

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MPAs: ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SYSTEM CHARTER SITES (APRIL 2009)

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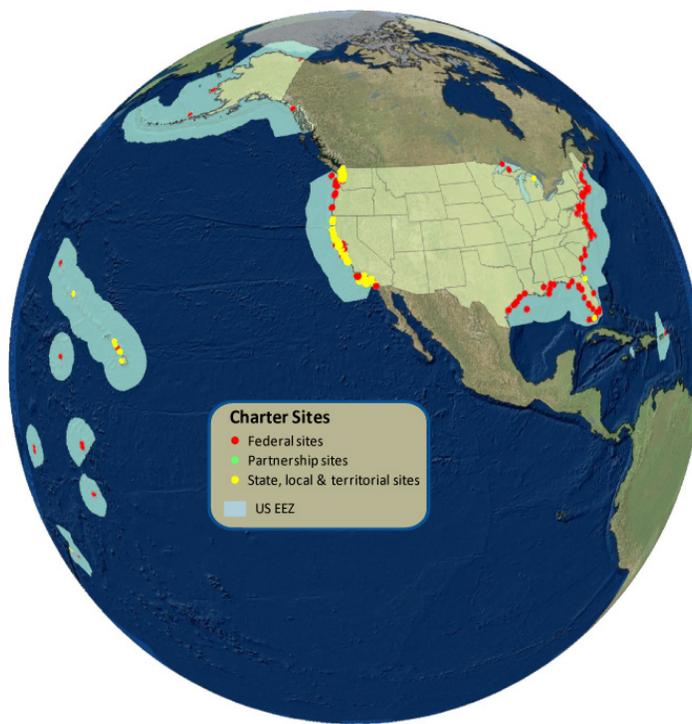
The information provided here is for the charter group of 225 MPAs accepted into the national system of marine protected areas as of April 2009. The national system will expand as federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies nominate additional sites. Additional information on these sites can be found on the List of National System MPAs, available at www.mpa.gov.

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The United States is creating a comprehensive national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) built upon the capabilities of federal, state, territorial, tribal and local MPA programs to advance the conservation and sustainable use of the nation's vital natural and cultural marine resources.

The national system is described in detail in the *Framework for a National System of Marine Protected Areas for the United States*. The national system of MPAs enhances place based protection of important U.S. marine resources by providing new opportunities for regional and national cooperation; supports the national economy by helping to sustain fisheries and maintain healthy marine ecosystems for tourism and recreation businesses; and promotes public participation in MPA planning decision-making by improving access to scientific and public policy information.

The national system will support effective stewardship, conservation, restoration, sustainable use, understanding and appreciation of the nation's marine natural and cultural heritage for this and future generations.



The sites in the above map show location only; area is not represented

NATIONAL SYSTEM CHARTER SITES AT A GLANCE:

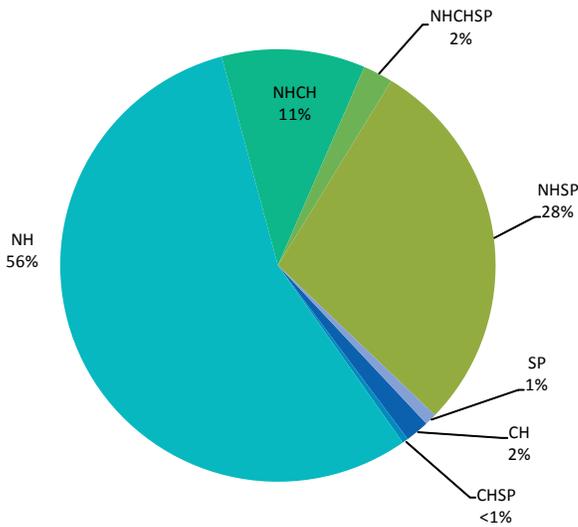
- The charter national system contains 225 sites and covers an area of 183,000 square miles
- 10% of U.S. waters (0-200 nautical miles) is covered by the national system sites
- About 25% of the total area of all national system sites is considered no-take, due to the large, highly protected Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- All 21 of the national system's priority conservation objectives are addressed by this charter group

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.



ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SYSTEM CHARTER SITES

NUMBER OF SITES BY CONSERVATION FOCUS



CONSERVATION FOCUS

The national system has three goals: conserving and managing natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production marine resources. Almost all (94%) of the national system sites have a primary conservation focus on conserving natural heritage. Approximately 2% of sites have a primary conservation focus on conserving cultural resources, and 4% of sites are primarily focused on sustainable production. Almost half (41%) of all the national system sites have more than one conservation focus.



