UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

October 16, 2002

9out Fed

Ms. Katrina Van Dine
SBNMS Management Plan Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066

Dear Ms. Van Dine:

The National Marine Fisheries Service's/Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NMFS/NEFSC) submits the following comments for the Management Plan review being conducted by the Gerry E. Studds/ Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS). The management plan scoping process has been focusing on the following issues: alteration of sea floor habitat and ecosystem protection; marine mammal protection; water quality; public awareness and effective enforcement. NMFS has the primary management responsibilities for fisheries and endangered species/marine mammals under the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This jurisdiction extends to waters within the sanctuary's boundaries as well as externally which requires coordination between Craig MacDonald, Superintendent of the SBNMS, and Pat Kurkul, NMFS Northeast Regional Administrator, on matters of mutual interest and concern.

The SBNMS employs an ecosystems-based approach to management, while the NMFS Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and Take Reduction Plans (TRP) for marine mammals tend to be oriented toward individual species/species complexes (multispecies groundfish). It is important that the SBNMS not enact regulations that conflict with the FMPs developed by NMFS and the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) or the Seasonal Area Management (SAM) and Dynamic Area Management (DAM) regulations that NMFS develops to protect cetaceans. Proactive consultation between our two organizations should prevent any misunderstandings and allow the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to speak with one voice on these matters and not sow public confusion. In regards to potential impacts of commercial fishing gear on benthic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and the recovery from the cessation of fishing, our scientists have conducted studies within the Closed Areas on Georges Bank. We stand ready to share this ongoing research with the SBNMS staff, and look forward to comparing this with studies being conducted within the SBNMS. Our scientists have also given some thought to ecosystems-based approaches to fisheries management and we could share this information with you. If the SBNMS plans to develop Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or propose designation of bottom areas as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

(HAPC)within the sanctuary's boundaries, these proposals should be discussed with the Northeast Regional Office (NER) and vetted before the NEFMC, since they are likely to effect commercial/recreational fishers.

For marine mammals that interact with fixed fishing gear NMFS has developed a variety of management tools (SAMs, DAMs, etc.) intended reduce these impacts. The agency has established Take Reduction Teams (TRT) to develop TRPs and the NEFSC Protected Resources Branch scientists support this endeavor. We will be glad to share the products from this work with the SBNMS staff in support of their resource protection mission. Similar to the situation with fisheries management consultation/coordination between the SBNMS and NMFS/NER may be required to maximize protection of these resources.

The NEFSC conducts a variety of surveys on the regional distribution/abundance of fish/shellfish species and marine mammals that could provide a context for site specific surveys conducted by the SBNMS. Some concern has been expressed by the public about the possible effects of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA)ocean outfall on the fish and marine mammal populations within the SBNMS. If this proves to be a problem, then the water quality regulatory authorities (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection) need to fund a site specific study, since our survey sampling intensity is not intended to address site specific problems. Since the MWRA Outfall Monitoring Scientific Advisory Panel (OMSAP) is holding scientific workshops to evaluate changes in the MWRA's monitoring program, this would appear to be the appropriate venue to address site specific programs for examining the potential impacts of the outfall pipe on fish and marine mammal populations in adjacent waters.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John Boreman
Acting Science and Research Director

Scoping comment
COV

New England Fishery Management Council
50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Thomas R. Hill, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

9 out Fed

October 2, 2002

Dr. Craig MacDonald
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Attn: Management Plan Review Coordinator

RE: Public Scoping Comments on the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review

Dear Dr. MacDonald:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the scoping process for the SBNMS Management Plan Review. The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) looks forward to working closely with the Sanctuary staff during this review process.

I have reviewed the SBNMS *Management Plan Review Update: 1998-2002* and believe the report identifies valid management issues. These are Alteration of Seafloor Habitat and Ecosystem Protection, Impacts of Human Activities on Marine Mammals, Condition of Water Quality, Lack of Public Awareness, and Effective Enforcement.

As you know, over the last 25 years (well before the Sanctuary was established), the Council developed and NMFS implemented numerous regulations restricting fishing activities within the Sanctuary boundaries. I believe that any future restrictions on fishing activities in the Sanctuary should continue to be the responsibility of the New England Fishery Management Council because of the Council's authority to manage fisheries in the EEZ. I strongly support your plan to work cooperatively with NMFS and the NEFMC in addressing Sanctuary efforts, especially those that may impact recreational and commercial fishing activities.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues throughout the management plan review process. I also look forward to a closer working relationship between the Sanctuary and the Council. If you have any questions about these comments or suggestions on timing for Council involvement, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul J Howard

Paul J. Howard
Executive Director

Mr. C. J. Collins,
Alkhurst Farm,
Hawtham Lane,
Four Marks,
Nr. Alton,
Hampshire
GU34 5AU,
United Kingdom.

12/10/02

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Stellwagen Marine Sanctuary

I write in support of the issues raised by the Whale Centre of New England regarding the Stellwagen Sanctuary.

It is vitally important, not only for the region but for whale protection in general that the key issues are addressed. In particular;

- There should be speed restrictions for all marine vessels in the area and particularly around whales.
- There should be some restrictions regarding the boats that are allowed to operate in the area
- The buffer zone around Stellwagen Bank needs to be protected.

I appreciate in all of this the livelihoods of many people need to be protected but with the right will and effort there is room for both whales and man.

Yours sincerely,

6 Kimball Lane
Northborough, MA 01532
October 11, 2002

Indiv

Dr. Craig Macdonald, Superintendent
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Rd.
Scituate, MA 02066

Dear Craig:

Thank you for the copy of "The State of the Sanctuary Report" and Management Plan Review Update: 1998-2002. The report(s) provide adequate background description of the key natural resources and associated management issues to stimulate the public's thinking and feedback. The opinions, comments, and recommendations received should greatly help develop potential management options and crucial decisions about the Sanctuary's future.

In designating Stellwagen Bank as a National Marine Sanctuary, Congress has entrusted NOAA with caring for an incredible natural resource treasure. The waters and submerged lands comprising the sanctuary and all biological life within its boundaries are now public trust resources. This sanctuary as with our national wildlife refuges and national parks represent our ecological heritage. Implicit in the responsibility of protecting this natural resource is the necessity of developing and maintaining a high level of public trust and credibility. There are many current activities and uses that, in my opinion, are resulting in significant cumulative impacts to the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the sanctuary. These activities are also directly conflicting with NOAA's/Sanctuary Management Staff's ability to accomplish its missions and that of the sanctuary's. Any and all public uses, recreational and/or commercial, must be secondary to the primary goals and mission of the sanctuary. Specifically, the mission and broad goals of the sanctuary are to protect marine biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural resources.

The following discussion points and recommendations I offer, to fulfill the requirements of NEPA and strengthen our decisions relative to the goals and objectives of the sanctuary's management plan:

--- Future management options should include 1) complete closure/prohibition to commercial fishing activities i.e. gill netting, trawling, lobstering; 2) zoning the sanctuary for particular uses in certain areas

--- Compatibility determinations need to be made for the current activities and criteria developed if not already available, to support management decisions to limit or prohibit an activity or use. Are the current permitted uses within Sanctuary boundaries considered compatible with the biodiversity, ecological health and integrity, cultural resource protection goals? If not, why not?

--- Establishing new marine sanctuaries such as Jeffrey's Ledge should be incorporated into the management plan options.

--- Maintaining and protecting the established research area should be a subgoal or objective of the management plan; monitoring should also be an objective of the plan

--- Integrate the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary management plan with NOAA's Strategic Plan; there should be over arcing management goals and objectives

--- Discuss how the Sanctuary and its management plan fits into or complements other regional (Gulf of Maine) and national ocean management plans and initiatives

--- Discuss the Sanctuary in relation to the larger Gulf of Maine Ecosystem to which it belongs

--- Identify and discuss threats to the biological diversity, overall health and ecological integrity of the Sanctuary. The issues identified in your management Plan Update speaks directly to this topic. What are the cumulative impacts to the natural resources and to the mission/purpose for which the Sanctuary was established?

--- Are the purposes of the Sanctuary and mission of the national marine sanctuary system identified and upheld? If not why not?

--- An impact analysis of the major issues identified is required to fulfill NEPA and support SBNMS and SAC decision making.

In 1974, '75 and '76, I participated in various ocean survey and diving operations conducted by Dr. Richard Cooper, NMFS, Woods Hole as part of a five year herring spawning study under NOAA's Manned Undersea Science and Technology Program (MUST). SCUBA, research submersible, benthic grab samples, robotic u/w photographic sled, and a 50-foot saturation habitat were among the equipment used in the surveys. The following is a list of references that may provide useful information for our planning process. Reports on these studies should be available at the NMFS's Northeast Center Lab, Woods Hole or NOAA's MUST Office. Also available somewhere should be 2000-3000 underwater photos from Stellwagen Bank and Jeffery's Ledge. You might check with Dick on this Craig.

*** Oct. 4 through Nov. 4, 1974. Herring Spawning Study Jeffery's Ledge –observations and photo documentation of historic herring spawning egg beds. See MUST Fiscal Year Reports for the years 1974-1980

*** 1975 (Aug. –Nov.) First International Saturation Study of Herring and Hydroacoustics. Jeffrey's Ledge, Gulf of Maine. See Beaumariage, Donald C. 1976. Offshore Technology Conference. OTC Paper #2520. Note: we had 12 transect lines, each 300 meter in length running along the bottom out from the U/W Habitat site at Jeffrey's Ledge. More than 2000 photographs were compiled of the benthic community.

*** 1976 NOAA Interagency Submersible Program, MUST Office. Part I 14-17 June, Stellwagen Bank—Wildcat Knoll Sector. A series of dives made across the southwestern part of Stellwagen Bank and Wildcat Knoll to a depth of about 1,000 feet in Wilkinson Basin; Part II 18-23 June, Stellwagen Bank, Wilkinson Basin, Cape Ann Sector. Dives made in the northern part of Stellwagen and proceeded northeastward into Wilkinson Basin and returning westward

toward Cape Ann. Both SCUBA and submersible dives made to photograph midwater macroinvertebrates.

*** Alan W. Hulbert et.al. 1982. Ecosystem Definition and Community Structure of the Macrobenthos of the NEMP Monitoring Station at Pigeon Hill in the Gulf of Maine. NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS-F/NEC-14. Note: This is on a section of Jeffrey's Ledge. Photo transects established and monitored since 1978. 149 boreal benthic species identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to working with you and the SAC members on developing the management plan.

Sincerely,

Gib Chase
SAC Conservation Committee

RECEIVED
JUL 25

GEORGE RICHERT
30 CORNHILL TERRACE #503
BOSTON, MA
02108-2596

DEAR CRAIG,

CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR MAILING JUST FROM GOING OUT TO SEE THE WHALES LAST LABOR DAY!

SOME THOUGHTS

(1) ERROL FLYNN WROTE A BOOK BE MEN; ALSO MENTION IN MY WICKED WAYS SAILING IN CARRIBEAN IN A STORM AND THROWING OUT 2 ANCHORS AND WATCHING THEM FLOAT HYDRO-AERO DYNAMICS

2) GOT TAKEN TO YANKEE STADIUM SAT A FEW ROWS BACK OF WHERE GEORGE SIT ON THE VISITOR'S SIDE SO HE CAN SEE WHATS GOING ON IN HIS OWN DUGOUT. NEXT DAY PROBABLY SEEING THE OUTFIELD WALL WONDERED IF THERE ONCE WAS A CARRIBEAN SEA WALL THAT FORMED A LAKE THAT COLUMBUS HAD PLANNED TO RUN INTO

