

STELLWAGEN BANK E-NOTES: sanctuary news & events

June 2016



JUNE 25-26

#ILoveMySanctuary

Photo: Humpback breach by A. Friedlaender, taken under NOAA Permit #14245



Join individuals across the nation and ***Get Into Your Sanctuary*** on the weekend of **June 25-26**. Join a whale watch trip into Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, go fishing, or stay high and dry by visiting a sanctuary exhibit or our inflatable whale, which will be on display on The Greenway in Boston (Saturday only). This national campaign will use social media to raise awareness of the 13 sanctuaries and two marine national monuments in the system while encouraging responsible recreation. But the campaign is not limited to a single weekend -- you can get into your sanctuary throughout the summer. *Find out more on page 2.*

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To receive notices about new issues or to provide feedback on this publication, contact us at stellwagen@noaa.gov or 781-545-8026 and provide your e-mail address. This information will be held securely and not released to any outside organization or individual.



Find us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/SBNMS



www.youtube.com/user/SBNMS



@NOAASBNMS

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>

Visit New England's ONLY national marine sanctuary during *Get Into Your Sanctuary* days **June 25-26, 2016** and continue the celebration throughout the year! Here's how you can join in:

- Look for **whales** and **birds** from a **whale watch** vessel out of Provincetown, Barnstable, Plymouth, Boston, Gloucester or Newburyport;
- Catch your dinner during a **fishing trip** with one of the local licensed charter and party boats;
- **Dive** and explore shipwrecks on the sanctuary seafloor with other experienced divers;
- Explore **exhibits** at locations across the region to learn about **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** without getting wet:
New England Aquarium (Boston), Maritime Gloucester; Sea Discovery Center, MacMillan Wharf Kiosk and Cape Cod National Seashore (Provincetown); Woods Hole Science Aquarium; Scituate Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum; Cape Cod Museum of Natural History (Brewster); Seacoast Science Center (Rye, NH); and The Maritime Aquarium (Norwalk, CT);
- **Meet Salt**, our life-sized, inflatable whale, at the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park Visitor Center on The Greenway in Boston on June 25, 10am-4pm.
- Enter the Get Into Your Sanctuary **photo contest** (see below)



Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest Rules

June 1 to July 15

Categories:

- *Sanctuary Views*
- *Sanctuary Life*
- *Sanctuary Portraits*

All images **MUST** include the following information:

- *Photographer's name;*
- *Short description of when and where the photo was taken;*
- *What is shown in the photo.*

Photos should be a minimum of 1200 pixels wide

Limit of 10 entries per person

Submitting a photo gives NOAA permission to use the photo for other purposes.

Photographer must hold all rights to image and has secured permission from all identifiable subjects in the photo

Photo: SBNMS; NOAA Permit #605-1904



Complete set of rules at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/photo-contest.html>

Send entries to: earthisblue@noaa.gov

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary wins poll as *Best Place to See Aquatic Life*



Sanctuary wins poll as top spot to view aquatic life

In the early 1990s, thousands of individuals, particularly whale watch passengers, recognized the importance of the waters off the Massachusetts coast. Their spirited verbal and written support led to the creation of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in 1992.

