



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

8601 Georgia Ave., Suite 504
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Ms. Kathy Dahlkemper
Erie County Executive
140 West 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Ms. Dahlkemper,

This letter is to update you on your nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary. As you are aware, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries added this nomination to its inventory of candidate sites on February 22, 2016. NOAA's regulations for the sanctuary nomination process indicate that any nomination in the inventory will be considered active for a five-year period. As the Lake Erie nomination is now approaching that five-year period, we need to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to our criteria and considerations.

The first step in our review is to give Erie County (as the original nominating party) an opportunity to reaffirm the nomination's original intent and to identify anything that may have changed in the past five years. For instance, there may be new information you want to bring to our attention about the resources, opportunities, and challenges associated with this area being proposed for management as a national marine sanctuary.

Your input will greatly assist us in determining the degree to which the nomination is still relevant and responsive to our criteria. We stand by to work with you on adding any additional information and to determine the best approach for soliciting public input on the nomination at this five-year mark.

To meet our deadline of February 2021, we would like to have your input by September 30, 2020. Please contact Ellen Brody (ellen.brody@noaa.gov) if you would like to set up a call to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Matt Brookhart
Eastern Regional Director



