

MEDIA RELEASE



COUNTY OF ERIE
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Erie County's Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination considered for sanctuary designation for five more years

ERIE, Pa. – County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and her administration are pleased to announce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has determined the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary will remain under consideration for national marine sanctuary designation until Feb. 22, 2026.

Following a five-year review of the county's nomination, NOAA concluded that the nomination meets the 11 sanctuary nomination process criteria.

The proposed marine sanctuary seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections and economic productivity along 759 square miles of Lake Erie. The main focus of the Lake Erie Quadrangle will be the preservation and protection of the known and undiscovered shipwrecks in both the United States and Canada.

The county submitted its initial application for nomination Dec. 31, 2015. The application was accepted by NOAA in February 2016.

"Natural resources abound in Erie County, but Lake Erie is our largest and greatest asset impacting people who visit, live, work, learn and play here," Dahlkemper said. "I'm thrilled our nomination will remain under consideration because long-term, comprehensive conservation of this Great Lake is critical for our economy to thrive today and for future generations. We must act as responsible stewards of this special resource."

The National Marine Sanctuary System was established in 1972 to recognize and promote the conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research or aesthetic values of special areas of the marine environment. Sanctuaries are managed to protect and conserve their resources and to allow uses that are compatible with resource protection. The existing network is comprised of 14 sites from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic coast through Pacific.

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