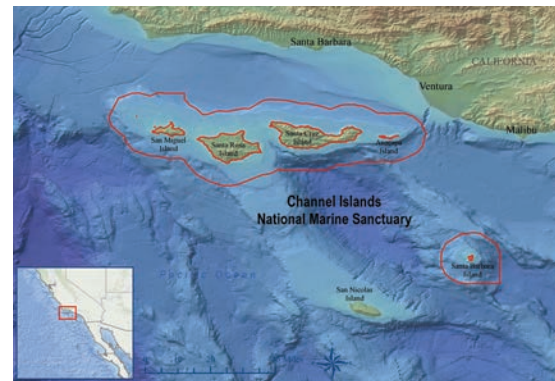




# Final Management Plan Released

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has released the final management plan and supporting environmental assessment for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

With input from the public, partners, and sanctuary managers, the final management plan includes new and updated action plans to guide NOAA in understanding and protecting sanctuary resources over the coming decade.




## New Action Plans

These 11 action plans detail specific strategies and activities to address priority conservation and management issues and sustain core programming.

### Issue-based Action Plans:

- Climate Change
- Vessel Traffic
- Introduced Species
- Marine Debris
- Zone Management

### Program-based Action Plans:

- Education and Outreach
  - Research and Monitoring
  - Resource Protection
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Maritime Heritage
  - Operations and Administration
- 

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was designated by NOAA in 1980 to protect 1,470 square miles of ocean ecosystem surrounding five of the Channel Islands off California's Santa Barbara and Ventura county coasts.

The sanctuary's mission is to understand and protect the marine ecosystem and cultural resources within its boundaries for current and future generations, using cutting edge marine science, fostering public awareness and stewardship, and supporting access and responsible use.



# What's New?

## Highlights of the new management plan

- Focusing efforts to better understand and address the effects of **climate change** on sanctuary ecosystems and human uses.
- Enhancing collaborations with **Chumash community partners**, including respectfully inviting greater involvement and supporting use of traditional ecological knowledge.
- Addressing **marine debris** in the sanctuary, including a focus on assessing and reducing shorecast debris and balloons, and working with the fishing community to reduce trap loss.
- Inviting and including a **broader diversity** of individuals to gain access to the benefits provided by sanctuary programming.
- Increasing efforts to respond to and limit the impacts of marine **introduced (non-native) species**.
- Enhancing outreach and programming to work collaboratively with the **recreational fishing community** in support of the responsible enjoyment of fishing within the sanctuary.
- Reviewing the performance of the jointly designated NOAA/state **marine reserves and conservation areas** within the sanctuary to assess the need for any network modifications.
- Increasing outreach and collaborative efforts with the local **commercial fishing community**.



Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA



Photo: Claire Fackler/NOAA



Photo: Nick Zachar/NOAA

For more information on the final management plan and to access the full documents, visit [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov)