National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and System Goals:

- Designate and manage areas of the marine environment with special national significance
- Primary objective to protect marine resources, such as coral reefs, sunken historical vessels or unique habitats
- Research and monitoring
- Enhance public knowledge
- Facilitate compatible use

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Research needed to address issues such as:

- Overfishing
- Invasive species
- Deep-sea corals
- Climate change
- Ocean acidification
- Biodiversity
- Mapping of habitats/species