

# HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

With the publication of the draft environmental impact statement and draft management plan, NOAA invites the public to comment on NOAA's proposal to designate a national marine sanctuary in eastern Lake Ontario and the Thousand Island region of the St. Lawrence River.

## JULY 7

NOAA publishes the draft environmental impact statement and draft management plan. This kicks off a public review process.

## SEPTEMBER 10

NOAA welcomes your input about the proposal during the public comment period, which ends on September 10, 2021.



Divers swim near *St. Peter* in Lake Ontario. Photo: NOAA

### We invite you to submit comments in one of several ways:

- **Submit online comments** at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), using docket number NOAA-NOS-2021-0050
- **Provide comments at public meetings** (details at [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario)\*)
  - August 18: Virtual public meeting (6:30 pm)
  - August 19: Virtual public meeting (6:30 pm)
  - August 24: Virtual public meeting (2:30 pm)
  - August 26: Virtual public meeting (6:30 pm)

#### • **Written public comments may be mailed to:**

Ellen Brody  
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
4840 South State Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

\*Updated July 27, 2021

A window into history lies on the bottom of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Forgotten shipwrecks, hidden in these cold fresh waters, are among the best preserved in the world, offering a chance to learn, share, and connect to the past.

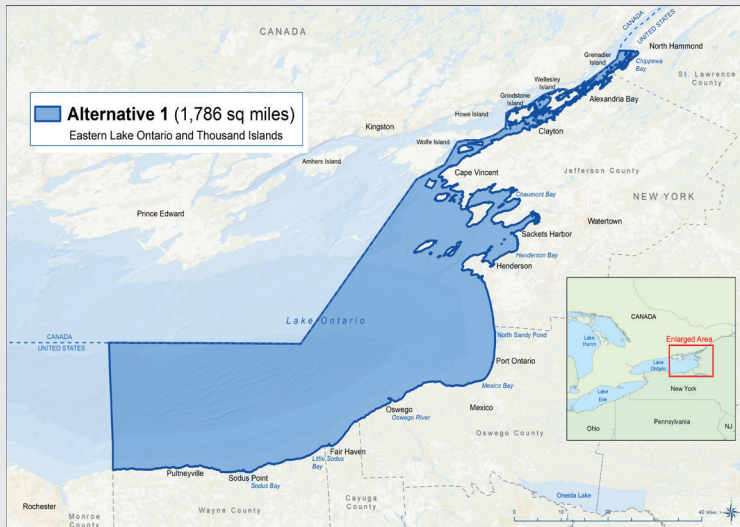
NOAA proposes to manage nationally significant maritime heritage resources, including historic shipwrecks. NOAA would work to ensure future generations can learn about and explore these underwater treasures. In partnership with local communities, NOAA would provide a national stage for promoting heritage tourism and recreation to connect more Americans with this special place. NOAA would co-manage the sanctuary with the state of New York.

For more information on the sanctuary designation process and to access the full documents, visit [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario)

# SANCTUARY PROPOSAL

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

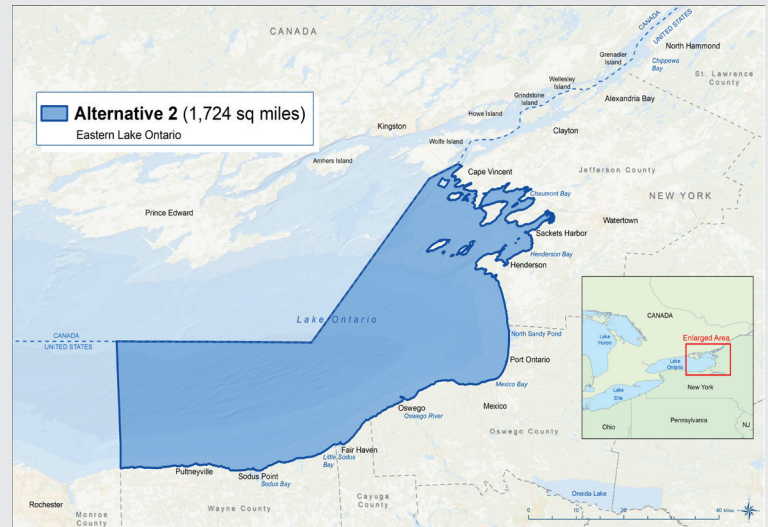
### Boundary Alternative 1



#### Eastern Lake Ontario and Thousand Islands Region of St. Lawrence River (1,786 square miles)

- 64 known shipwrecks
- One known aircraft
- 20 potential shipwrecks and three aircraft

### Boundary Alternative 2



#### Eastern Lake Ontario (1,724 square miles)

- 43 known shipwrecks
- One known aircraft
- 20 potential shipwrecks and three aircraft

## Draft Management Plan

- Sanctuary Operations
- Education and Outreach
- Research and Monitoring
- Tourism and Economic Development
- Resource Protection

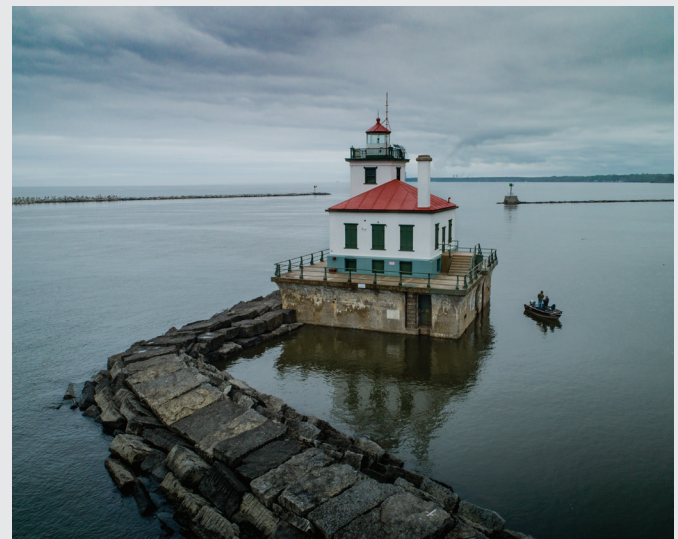


Photo: Matt McIntosh/NOAA