

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 419

Designating October 23, 2023, as “National Marine Sanctuary Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating 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 oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

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

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect biodiversity, safeguard extraordinary seascapes, historic shipwrecks,

and sacred cultural places, and provide abundant recreational opportunities;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries seek opportunities to partner with indigenous governments and communities to achieve shared conservation goals and to support the care-taking of ecological resources and cultural sites of indigenous peoples;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered;

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

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and its partners work to protect and nurture the growth of the National Marine Sanctuary System;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature for all, 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, United States history, recreation, and stewardship and inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories that enable cooperative science and research that improves resource management and advances innovative public-private partnerships;

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

Whereas the United States is a historic maritime Nation, and oceans, 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, ecosystem-based, 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 healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and to celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates October 23, 2023, as “National
3 Marine 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 in 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 oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

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