA added the
area to the inventory of successful
nominations that are eligible for
designation in February 2017, and
extended it on the inventory in February
2022 after its five-year review of the
nomination (87 FR 11049).

The Hudson Canyon (Canyon) is the
largest submarine canyon along the
United States’ Atlantic coast and is one
of the largest in the world. Its presence
is critical to the support of resident and
migratory marine wildlife in the New
York Bight, as well as in the MidAtlantic region. Rivaling the depth and
scale of the Grand Canyon, the Canyon
extends about 560 km (350 mi) seaward,
reaches depths of 3–4 km (2–2.5 mi), and
is up to 12 km (7.5 mi) wide. Despite
its size and proximity to one of the
world’s largest metropolitan centers
in New York City, few know of this area
that William Beebe described as a
“stately, invisible gorge” when he first
explored it during his 1925 expedition on
the vessel Arcturus.

The Canyon’s grand scale and diverse
structure—steep slopes, firm outcrops,
diverse sediments, flux of nutrients, and
areas of upwelling—make it an
ecological hotspot for a vast array and
abundance of marine wildlife. The Canyon
provides habitat for a range of
endangered, protected, and sensitive
species including the sperm whale, sea
turtles, and unique and diverse seep
communities. The Canyon also provides
invaluable habitat for hundreds of
species of bony and cartilaginous fishes
and invertebrates. One unique aspect of
the Canyon among marine habitats in
the New York Bight is the presence of
deep sea, cold-water coral communities.
Rocky outcrops and boulders at the
head of the Canyon and along its steep
walls provide the hard substrate needed
for attachment by hard and soft corals,
sea pens, anemones, and sponges.

The robust biodiversity of the Canyon
directly supports the local economy by
providing productive waters and
habitats for the fish and invertebrates
on which commercial and recreational
fisheries depend. Recreational divers
explore some of the shallower areas in
and around the Canyon, and the yearly
migration of whales and seabirds
through the Canyon attracts whale
watchers and birders. In addition to
supporting diverse fisheries and wildlife
tourism, the waters surrounding the
Canyon also hold historical and cultural
importance to those living along its
shores in New York and New Jersey.

The types of shipwrecks found within
the Hudson Canyon area vary from
freighters to United States military radar
platforms, some dating back to the mid
19th Century. They rely on a number of
habitats for the fish and invertebrates
on the New Jersey Commission of
Tribal and Indigenous communities’
connections to this area.

The Hudson Canyon begins
approximately 100 miles southeast of
New York City and extends 350 miles
seaward, reaching depths of up to two
and a half miles and expanding up to
seven miles at its widest points. A
visual of the Canyon and its adjacent
waters, which may be considered for
sanctuary designation, can be found at
https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/hudsoncanyon/. This visual is for reference
purposes only during the opening
process; it does not constitute a
proposed boundary for sanctuary
designation. Instead, NOAA is seeking
recommendations for the sanctuary
boundary during the public scoping
process, and based on this and other
formal input, NOAA will release draft
sanctuary boundary alternatives for
public review and comment should it
decide to move forward with the
designation process.

Based on the WCS nomination and
guided by the purposes and policies of
the NMSA, NOAA has identified five
overarching goals for the proposed
sanctuary designation:

• Support conservation of the area’s
  marine wildlife, habitats, and maritime
cultural resources;

• Work closely with Tribal partners to
  identify and raise awareness of
  Indigenous connections to the area;

• Expand ocean science and
  monitoring in, and education and
  awareness of the area; and

• Highlight and promote sustainable
  uses of the area;

• Expand ocean science and
  monitoring in, and education and
  awareness of the area; and
II. Items of Particular Interest During the Public Scoping Process

While the public may comment on all matters viewed as relevant to the potential designation of a national marine sanctuary in the Canyon, NOAA is requesting input on the following specific topics to help guide the scoping process:
• boundary alternatives for the proposed sanctuary that strive to meet the goals identified above;
• the location, nature, and value of natural and cultural resources in the area under consideration;
• specific threats to these resources;
• information on the Indigenous and Tribal heritage of the area;
• the non-regulatory actions NOAA should prioritize within its draft management plan for the proposed sanctuary;
• the regulatory framework most appropriate for management of the proposed sanctuary;
• the benefits to the “blue economy” of the region, including promoting sustainable tourism and recreation; and
• a permanent name for the proposed sanctuary.

