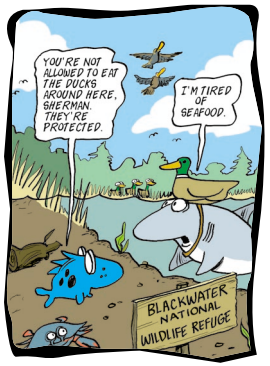
Our poster highlights seven Marine Protected Areas in the United States. To learn more about these sites — and many others reserved by federal, state territorial, tribal, or local laws and regulations that provide lasting protection for natural and cultural resources found, visit...

mpa.gov



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

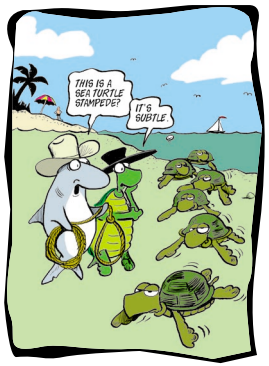
Covering over 20,000 acres of wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is prime habitat for more than 250 species of nesting and migrating birds, and spawning habitat for Blue Crab, oysters, Striped Bass, and other fish. Activities at the refuge include: wildlife drives, nature walks, fishing, hunting, crabbing, and bird watching.

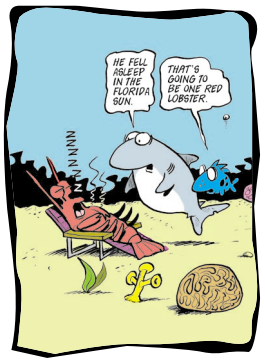
http://blackwater.fws.gov/

Padre Island National Seashore

Padre Island National Seashore is located off the coast of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico, with 65.5 miles of Barrier Island beach open to the public. It is one nesting site for five of the world's seven sea turtle species, including Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), the most endangered species of sea turtle in the world.

www.nps.gov/pais/home.htm

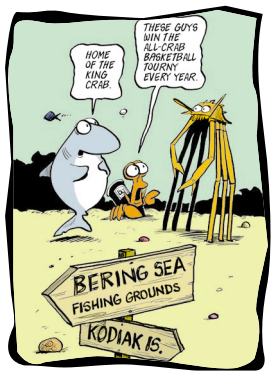




The Tortugas Ecological Reserve

The Tortugas Ecological Reserve, a no-take zone, is located in the westernmost waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and was designated after a multi-year, inclusive stakeholder process in July 2001. The Florida Keys are the third largest barrier bank coral reef ecosystem in the world, home to diverse stony and soft coral species, invertebrates and crustaceans, and over 500 species of fish.

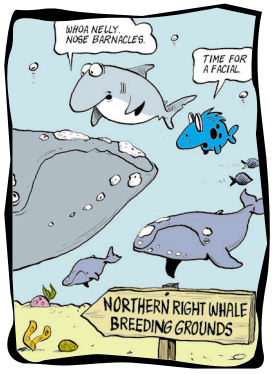
www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/tortugas/welcome.html



Area 512

Area 512 was established in 1987 as a Federal Fisheries Management Zone, and protects molting Red King Crab habitat in the Bering Sea off the coast of Alaska.

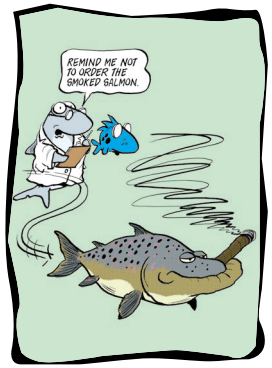
http://mpa.gov/area512.html



Great South Channel Northern Right Whale Critical Habitat

Great South Channel, established off the coast of Massachusetts, minimizes harmful vessel interactions in the Right Whale's feeding nursery and mating grounds. Hunted to near-extinction in the 1800s, the slow swimming endangered marine mammal's ability to recover relies on this protection.

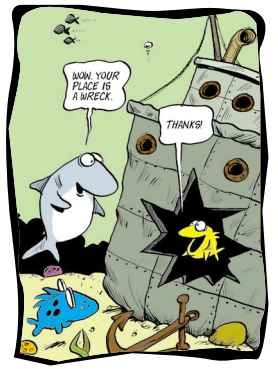
http://mpa.gov/gsc_rightwhale.html



South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Oregon contains 4,770 acres of upland forests, freshwater wetlands and ponds, salt marshes, tidal flats, eelgrass meadows, and salmon spawning grounds. Major activities at the reserve include wetland restoration efforts, ecological research and monitoring, coastal training for resource management professionals, and education for K-12 and adults.

http://nerrs.noaa.gov/SouthSlough/



Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

Thunder Bay, the newest sanctuary in the system, is located in Lake Huron off the coast of Michigan. It includes 160 shipwrecks that tell stories of more than a century of Great Lakes maritime history.

http://thunderbay.noaa.gov