PERSPICACIOUSLY YOURS,

George Richert

INTEGRITY & GREATNESS
MEANS
STRUGGLE & CONVICTION

To the Gerry E. Sludds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Five year Management Plan Managers,

We all understand the difficulties that face the advisory council of the Stellwagen Bank. This letter is written to voice and hopefully recommend an opinion based on observation and research. We understand that you are researching many issue so we have focused on one topic that effects the protection of the ecosystems, recreational fishing. The following paper discusses our recommendations for fishing in Stellwagen bank:

Miss Maritime

1.) Acquisition of baseline date

2.) Construction of regulations

   a. Species specific

   b. Season specific

3.) Site specific Fishery Management Plan

4.) Initiation of Zoning Areas

acad

Recommendations for the Stellwagen Bank:

ISSUE 1: Alteration of Seafloor Habitat and Ecosystem Protection

- Recreation:
  - Fishing

The Stellwagen Bank was designated as a National Marine Sanctuary in November 1992. It is located between Cape Cod and Cape Ann, Massachusetts, and is heavily used for recreational purposes such as fishing and whale watching. The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary wants to encourage commercial and recreational use of the Sanctuary, however, not to the extent that the degradation of resources occurs.

In Stellwagen Bank there is an abundant amount of recreational fishing, which occurs off and on depending on the season. The idea of recreational fishing is encouraged, however, the overall wellness and abundance of the species that inhabit the Bank is of the most concern. We would recommend that baseline data begin to be collected in order for future scientist to determine the current state of the fish population as well as give recommendations for regulations regarding the amount of fishing allowed per season. North Carolina has instituted a successful plan that allows them to manage fishing as well as collect baseline data for future research purposes.

Currently there is no recreational fishing activity specific to Stellwagen Bank that is subject to regulation. Due to the fact that there are several species being fished at different times of the year, we propose that limitations on recreational fishing be species and time specific, depending on the results acquired from the baseline data. Preventative measures such as a site-specific fishery management plan, should be researched and

compiled in order to prevent species depletion. The Fish and Game Department of California has instituted a fishery management plan that allows them to gain a sustainable species biomass all the while allowing for fertile fishing seasons.

In order to protect the ecosystems and the species that live in Stellwagen Bank we recommend that zoning areas instituted. This will allow for Stellwagen Bank to still be used by the public for fishing, however, it will also protect and preserve the Bank so that a sustainable environment can be obtained. Other counties have adopted the zoning concept. Minnesota as well as North Carolina has both learned about the importance of preserving certain ecosystems through the institution of zoning. Area Zoning is a program that restricts specific areas of Stellwagen Bank and makes them off limits to public interference. These designated areas are then preserved and maintained in their current natural state.

We believe that the key to preserving the mission of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is through proper management of resources. In order to achieve this we must first research the available resource through the application of scientific methods and the acquisition of baseline data. Through the analysis of the data the proper regulations should be instituted in order to protect each individual species involved. The designation of specific zones and proper fishery management plan will help to achieve a sustainable sanctuary.

Sincerely,
Eileen Estrada
Armando Gundin
Coastal Zone Management
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Eileen Estrada
Armando Gundin
Prof. Yazbek
Coastal Zone Management
October 3, 2002

Recommendations for the Stellwagen Bank:

ISSUE 1: Alteration of Seafloor Habitat and Ecosystem Protection

10/18/2002 15:50 5088305070 MMA ENGINEERING DEPT PAGE 04

Eileen Estrada
Armando Gundin
Prof. Yazbek
Coastal Zone Management
October 3, 2002

Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Inc.

P.O. Box 398, Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630-0398
508-362-4226 • Toll-free 877-955-4142 • Fax 508-362-4227
E-mail: info@apcc.org • Web site: http://www.apcc.org

October 18, 2002

Dr. Craig MacDonald
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Rd.
Scituate, MA 02066

NGO

Dear Dr. MacDonald:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) Management Plan review. APCC is a 5,500-member nonprofit organization that has been the leading advocate for the protection of Cape Cod's natural resources and coastal environment for 34 years. We commend Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary for the work it has done thus far in protecting and conserving the natural resources of the Sanctuary.

The ability of the Sanctuary to protect and sustain its natural resources if of primary importance. We encourage a balance that will accommodate commercial and recreational uses, as mandated by federal law, while protecting and preserving resources more rigorously than is being done at present. In many ways, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is a sanctuary in name only. We encourage SBNMS to be a sanctuary in action as well by implementing regulations that are specifically aimed at protecting wildlife, habitat and biological diversity. Limits set in place now to protect the Sanctuaries resources from overuse will likely prevent the need for more severe limits later.

It is imperative that adequate funding be available to support a rigorous monitoring program at the Sanctuary. The current program of monthly sampling in August and September should be expanded. APCC supports the continued coordination of the sampling regime with the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority outfall project's sampling program as well as other monitoring projects.

There is a need for more information on habitats and habitat use by invertebrates, fish and marine mammals. The SBNMS should foster increased cooperation with government agencies and private organizations, such as the Center for Coastal Studies, to strengthen research and monitoring programs. All of the research and monitoring results should be made available through technical reports and gray literature. A list of peer-reviewed publications on the web site would also be useful.

Stellwagen Bank is one of the most important feeding grounds for large whales, including the endangered northern right whale. While whale watching is enjoyed by many and economically important, there has been concern that the whale watching industry permits boats to approach whales in a dangerously fast and aggressive manner. We recommend a review process to determine if this inappropriate behavior exists and if so, for it to be rectified.

Recycled Paper

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS PROVIDED BY LAW.
OFFICES AT 3010 MAIN STREET, BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS

A number of Massachusetts residents are not aware of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary or the important role it plays in the coastal economy. There is also little understanding of what a Sanctuary does and why it is designated. Public education is vital to the future protection of SBNMS. State of the Sanctuary reports and documents detailing progress made with implemented goals and responsibilities should be made readily available and easily accessible to the general public in a timely manner. It is important for the public to know what progress has been made, and is in the best interest of the SBNMS to advertise its accomplishments, as this will increase understanding and visibility.

APCC supports the continued cooperation with other state and federal agencies for enforcement of Sanctuary regulations as outlined in the State of the Sanctuary Report. This planned increased enforcement effort will hopefully provide the enforcement necessary to ensure compliance within and outside of the Sanctuary boundaries. APCC would also like SBNMS to consider the feasibility of establishing a cooperative relationship with the commercial users of the Sanctuary, who could act as guardians to help enforce regulations.

At one of the scoping meetings for the Management Plan review SBNMS staff indicated that an "ecosystem management approach" is being considered for the SBNMS. We recommend that this approach and the way it may be implemented be defined and described in detail.

Although there are some restrictions on discharging and depositing within and outside of Sanctuary boundaries, APCC maintains there should be no discharging or depositing allowed within the Sanctuary, regardless of whether or not the vessel is in accordance with Section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (FWPCA), 33 U.S.C. 1322. et seq.

APCC is concerned about the "freight highway" through the Sanctuary that is used by commercial ships, ferries, and cruise ships. The amount of traffic and the high speed at which ships travel are dangerous to marine life. Ship strikes are the leading cause of whale mortality. APCC encourages the Sanctuary to evaluate tighter controls on travel through the Sanctuary boundaries.

