



FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary's Mission: Identify, protect, conserve, and enhance the natural and cultural resources, values, and qualities of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and its regional environment for this and future generations.

Goal 1: Protect, maintain and, where appropriate, restore and enhance the resources and qualities of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and the ecosystem that supports it.

- 1A: Prioritize resource protection in management decisions.
- 1B: Develop and integrate best practices, scientific information, and innovative management techniques.
- 1C: Reduce threats to sanctuary resources.
- 1D: Enhance compliance with and enforcement of sanctuary regulations.
- 1E: Improve ability to conduct emergency response and damage assessment.

Goal 2: Support, promote, and coordinate characterization, research, and monitoring of FGBNMS and the regional environment to inform conservation and protection.

- 2A: Improve characterization of the physical, chemical, biological and human environment of the sanctuary.
- 2B: Enhance research necessary for effective management and protection of sanctuary resources.
- 2C: Monitor and assess long-term environmental changes in the sanctuary.
- 2D: Evaluate environmental impacts that could result from changes in human activities or environmental conditions.

Goal 3: Enhance and foster public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of FGBNMS and the regional marine environment.

- 3A: Broaden public awareness of the sanctuary and the regional marine environment by reaching out to new audiences.
- 3B: Improve understanding of the sanctuary and its resource protection issues through the interpretation and dissemination of information on sanctuary science and management.
- 3C: Increase public appreciation, support and stewardship of the sanctuary, including the active participation of volunteers.

Goal 4: Manage and facilitate multiple sustainable uses of FGBNMS compatible with the primary purpose of resource protection.

4A: Minimize potential user conflicts.

4B: Explore innovative management techniques, such as marine zoning, to achieve the mission of protecting sanctuary resources.

4C: Improve understanding of human activities and their potential impacts, direct and cumulative, to sanctuary resources and the regional environment.

Goal 5: Promote and coordinate partnerships with stakeholders, agencies, and organizations.

5A: Coordinate the development and implementation of policies, regulations, procedures, and permitting activities.

5B: Enhance opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement in sanctuary activities, especially through the sanctuary advisory council process.

5C: Facilitate the exchange of scientific information, technical knowledge, and innovative management strategies.

5D: Improve collaboration and coordination with partners to increase public awareness, understanding and stewardship of the sanctuary.

Goal 6: Promote ecosystem-based management of the FGBNMS regional environment.

6A: Improve understanding of how sanctuary resources are connected to other areas through ecosystem processes.

6B: Improve understanding of other threatened areas in the FGBNMS regional environment that may be nationally significant.

6C: Evaluate and implement management actions that enhance ecosystem-based management.