



Defend the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument by submitting a comment to the Department of Interior before July 10!

Below are instructions on how to submit your comment, and key points to use.

To help us ensure your comment is counted, please email a duplicate of your comment to Madeline at madeline@field-first.com. Madeline can also answer questions and provide assistance as needed.

Submit comments before July 10!

Online: <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=DOI-2017-0002-0001>

By Mail:

Monument Review, MS-1530
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

If you are from a state near the monument (NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, NH, and ME), you should note this in your comment.

Key Points:

- I support the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument as it was designated on September 15, 2016. Please do not modify its boundaries, management, or allowed uses.
- The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Monument fulfills the criteria under review by Executive Orders 13792 and 13795. It meets the requirements and original objectives of the Antiquities Act, including by being the smallest area compatible with protecting the monument's highly significant scientific, ecological, and geologic features. The monument boundaries and uses were strongly shaped by an extensive yearlong public and stakeholder consultation.
- The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is a unique place that is home to our region's most dramatic ocean features. The area encompasses the only four seamounts in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean as well as three canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- Scientists have shown it is a biodiversity hot spot, home to many rare and unique species. Ancient deep-sea coral communities thrive in the canyons and on the seamounts, and endangered whales, sea turtles, and seabirds feed in the



nutrient-rich water above. Scientists conducting underwater research regularly discover new species on expeditions here.

- Scientists consider the habitats and rare species in the monument to be highly sensitive, with long recovery times. The area is vulnerable to the impacts of commercial fishing, offshore oil and gas drilling, and climate change. Commercial fishing gear, for example, can physically damage fragile centuries-old corals and ensnare marine mammals, sea birds, and sea turtles.
- National parks and public lands and waters help define who we are as a nation, and are an important part of our historical, cultural, and natural heritage.
- Sixteen presidents from both parties have created national monuments to protect stunning and vulnerable land and ocean areas. There are more than [150 monuments](#) protected for future generations.
- Legal scholars agree: No president has the legal authority to eliminate or significantly alter a national park or national monument. (See: [here](#) and [here](#).) No president has attempted to revoke a predecessor's monument designation, even where some public disagreement over the designation existed.
- Hundreds of thousands of people – including scientists, businesses, aquariums, educational organizations, faith-based groups, and elected officials – expressed support for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts monument. A [2016 poll conducted by Edge Research](#), a non-partisan research firm, found that 80% of people in Massachusetts and Rhode Island supported permanently protecting special places in the ocean from development. Majority support was sustained across all political affiliations. These findings are consistent with nationwide polls about monuments and public lands and waters.
- Officials met numerous times with stakeholders – including fishing industry representatives and conservation groups – in New England and Washington, DC. Elected officials were extensively consulted. Fishing industry representatives acknowledge they were actively engaged in the process for more than a year before the monument was ultimately designated. The Department of Commerce held a [town hall meeting](#) in New England and accepted written public comments for a year.
- The monument was carefully designed to protect the intended resources while minimizing impacts to the fishing industry: the boundaries were significantly downsized from what was originally proposed, and lobsterpot and crab fishermen are allowed to continue fishing in the monument for seven years before they have to move to different areas to fish.
- The monument area was historically among the least fished areas in the region and is less than 1.5% of U.S. ocean waters along the Atlantic coast. Protecting this small, sensitive, and scientifically valuable area from fishing does not change the catch limits for any fishery or otherwise threaten the fishing industry – it simply means fishing cannot occur in this specific area.



- We must protect the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, and all monuments in the ocean and on land from harm, so future generations of Americans can enjoy and benefit from them.