Although the SBNMS web site is useful, APCC would like to recommend a few suggestions. More frequent updates would be a valuable means of communicating Sanctuary activities and progress to interested parties in the general public. (The latest update done to the Research & Monitoring page was in April of 2001.) Staff contact information and a general access phone number would also be helpful.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geist

Maggie Geist
Executive Director

International Fund for Animal Welfare

October 18, 2002

NGO

Dr. Craig MacDonald
Sanctuary Superintendent
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Dear Dr. MacDonald:

www.ifaw.org

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
411 Main Street
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-1822
USA
Tel: 508 744 2000
Fax: 508 744 2009

OFFICES IN:
Australia
Belgium
Canada
China
East Africa
France
Germany
Netherlands
Russia
South Africa
United Kingdom

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the management review of the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) and is pleased to contribute its viewpoints and comments toward ensuring the best conservation and protection for the Stellwagen ecosystem.

The goals and purposes of the National Marine Sanctuary Program are "to facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities."

IFAW believes that resource protection should be the focus of Sanctuary activities. As the SBNMS manages people and not resources, it should develop and implement policies that restrict human uses that interfere with the primary objective.

Decision Making

Stellwagen Bank is a biodiverse area and management decisions should be based on the ecosystem, not on fisheries, or species-specific issues. Congress designated the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary as a National Treasure and it must be treated as a protected area, managed for the conservation of species as well as for the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

Many of the species that inhabit the Sanctuary are seasonal and migratory in nature, reflecting a need for management decisions that should utilize global information. Therefore, it is essential that the Sanctuary not only coordinates with regional and international communities, but also have a strong participation in fisheries management activities that impact the Sanctuary ecosystem.

Decisions regarding the management of Stellwagen Bank must focus on the primary goal of conservation of the habitat. All decisions should include public input through a well-publicized and extensive public hearing process to encourage the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and other interested individuals.

The public comments and decisions should be accessible to the general public in an easily understandable and accessible format and available on the Sanctuary website. All Sanctuary programs should be available for review on an annual basis and should be posted on the Sanctuary website for public comment and input.

Any research management program must include a mechanism for compliance enforcement and monitoring with associated guidelines and regulations.

Education Advisory Council

Education regarding the existence and importance of Stellwagen Bank is critical and mandates the establishment of a dedicated Education Advisory Council. The mandate of the Council would be to explicate the role of the Sanctuary and management needs for making the Sanctuary more visible to multiple audiences. The Education Advisory Council would also encourage partnerships with NGO's, commercial, and academic organizations so as to build powerful constituencies.

Scientific Advisory Committee

A Scientific Advisory Committee should be established to compile existing historical data, perform site characterizations, and oversee projects proposed within the Sanctuary. The research performed by the Scientific Advisory Committee should consider the migratory range of animals living in or traversing through the Sanctuary, and build international partnerships to strengthen management regimes.

Research activities in the Sanctuary should be prioritized to address acoustical impacts on marine mammals; interrelationships between marine mammal species; effects of ship strikes and entanglements on marine mammals; food web analyses; and analyses of effects on biodiversity from such human impacts as habitat degradation, fishing, water quality, introduction of invasive species, ocean dumping, waste water discharge, and zoning.

The Scientific Advisory Committee should be comprised of a wide range of specialists and stakeholders, and avoid selection of the 'usual' candidates. This science and technical support will facilitate objectivity.

Sister Sanctuaries

IFAW believes that the establishment of sister sanctuaries affords comprehensive protection and increased public awareness of migratory animals, such as the humpback whale. We therefore encourage continued discussion with the US State Department and the government of the Dominican Republic on the creation of a sister sanctuary between SBNMS and the Silver Bank Humpback Whale Sanctuary. The creation of sister sanctuaries, covering both the feeding grounds and breeding grounds of the humpback whale, would position the SBNMS at the cutting edge of marine mammal management.

