



Dive Sites

Stellwagen Bank

Fifteen percent of the sanctuary, or 126 square miles, is shallower than 130 ft at low tide. Much of this area lies atop Stellwagen Bank where depths range from 65 ft in the south to an average of 110 ft in the north. One dive site, Sponge Forest, has sandy areas interspersed with cobble and boulders that provide hard substrate for marine invertebrates like finger sponges.

Jeffreys Ledge

On the northern edge of the sanctuary, rocky ridges on the southern edge of Jeffreys Ledge rise to within 115 ft of the surface. The shallowest portion of the ledge is comprised of piled cobble and boulders.

Sanctuary Hill

In the sanctuary's northeast corner, Sanctuary Hill rises from 325 feet to 115 feet and is topped with solid granite and piled boulders.

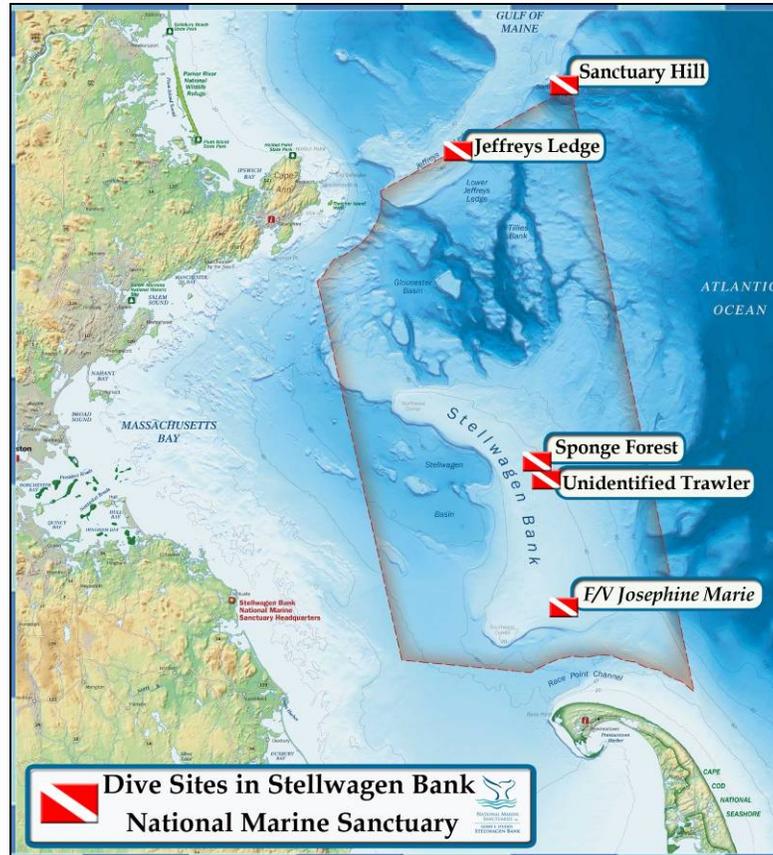
Shipwrecks

The fishing vessel *Josephine Marie* and an unidentified steel stern trawler both lie on Stellwagen Bank in 100-110 ft of water.



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NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Diving in the Sanctuary



Sponge Forest
Degrees
Minutes -
N 42 19.47096
W 70 17.598012

**Fishing Vessel
Josephine
Marie**
Degrees
Minutes -
N 42 10.925
W 70 13.466

**Unidentified
Trawler**
Degrees
Minutes -
N 42 18.73056
W 70 17.8425



Left: *Josephine Marie* in Gloucester (courtesy of John Harper). Right: Divers wait to board the research vessel *Auk* (courtesy of NOAA/SBNMS).

While many of New England's most popular dive spots are relatively close to shore, some excellent diving can be found further afield. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary offers divers a chance to explore different environments at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay, where strong currents and exposed waters create challenging dive conditions.

Divers visiting the sanctuary must follow regulations that protect historical resources. Divers are prohibited from moving, removing or injuring, or attempting to move, remove or injure, as well as possess a sanctuary historical resource. Divers are not permitted to grapple a historic shipwreck, drop a down line directly onto a historic shipwreck, or tie a down line onto a historic shipwreck.