NH = Natural Heritage



CH = Cultural Heritage



SP = Sustainable Production

PRIORITY CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

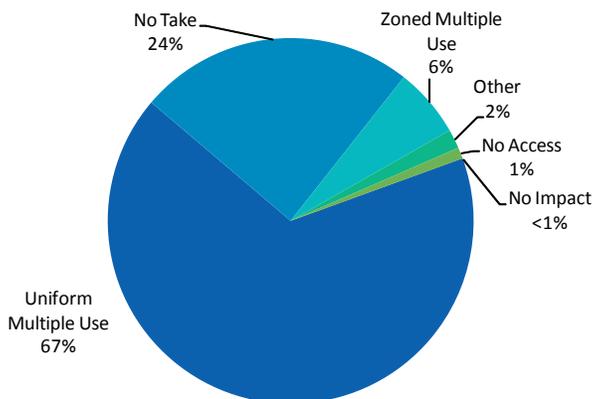
All 21 of the national system's priority conservation objectives (see Framework document on www.mpa.gov for complete list) are addressed in this charter group of sites. Approximately 22% of all national system sites contribute to all three national system goals.

Top Five Priority Conservation Objectives Addressed by Charter Sites:

Natural Heritage

- Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research (193)
- Areas of high species and/or high diversity (188)
- Key biogenic habitats (160)
- Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds (155)
- Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities (149)

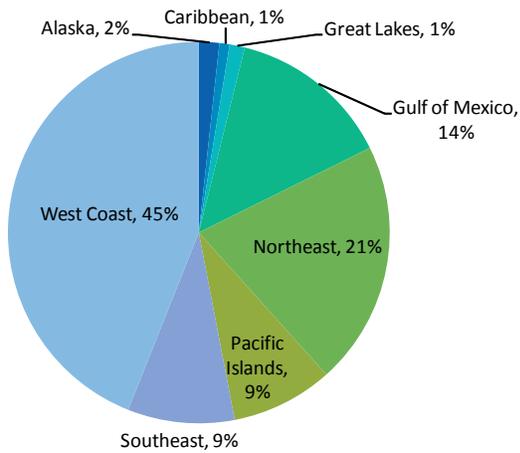
PERCENT OF AREA BY LEVEL OF PROTECTION



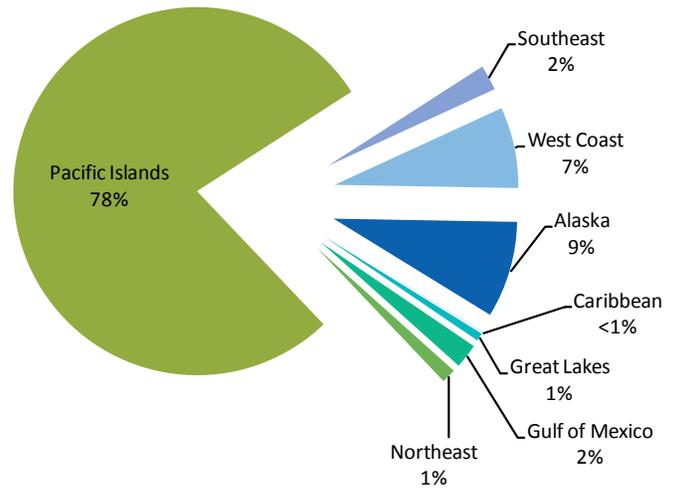
LEVEL OF PROTECTION

The majority (75%) of the total area of the national system is either uniform or zoned multiple use sites in which a variety of human activities, including fishing and other extractive uses are allowed. In contrast, 25% of the area of the national system is considered a form of no-take and prohibits the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a zoned no-take site that has eleven no-take zones covering approximately 44,000 square miles, makes up nearly all of the no-take area in the national system.

