



# COUNTY OF ERIE

## OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**Kathy Dahlkemper**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary Moves One Step Closer: NOAA Accepts Erie County Application into Inventory**

Erie, PA – Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is proud to announce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has accepted Erie County's application for the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary to the inventory of potential new national marine sanctuary sites.

The County of Erie submitted the application on December 31, 2015 after conducting public meetings and gauging community and stakeholder support. The next step in the designation process includes an in-depth review requiring NOAA to engage the community, answer questions, and allow open discussion about the National Marine Sanctuary process and what the designation could mean for Erie County.

"We are proud to report that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries concurs that the historic and cultural characteristics of the Lake Erie Quadrangle are of national significance and merit inclusion in the inventory," said County Executive Dahlkemper.

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.

From start to finish, the designation process could take up to two years to complete.

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