



Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

8401 73rd Ave. N Suite 71, Minneapolis, MN 55428

Phone: 763-315-8043

August 05, 2022

LeAnn Hogan
Eastern Region Operations Coordinator
NOAA Sanctuaries Eastern Regional Office
1325 East-West Hwy, Floor 3
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ATTN: NOAA-NOS-2022-0053

Dear Mrs. Hogan,

The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), and the undersigned New York boating businesses, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed designation of the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. We look forward to working with NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries throughout the designation process.

The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and pre-owned recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. MRAA represents more than 1,300 individual member retail locations and is proud to have 158 members located throughout New York.

Recreational boating and fishing are not only part of the state's heritage but is also a major economic driver. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, Boating and Fishing in New York generated \$1,486,404,000 in 2020, dwarfing every other measured recreational sector. The Hudson Canyon itself is one of the most popular offshore destinations for recreational and commercial fishing on the entire Atlantic seaboard. The Hudson Canyon, which lies just 100 miles offshore, is the largest submarine canyon along the U.S. Atlantic coast and boasts a maximum depth of 10,500 feet below sea level and is 7.5 miles at its widest point, creating an unrivaled habitat for a variety of game and non-game species. From tuna fishing to whale watching the Hudson Canyon provides no shortage of recreational pursuits. Boaters from up and down the Atlantic set their course for the Hudson Canyon and it is our hope that they do not have to adjust course *if* the designation is approved.

The MRAA, and the undersigned businesses, hope that throughout the process Sanctuary Staff strike a balance between conservation, natural resource management, and access, to assure that the Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary remains available to public use and enjoyment for years to come. It is our hope that if designated, the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary be managed in a similar fashion to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, as both locations support robust pelagic fisheries that are popular with both recreational and commercial anglers.

Finally, the MRAA, and the undersigned businesses, hope that should the designation process move forward, a Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is formed that represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including members of recreational boating and fishing community to provide input on the development of the Draft Management Plan. A comprehensive group of stakeholders on the SAC will help the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary receive broad community support and hopefully result in a management plan that balances

the interests of all stakeholders. Ultimately maintaining recreational uses while resulting in the conservation and recognition of the areas cultural and natural resources.

On behalf of the MRAA and our 158 New York members, we thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Proposed Designation of the Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. Please do not hesitate to contact Chad Tokowicz, Government Relations Manager, at (978)-569-5127, or chad@mraa.com, if you have any other questions or would like to explore potential partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Strong
President
Strong's Marine
2400 Camp Mineola Rd,
Mattituck, NY 11952

Brian Frezza
Service and Marina Manager
Modern Yachts
36 Newtown Rd,
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Arthur Chiodo
President
South Bay Marine Service
203 South Ketcham Ave
Amityville, NY 11701

Quinn Bellamy
President
Silver Lake Marine, Inc.
4213 W Lake Rd,
Silver Springs, NY 14550

Tony Villareale
President and Founder
Hampton Watercraft and Marine
50 South Bay Avenue,
Eastport NY, 11941

Mark McMillan
President
McMillan Marine
1070 Empire Blvd,
Rochester, NY 14609

Andrew Brodie
General Manager
3578 Lake Shore Dr.
Lake George, NY 12845

Leonard A. Bellavaia, Esq.
Founding Partner
Bellavia Blatt PC
200 Old Country Road, Suite 400
Mineola, NY 1150`

Tony Villareale
President and Founder
Hampton Watercraft and Marine
44 Newton Road,
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Thomas Crowley
President
Crowley Marine Associates
83 Atlantic Ave,
West Sayville, NY 11769

Arthur Chiodo
President
Seaborn Marina
87 Ocean Ave
Bayshore, NY 11706

Julian Berman
Sales Director
Brinson Marine,
4553 W. Seneca Turnpike,
Syracuse, NY 13215

John Bauman
President
White Water Marine
5500 Sunrise Hwy,
Sayville, NY 11782

Bryce Poyer
President
White Water Outfitters
288 East Montauk Hwy,
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Mike Desimone
President
White Water Life Apparel
5500 Sunrise Hwy,
Sayville, NY 11782

Christopher Johnson
Manager
Great Bay Marine
1110 Flanders Rd,

Flanders, NY 11901

Tony Villareale
President and Founder
Hampton Watercraft and Marine
124 Springville Road,
Hampton Bays, NY

Thomas Crowley
President
Oakdale Yacht Marina
520 Shore Drive,
Oakdale, NY 11769

Don Finkle, CPYB
CEO and Owner
RCR Yachts
223 Lockport St,
Youngstown, NY 14174