PERCENT OF SITES BY REGION



PERCENT OF AREA BY REGION

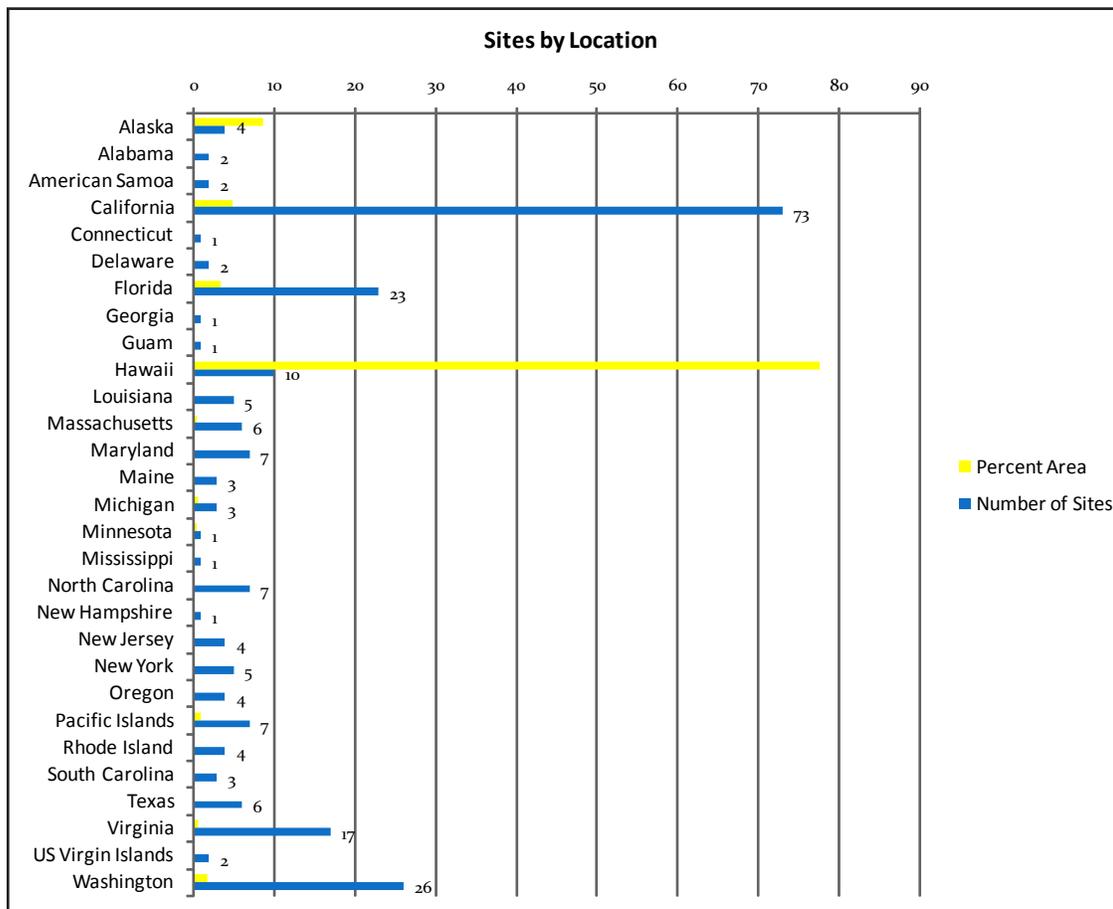


REGIONS AND LOCATIONS

Of the initial 225 charter sites accepted into the national system, the west coast (California in particular), has the highest number of sites. The Pacific Islands region has the largest area of sites in the national system, due to the size of the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument in Hawaii, which extends over 140,420 square miles. The smallest national system site is the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland, with a marine area of <1 square mile. In all, there are 28 states and territories represented, plus additional offshore areas under federal jurisdiction.

PROGRAMS

Of the initial 225 charter sites accepted into the national system, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages 99 sites (44%). The National Park Service manages 10 national system sites, or 4.4%. There are 13 (5.8%) National Marine Sanctuaries and four (1.7%) National Estuarine Research Reserve Sites included in the charter group. Altogether, 54% of the charter national system sites are managed by Federal agencies, while 41% are managed by state agencies. The remainder are managed by federal/state partnerships or territories.



THE LIST OF NATIONAL SYSTEM MPAS

FEDERAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine National Monument

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Hawaii)

National Marine Sanctuaries

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (California)
 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (California)
 Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (American Samoa)
 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Florida)
 Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Texas)
 Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (Georgia)
 Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (Massachusetts)
 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (California)
 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Hawaii)
 Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (North Carolina)
 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (California)
 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (Washington)
 Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Michigan)

National Parks

Assateague Island National Seashore (Virginia, Maryland)
 Biscayne National Park (Florida)
 Channel Islands National Park (California)
 Dry Tortugas National Park (Florida)
 Everglades National Park (Florida)
 Glacier Bay National Park (Alaska)
 Isle Royale National Park (Minnesota, Michigan)
 Point Reyes National Seashore (California)
 Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument (US Virgin Islands)
 Virgin Islands National Park (US Virgin Islands)