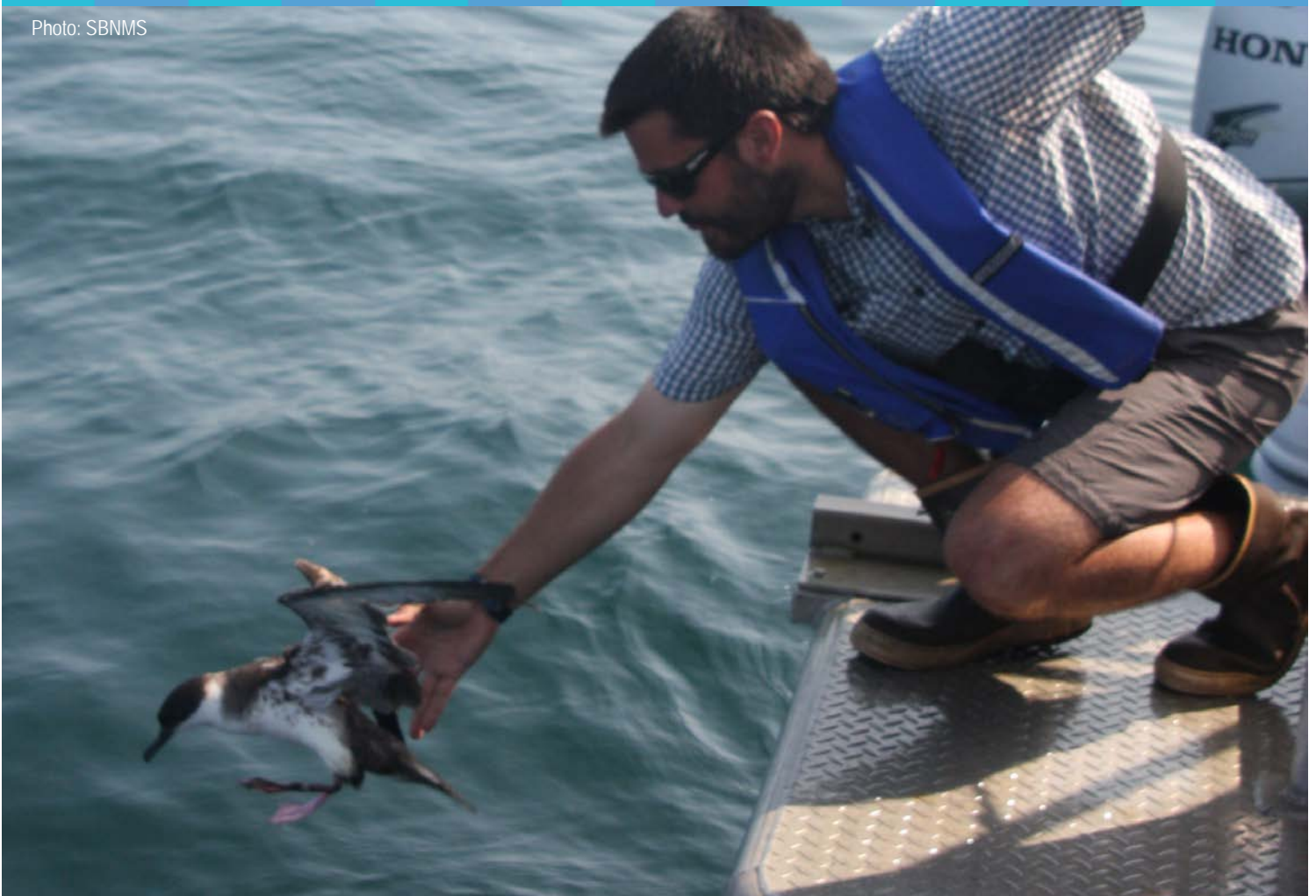
Early this year, in a similar energizing of sanctuary supporters, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary took the top spot in the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice poll for the Best Places to See Aquatic Life in the U.S. During the month of March, individuals across the nation (and world) voted for their favorite destinations. From students to seniors, from birders to whale watchers, the votes came in, and the results once again confirmed the strong public support for this site.

Monterey Bay, the only other national marine sanctuary in the poll, finished in second place. Another area closely associated with a sanctuary was Channel Islands National Park (#6).

Photos (Top): *Two humpback whales undertake simultaneous dives in the sanctuary. Photo: SBNMS, NOAA Permit #775-1875. (Middle) Atlantic white-sided dolphin leaps from the water. Photo: Elliott Hazen. (Bottom) Harbor seal watches humans in the sanctuary. Photo: SBNMS.*



Photo: SBNMS



Science team selects names for this year's great shearwater study subjects

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park System, the sanctuary research team has decided to name this year's ten great shearwater study subjects after some of their favorite parks.

