

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 802

Supporting the designation of October 23, 2023, as “National Marine Sanctuary Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) submitted the following resolution

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of October 23, 2023, as
“National Marine Sanctuary Day”.

Whereas, on October 23, 1972, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) became law and ushered in a new era of ocean conservation;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary System is a nationwide network that conserves spectacular ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes waters;

Whereas communities across the United States can nominate their most treasured places in marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect biodiversity and vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, safeguard extraordinary seascapes, historic shipwrecks, and sacred cultural places, and provide abundant recreational opportunities;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) aims to coordinate plans for the protection and management of the National Marine Sanctuary System in coordination with Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Native American tribes and organizations concerned with continuing the health and resilience of these marine areas;

Whereas the conservation of marine ecosystems is vital for a healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, addressing climate change, and sustaining productive coastal economies;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature and support coastal communities, and generate billions of dollars annually in local communities by providing jobs in the United States, supporting commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries, bolstering tourism and recreation, engaging businesses in stewardship, and driving the growth of the blue economy;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries connect people and communities through science, education, recreation, and stewardship that inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the Nation's most spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories to conduct cooperative science and research to improve resource management and advance innovative public-private partnerships;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries can help make the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes more resilient by protecting ecosystems that sequester carbon, safeguarding coastal communities from flooding and storms, and protecting biodiversity;

Whereas the United States of America is a maritime Nation, and the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are central to the way of life of the people of the United States;

Whereas engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters makes national marine sanctuaries unique and provides a comprehensive, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine and Great Lakes environments for current and future generations; and

Whereas October 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Marine Sanctuary Day” to increase awareness about the importance of the National Marine Sanctuary System and a healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes and celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of “National Ma-
3 rine Sanctuary Day”;

4 (2) encourages the people of the United States
5 and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recre-

1 ate in, and support the treasured national marine
2 sanctuaries of the United States;

3 (3) acknowledges the importance of national
4 marine sanctuaries to supporting community resil-
5 ience, protecting biodiversity, and increasing access
6 to nature;

7 (4) recognizes the importance of national ma-
8 rine sanctuaries for their recreational opportunities
9 and contributions to local and national economies
10 across the United States;

11 (5) celebrates the ability of the National Marine
12 Sanctuary System to protect nationally significant
13 places in the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes;

14 (6) calls on the National Oceanic and Atmos-
15 pheric Administration to partner with communities
16 and find consensus to complete designations of new
17 national marine sanctuaries; and

18 (7) encourages Federal agencies to balance pri-
19 orities and work together to support the priorities of
20 the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries
21 Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

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