

RESOLUTION of the  
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**To forward a joint letter of support for the Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary**

At its meeting on February 24, 2023, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Advisory Council passed a resolution to send a joint letter (with the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council) expressing support for the Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary and requested that GFNMS Superintendent, Maria Brown, submit the letter to Regulations.gov Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2021-0050-0077 as a public comment on behalf of the advisory councils.

Attachments: Letter of Support for Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary

*This resolution was passed with majority vote by a quorum of primary members (or alternate members serving in place of primary members) at a public meeting on February 24, 2023 held in Point Reyes Station, CA and via Google Meet. Council discussion regarding this resolution can be found in Meeting Highlights documentation at [https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac\\_meetings.html](https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_meetings.html).*

***The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.***

# Letter of Support for Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary

February 24, 2023

Maria Brown,  
Sanctuary Superintendent

Dear Superintendent Brown,

In 2019, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced its intent to designate a new national marine sanctuary in New York's eastern Lake Ontario. The subsequent work by NOAA with the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and engagement by public, stakeholder, state agencies, and federally-recognized nations and tribes resulted in a proposal to designate 1,724 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario waters and bottomlands adjacent to Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga, and Wayne counties in the state of New York.

The Advisory Councils of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries support the establishment of the Proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary (LONMS) on the following grounds:

1. The proposed sanctuary would help to protect historical and culturally valuable areas and artifacts as well as promote heritage education and tourism, especially as the boundaries include portions of the original homelands of the Onondaga Nation, Cayuga Nation, Seneca Nation, and Oneida Nation tribes. The councils recognize the value of diversity in stakeholders and value diverse stakeholder representation, in particular with regard to maritime and Native American heritage. We encourage bringing Indigenous knowledge to bear in this process through conversation and consultation. In light of dramatic climatic and cultural shifts occurring now, there is an urgent need for federal agencies to take an active role in protecting cultural and historical sites as well as promoting education and understanding of the American public.
2. The proposed sanctuary is designed to include 43 known shipwrecks, 20 potential shipwrecks, 1 known aircraft, 3 potential aircraft, and over 1,000 years of distinct cultural underwater archaeological sites that are located within the boundary areas of the proposed sanctuary.
3. By virtue of its designation as a sanctuary, the Proposed LONMS would protect the moving, removing, recovering, altering, destroying, possessing or otherwise injuring of sanctuary resources. This would include restrictions on grappling or anchoring on shipwreck sites as well as the deployment of underwater mobile systems without a permit. Taken together, this will benefit archaeological research, will help in protecting local fisheries, and will support the clean coast economy.

The Advisory Councils of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries recommend that the Proposed LONMS site be designated a National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Chairpersons of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Councils



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Abby Mohan, Chair  
Greater Farallones National Marine  
Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Kai Martin, Chair  
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council

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