The sanctuary had received a number of names in its call to the public for suggestions. The proposal to name the seabirds after the parks received the most support. A big thank you goes out to all the other respondents; their proposed names will be saved for consideration in future years.

Scientists prefer naming the birds as it makes it easier to refer to specific study subjects with a name rather than a coded number. After satellite tags are placed on the birds during the July research cruise, they will be tracked. The birds' movements provide insight into regional productivity and prey availability. Maps of their travels will be available for review via the sanctuary's website.

2015 maps can be found at

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/science/shearwater13.html>

THE NAMES

Acadia

Badlands

Denali

Everglades

Glacier

Kenai

Saguaro

Teton

Yellowstone

Yosemite



Research Vessel *Auk* passes NOAA safety inspection with perfect score

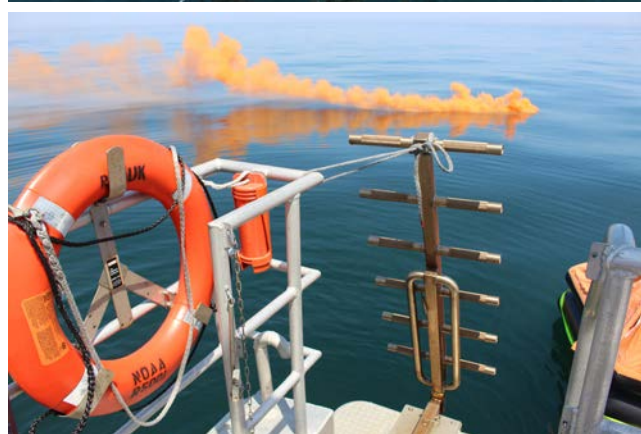
Sanctuary staff practice safety drills

Every year, NOAA vessels undergo rigorous inspections to assure operational and mechanical safety. Inspectors check to make sure the vessel is in good working order, that all safety equipment is on board, and that proper record keeping is maintained. This year, facilities coordinator Dave Slocum meticulously prepared the sanctuary's Research Vessel *Auk*. When the grade came in, the *Auk* passed with 0 deficiencies (a perfect score).

Supplementing the vessel inspection was a sanctuary staff cruise where Dave ran a fire drill, a man overboard drill, and an abandon ship drill, which included deployment of a raft, the donning of immersion suits, and practice entering the lifeboat at sea. Staff members also activated daytime and nighttime distress signals (after notifying the Coast Guard, harbor masters and local boaters). The surplus/expired orange smoke canister and red flares were put to good use in the training session.

Now is the time to get a **FREE U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check** (before heading out on the water for the summer). The inspectors will check that your boat is in full compliance with all Federal and State boating laws and proper safety equipment is on board. Visit <http://cgaux.org/vsc/> for more information.

(Top) Staff members practice use of signal flares. (Middle) After donning immersion suits, the well-insulated staff posed for a group picture. (Bottom) The *Auk*'s life ring was color-coordinated with the test smoke flare. Photos: Anne Smrcina, NOAA/SBNMS



Sanctuary ecologist helps lead NOAA ocean noise strategy development

A draft *NOAA Ocean Noise Strategy Roadmap* was released for public comment on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Dr. Leila Hatch, the sanctuary's marine ecologist, has been co-leading this effort with colleagues from NOAA Fisheries.

This document aims to guide the agency toward more effective and comprehensive management of ocean noise impacts on marine life over the next 10 years. NOAA recognizes growing levels of ocean noise are affecting marine animals and their habitats, including within national marine sanctuaries, in complex ways. With this strategy, NOAA seeks to take a first-ever holistic approach to address this issue.

The draft *Roadmap* is available at the initiative's website at <http://cetsound.noaa.gov/>.