National Wildlife Refuges

ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)
 Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
 Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)
 Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (Hawaii)
 Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
 Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
 Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
 Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
 Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (Delaware)
 Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (Alabama)
 Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
 Breton National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
 Cape May National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)
 Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
 Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
 Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia, Maryland)
 Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
 Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Cross Island National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
 Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
 Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
 Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (California)
 Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
 Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
 Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)
 Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Mississippi, Alabama)
 Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
 Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge (New Hampshire)
 Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Guam)
 Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
 Huron National Wildlife Refuge (Michigan)
 Island Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
 John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
 Johnston Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands, Hawaii)
 Key West National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Kingman Reef National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
 Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge (Washington, Oregon)
 Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia, North Carolina)
 Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge (California)
 Martin National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
 Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
 Matlacha Pass National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Hawaii)
 Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
 National Key Deer Refuge (Florida)
 Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
 Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
 Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
 Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
 Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
 Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
 Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
 Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Pine Island National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Pond Island National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
 Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (Delaware)
 Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
 Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
 Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
 Sabine National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
 Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
 San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
 San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (California)
 Seateuck National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
 Shell Keys National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
 Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
 St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (Connecticut)
 Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)
 Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
 Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
 Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (California)
 Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
 Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
 Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
 Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
 Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
 Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)

FEDERAL / STATE PARTNERSHIP MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

National Estuarine Research Reserves

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (Florida)
 Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (New Jersey)
 Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Florida)
 Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Massachusetts)

STATE & TERRITORIAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

American Samoa

Aua

California

Ano Nuevo Area of Special Biological Significance
 Ano Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area
 Asilomar State Marine Reserve
 Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area
 Big Creek State Marine Reserve
 Bird Rock Area of Special Biological Significance
 Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance
 Cambria State Marine Conservation Area
 Carmel Bay Area of Special Biological Significance
 Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area
 Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve
 Del Mar Area of Special Biological Significance
 Double Point Area of Special Biological Significance
 Duxbury Reef Area of Special Biological Significance
 Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area
 Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area
 Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve
 Farallon Islands Area of Special Biological Significance
 Farnsworth Bank Area of Special Biological Significance
 Gerstle Cove Area of Special Biological Significance
 Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area
 Heisler Park Area of Special Biological Significance

Irvine Coast Area of Special Biological Significance
 James V. Fitzgerald Area of Special Biological Significance
 Jughandle Cove Area of Special Biological Significance
 Julia Pfeiffer Burns Area of Special Biological Significance
 King Range Area of Special Biological Significance
 La Jolla Area of Special Biological Significance
 Laguna Point to Latiga Point Area of Special Biological Significance
 Lovers Point State Marine Reserve
 Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve
 Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area
 Morro Bay State Marine Reserve
 Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve
 Northwest Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
 Pacific Grove Area of Special Biological Significance
 Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area
 Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area
 Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
 Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
 Point Buchon State Marine Reserve
 Point Lobos Area of Special Biological Significance
 Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area
 Point Lobos State Marine Reserve
 Point Reyes Headlands Area of Special Biological Significance
 Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area
 Point Sur State Marine Reserve
 Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area
 Redwoods National Park Area of Special Biological Significance
 Robert E. Badham Area of Special Biological Significance
 Salmon Creek Coast Area of Special Biological Significance
 San Clemente Area of Special Biological Significance
 San Diego Scripps Area of Special Biological Significance
 San Nicolas Island & Begg Rock Area of Special Biological Significance
 Santa Barbara & Anacapa Island Area of Special Biological Significance
 Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz Island Area of Special Biological Significance
 Saunders Reef Area of Special Biological Significance
 Soquel Canyon State Marine Reserve
 Southeast Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
 Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance
 Vandenberg State Marine Reserve
 Western Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
 White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area

Hawaii

Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve
 Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District, Oahu
 Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
 Kealahou Bay Marine Life Conservation District
 Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District
 Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District, Oahu
 West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area

Maryland

U-1105 Black Panther Historic Shipwreck Preserve

Virginia

Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve
 Blue Crab Sanctuary
 Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve
 False Cape State Park
 Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve
 Kiptopeke State Park
 Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve

Washington

Admiralty Head Preserve
 Argyle Lagoon San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
 Blake Island Underwater Park
 Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary Conservation Area
 Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve
 Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve
 Deception Pass Underwater Park
 False Bay San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
 Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve
 Friday Harbor San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
 Haro Strait Special Management Fishery Area
 Maury Island Aquatic Reserve
 San Juan Channel & Upright Channel Special Management Fishery Area
 Orchard Rocks Conservation Area
 Shaw Island San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
 South Puget Sound Wildlife Area
 Sund Rock Conservation Area
 Yellow and Low Islands San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
 Zelia Schultz/Protection Island Marine Preserve

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