Comments may be submitted to NOAA by August 8, 2022 using the methods described in ADDRESSES. NOAA will host public scoping meetings during the public comment period, as described under DATES.

III. Sanctuary Designation Process

The designation process includes the following well-established and highly participatory stages:
1. Public Scoping Process—Information collection and characterization, including the consideration of public comments received during scoping;
2. Preparation of Draft Documents—Preparation and release of draft designation documents, including: a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), prepared pursuant to NEPA, that identifies boundary and/or regulatory alternatives; a draft management plan; and a notice of proposed rulemaking to define proposed sanctuary regulations. Draft documents would be used to initiate consultations with Federal, State, or local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties, as appropriate;
3. Public Comment—Through public meetings and in writing, allow for public review and comment on a DEIS, draft management plan, and notice of proposed rulemaking;
4. Preparation of Final Documents—Preparation and release of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS), final management plan, including a response to public comments, and a final rule and regulations.
5. Review Period—The sanctuary designation and regulations would take effect after the end of a review period of forty-five days of a continuous session of Congress. During this same period, should the designation include State waters, the Governor of the State has the opportunity to concurrently review the terms of designation including boundaries within State waters.

IV. Development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement

In accordance with the NMSA and NEPA, NOAA must draft an environmental impact statement when designating a new national marine sanctuary. The input gathered during the public scoping process is fundamental to NOAA’s development of a DEIS.

A. Purpose and Need for Sanctuary Designation

The purpose and need for a sanctuary designation in the Hudson Canyon area is to fulfill the purposes and policies outlined in section 301(b) of the NMSA, 16 U.S.C. 1431(b), including to identify and designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment that are of special national significance, provide authority for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management of these marine areas, and protect the resources of these areas. In particular, a sanctuary designation would:
• Develop coordinated and collaborative marine science, education and outreach, and cultural heritage programs to assist in promoting and managing the area’s nationally significant resources;
• Highlight the many diverse human activities, cultural connections and maritime heritage of the area, from the Indigenous communities to existing activities in the area;
• Respond to community interest in conserving the natural environments, wildlife and cultural resources of this area; and
• Provide additional conservation and comprehensive ecosystem-based management to address threats to the area’s nationally significant resources.

B. Preliminary Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

NOAA’s proposed action is to consider designating the Hudson Canyon national marine sanctuary in accordance with the sanctuary designation process described in section 304 of the NMSA (16 U.S.C. 1434). Through the public scoping process and as part of the sanctuary designation process, NOAA will develop draft designation documents including a draft sanctuary management plan, proposed sanctuary regulations, and proposed terms of designation. The NEPA process for sanctuary designation will include preparation of a DEIS to consider alternatives and describe potential effects of the sanctuary designation on the human environment. A DEIS will evaluate a reasonable range of action alternatives that could include different options for management plan goals, sanctuary regulations, and potential boundaries. A DEIS will also consider a No Action Alternative, wherein NOAA would not designate a national marine sanctuary.

C. Summary of Expected Impacts of Sanctuary Designation

A DEIS will identify and describe the potential effects of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives on the human environment. Potential impacts may include, but are not limited to, impacts on the area’s biological and physical resources, including habitats, plants, birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and special status species; maritime, cultural, and historical resources; human uses and socioeconomics of the area, including research, recreation, education, energy production, and fishing. Based on a preliminary evaluation of the resources listed above, NOAA expects potential positive impacts to the environment from enhanced protection of the area’s natural, cultural, and historical resources; improved planning and coordination of research, monitoring, and management actions; reduced harmful human activities and disturbance of special status species; reduced threats and stressors to resources; and minimal disturbance during research.

D. Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

NOAA expects to make a DEIS and other draft documents available to the public by spring 2023. NOAA expects to make a FEIS available to the public by spring 2024. A Record of Decision and the final management plan and final rule will be completed no sooner than 30 days after the FEIS is made available to the public, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.11.
E. NEPA Lead and Cooperating Agency Roles

NOAA is the lead Federal agency for the NEPA process for the proposed action. NOAA may invite other Federal, Tribal, State, and local government agencies to become cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS for the proposed action. NEPA regulations specify that a cooperating agency means any Federal agency (and a State, Tribal, or local agency with agreement of the lead agency) that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) (40 CFR 1508.1(e)).

F. Anticipated Permits, Authorizations, and Consultations

Federal, state, and local permits, authorizations, or consultations may be required for the proposed action, including consultation or review under section 106 of the NMSA, 16 U.S.C. 1433(a)(5), regarding consultation with appropriate Fishery Management Councils, Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq., National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq., and Executive Order 13175, consistency review under the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq., and possibly reviews under other laws and regulations determined to be applicable to the proposed action. To the fullest extent possible, NOAA will prepare a DEIS concurrently and integrated with analyses required by other Federal environmental review requirements, and a DEIS will list all Federal permits, licenses, and other authorizations that must be obtained in implementing the proposed action. See 40 CFR 1502.24.

V. Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13175

This notice confirms that NOAA will coordinate its responsibilities under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) during the sanctuary designation process and is soliciting public and stakeholder input to meet section 106 compliance requirements. The NHPA section 106 consultation process specifically applies to any agency undertaking that may affect historic properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1), historic properties include: “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that meet the National Register criteria.” This notice also confirms that, with respect to the proposed sanctuary designation process, NOAA will fulfill its responsibilities under Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,” and NOAA’s implementing policies and procedures. Executive Order 13175 requires Federal agencies to establish procedures for meaningful consultation and coordination with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications. NOAA implements Executive Order 13175 through NOAA Administrative Order 218-8 (Policy on Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations), and the NOAA Tribal Consultation Handbook. Under these policies and procedures, NOAA offers affected federally recognized Tribes government-to-government consultation at the earliest practicable time it can reasonably anticipate that a proposed policy or initiative may have Tribal implications. Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; 40 CFR 1500–1508 (NEPA Implementing Regulations); Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A.

John Armor,

[FR Doc. 2022–12234 Filed 6–7–22; 8:45 am]

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Request for Information on Climate-Related Financial Risk

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) is seeking public responses to this Request for Information to better inform its understanding and oversight of climate-related financial risk as pertinent to the derivatives markets and underlying commodities markets. Public responses to this request will help to inform the Commission’s next steps in furtherance of its purpose to, among other things, promote responsible innovation, ensure the financial integrity of all transactions subject to the Commodity Exchange Act, and avoid systemic risk. The information received will also inform the Commission’s response to the recommendations of the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2021 Report on Climate-Related Financial Risk and inform the ongoing work of the Commission’s Climate Risk Unit. The Commission may use this information to inform potential future actions including, but not limited to, issuing new or amended guidance, interpretations, policy statements, regulations, or other potential Commission action within its authority under the Commodity Exchange Act as well as its participation in any domestic or international fora.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 8, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the name of the release, “Climate-Related Financial Risk RFI”, by any of the following methods:

• CFTC Comments Portal: comments.cftc.gov. Select the “Submit Comments” link for this release and follow the instructions on the Public Comment Form.
• Mail: Send to Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

• Hand Delivery/Courier: Follow the same instructions as for Mail, above. Please submit your comments using only one of these methods. Submissions through the CFTC Comments Portal are encouraged.

All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments will be posted as received to comments.cftc.gov. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. If you wish the Commission to consider information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), a petition for confidential treatment of the exempt information may be submitted according to the procedures established in § 145.9 of the Commission’s regulations.1

The Commission reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, redact, refuse or remove any or all of your submission

1 17 CFR 145.9.