An interview with Dr. Hatch about ocean noise, the strategy and national marine sanctuaries is available at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jun16/noisy-ocean.html>

Northeast releases first in nation draft Ocean Plan for public comment

On May 25, the draft Northeast Ocean Plan was released for public comment. Use of the plan will enable more transparent, informed and coordinated ocean decisions for New England waters. Through the Northeast Ocean Data Portal, the plan features unprecedented data access to assist with wise regulatory and management decisions. Its “best practices” guidance will encourage better coordination across government and stronger engagement by stakeholders in management decisions. The public comment period—to include nine meetings as well as online and written feedback—will be important in plan revisions and the submittal to the National Ocean Council in September 2016. This plan reflects three and one-half years of collaboration among the public and the federal, state, tribal, and New England Fishery Management Council members of the Northeast Regional Planning Body. NOAA has served as the federal co-lead on behalf of the Department of Commerce.



To view the plan, go to <http://neooceanplanning.org>

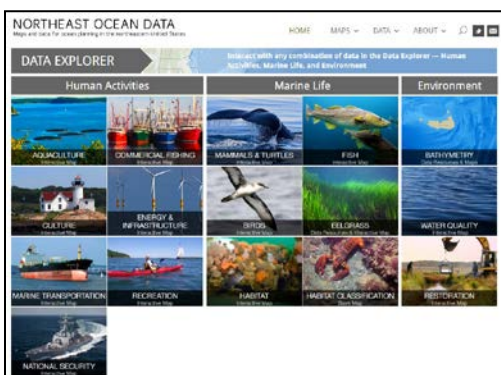
The draft Northeast Ocean Plan is the first in the nation to be released under the National Ocean Policy. It signifies a tangible accomplishment and a major step toward practicing ecosystem-based management.

What does the plan do?

- Enables regional characterization of marine life, habitat and human activities using unprecedented online library of peer-reviewed regional data
- Sets expectation for the federal government to use this information to guide and inform regulatory and management decisions within existing authorities
- Supports identification of potential conflicts, compatibility and affected resources
- Employs best practices for regulatory/management processes through interagency coordination, stakeholder engagement and use of data
- Identifies future priority science and research needs

Public comment information:

- Public comment period began May 25 and will conclude on July 25 at 5pm
- Public comment will be collected via:
 - Public listening sessions
 - Comments submitted online at neooceanplanning.org/plan
 - Via email: comment@neooceanplanning.org
 - Comments submitted in writing should be mailed to:
Betsy Nicholson, NE Regional Planning Body, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
- The Regional Planning Body will submit a revised plan to the National Ocean Council for review and certification, at which point the plan will be in effect.



Public meeting schedule:

Monday, June 6 – Rockland, ME: 5PM to 8PM
 Wednesday, June 8 – Old Lyme, CT: 7PM – 9PM
 Monday, June 13 – Gloucester, MA: 6PM-8:30PM
 Tuesday, June 14 – Boston, MA: 2PM – 4:30PM
 Wednesday, June 15 – New Bedford, MA: 6PM – 8:30PM
 Monday, June 20 – Ellsworth, ME: 5PM – 8PM
 Monday, June 27 – Portsmouth, NH: 6PM – 8:30PM
 Wednesday, June 29 – Narragansett, RI: 6PM – 8:30PM
 Thursday, June 30 – Portland, ME: 5PM – 8PM

STELLWAGEN SANCTUARY SUMMER FREE FILM FEST

Are you tired of re-runs on television? Do you want to unwind after work? Are you trying to find something interesting for your Tuesday nights? If so, then come to the sanctuary's Scituate campus for our summer film series on Tuesday nights (approximately 6:30-8:00pm) in July and August. Show times run about an hour each night and there'll be some time to meet with sanctuary staff afterwards. Topics cover resources and issues at our national marine sanctuaries, including right here at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. All shows are free. You're welcome to bring snacks and drinks, but be aware that U.S. Government facilities prohibit alcoholic beverages. *Films may change without notice but every effort will be made to maintain the published schedule.*

July 19

Sonic Sea -- a 2016 award-winning film about rising sound levels in the ocean and their effects on whales and other marine life. This is a powerful and beautifully produced film. Dr. Leila Hatch, the sanctuary's marine ecologist, is one of the technical experts interviewed in the show.

