

Advancing Blue Carbon Understanding and Management in Marine Protected Areas



Why blue carbon?

2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan: Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by protecting and restoring blue carbon habitat

2016 Climate Adaptation Plan: To provide greater protection of critical biogenic habitats and key species, map the full extent of blue carbon habitat



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Why blue carbon?

- Unintentional carbon emissions and lost opportunities
- Further advance climate-informed Sanctuary management:
 - Detail additional support for sanctuary projects (i.e. south end living shorelines, whale conservation)
 - Inform future project design criteria and selection of “alternatives”
 - Further prioritize key areas of concern and/or Sanctuary and GFA projects (a blue carbon score?)



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Goals:

- Advance our understanding of blue carbon - both coastal and oceanic
- Reduce atmospheric carbon and build ecosystem resilience in GFNMS and other MPAs worldwide by protecting and enhancing blue carbon.

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Objectives:

- A. Inventory** of blue carbon sinks and sequestration processes in the following GFNMS habitats: salt marshes, seagrasses, kelp, and open ocean (likely whales and phytoplankton)
- B. Blue Carbon report and accompanying storymap** to visualize blue carbon habitats in GFNMS.
- C. Presentations and outreach**, including the Scottish Blue Carbon Forum, COP25 International Working Group, and NAMPAN.
- D. GFNMS management decisions and planning** take impacts to blue carbon into consideration.

Questions? Comments? Ideas?



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