July 26

Ocean Frontiers -- four case studies from places across the country, including Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, that are implementing promising new approaches to ocean and coastal management. The producers show that where there's a will, there's a way to solve even difficult environmental problems.

August 2

Lightning Strikes Twice: The Real Life Sequel to *Moby Dick* -- the story of a Massachusetts whaleship lost on a remote reef, one very unlucky captain (former captain of the Essex), and a team of archaeologists with the discovery of a lifetime in an area now known as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument; and **Tragedies in the Mist** -- an introduction to the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron, an area known for extreme weather, treacherous waters and dense fog that has claimed over 200 ships.

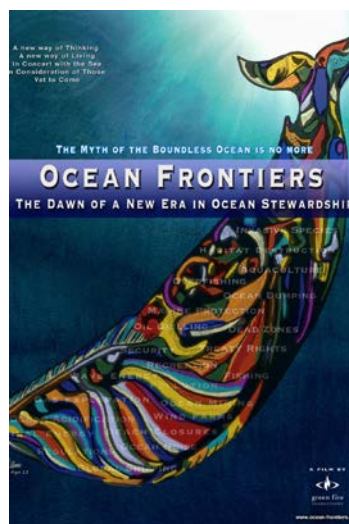
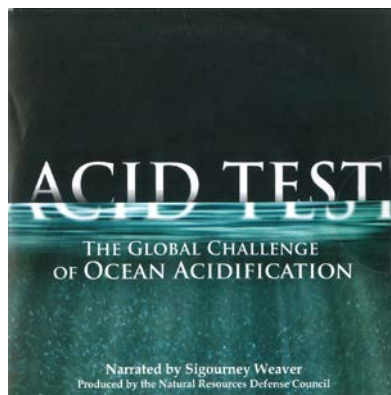
August 9

Acid Test: The Global Challenge of Ocean Acidification -- a film explaining the other carbon problem -- the changing water chemistry of the ocean and its potential effects on marine life and humans.

Nature's Keepers -- a French television documentary (in English) about citizen science and environmental protection focusing on Massachusetts with a segment on the sanctuary's Seabird Steward program.

August 16

TBA



Atlantic hurricane season has begun

June 1 marks the start of hurricane season, which runs through November 30. NOAA forecasters predict an average year for the Atlantic. However, due to uncertainty in the climate signals that influence the formation of Atlantic storms, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center reports that calculations are difficult this year. They predict a 70 percent likelihood of 10 to 16 named storms with winds of 39 mph or higher, of which four to eight could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including one to four major hurricanes (Categories 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111mph or higher). Included in the outlook is Hurricane Alex, a pre-season storm that formed over the eastern Atlantic in January.

2016 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Alex
Bonnie
Colin
Danielle
Earl
Fiona
Gaston

Hermine
Ian
Julia
Karl
Lisa
Matthew
Nicole

Otto
Paula
Richard
Shary
Tobias
Virginie
Walter



Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter

To prepare your property and family for these dangerous storms and to reduce risks, keep tuned to NOAA Weather Radio <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> and be familiar with resources at NOAA's hurricane preparedness website at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/hurricane_preparedness.html.

#HURRICANESTRONG is a national hurricane resilience initiative to save lives and homes through collaboration with leading organizations in the disaster safety movement. Find additional information at <http://www.flash.org/hurricanestrong>



View amazing daily photographs and interesting weekly videos at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue.html>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Ocean Service

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast
Greater Farallones
Cordell Bank
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Monterey Bay
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.)
(Including Rose Atoll)



Wisconsin - Lake Michigan
Thunder Bay
Stellwagen Bank
Mallows Bay - Potomac River
Monitor
Gray's Reef
Florida Keys
Flower Garden Banks

○ National Marine Sanctuary
△ Marine National Monument
■ Proposed National Marine Sanctuary

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>



<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>