Potential Negative Impacts

Currently there are a number of potential activities that could negatively impact the marine species that utilize the Sanctuary waters. To minimize impacts, IFAW believes that the Sanctuary should:

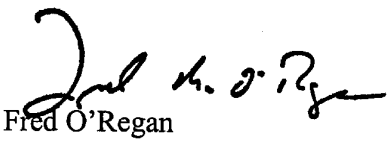
- reduce fixed gear fishing activities in areas where whales are present to minimize the risk of whales becoming entangled in gear;
- encourage and when possible facilitate the development of whale-friendly gear;
- impose vessel speed restrictions within the Sanctuary to protect animals from ship strikes;
- prohibit vessels from dumping waste, pumping bilges, or dumping ballast within the Sanctuary;
- prohibit activities that adversely affect the seabed within the Sanctuary;
- require fishing and recreational vessels to adhere to the same whale watch guidelines and policies as commercial whale watching vessels;
- adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal watercraft for whale-watching, including, but not limited to, kayaks and jet-skis within the Sanctuary;
- enforce existing and future regulations in the Sanctuary;
- implement a monitoring program to understand the current health of the ecosystem and to identify any changes before a problem becomes critical;

- participate often and proactively in Fisheries management activities and decisions that impact the Sanctuary ecosystem; and

- provide leadership by-example through instituting waste reduction and recycling programs by using recycled goods, alternative energy, and other methods of waste minimization.

IFAW further encourages the Sanctuary to challenge all stakeholders to develop creative solutions to some of these activities, and we look forward to contributing to the next ten years of protection and management of the Sanctuary. We thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Fred O'Regan
President and CEO
International Fund for Animal Welfare

FO/cc

George N Vellios
1915 Cole Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri
65109

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate MA
02066

rec'd 10/18/02

Dear Sir or Madam,

This past August my family and I enjoyed a trip "whale watching" on Jeffreys Ledge. We saw several minke whales and a huge fin whale. This was as exciting an experience for me at fifty years of age as it was for my young children. All of my family are concerned about the environment, and we sincerely hope that our descendants will have the opportunity to view whales in their native habitat.

We strongly urge you to:

- **expand the the sanctuary to include all of Jeffreys Ledge**
- **restrict the speed of all boats in the vicinity of whales to 13 knots**
- **keep the sanctuary closed to trawling which may damage the sea floor.**

We all are but the temporary caretakers of the environment, and must ensure that future generations are not deprived of the opportunity to view the rich biodiversity that the sea offers.

Yours faithfully,

George N Vellios

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066
781-545-8026
sbnmsplan@noaa.gov http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

NOAA

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Management Plan Review
Scoping Comments

Fish

10 YRS AGAO we went to City Hall Because You Asked For our help to designate Stellwagon A SAnctury You stood there And promised You would never close it to Fishing. I Am A dragger we donot bother the whales wich is Your Primary Concern I Am Gussing

Go After the US Navey + US Merchant Fleet they Kill More whales than All Fishing Boats in the world And Your stats Prove it (over)

Scoping comments may be mailed to the Sanctuary offices at the above address or delivered to Sanctuary staff at one of the Public Meetings scheduled from Sept. 24-Oct. 5 in various locations around New England.

Would you like to be placed on our mailing list for updates on the mananagement plan review?
☒ YES- hard copy ☐ YES-electronic updates

Name: JASON Polisson FV Rhumboogie
Address: 1029 WAshington St
City: Gloucester **State:** MASS **Zip:** 01930
Phone: **E-mail:**

Comm Fishing is not A problem
on middle Bank. Please do not
Give us Another war to fight
use A little Comon Sence
dont be mean + Kindictive Fishing
desent hurt Anyone we tow
At 2 to 3 Knots

JASON Polisson

FV Rhumboogie

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066
781-545-8026
sbnmsplan@noaa.gov http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Management Plan Review
Scoping Comments

FISH

To Whom it may Concern:

I feel you must keep stellwagen Bank open to Commercial + Recreational Fisheries. The past ten years have seen both areas to the north, south and on the bank it's self have a very productive combined fishery for the rec + comm. sectors to stop one or the other now would be a very large mistake.

Sincerely

Dennis C O'Connell

Scoping comments may be mailed to the Sanctuary offices at the above address or delivered to Sanctuary staff at one of the Public Meetings scheduled from Sept. 24-Oct. 5 in various locations around New England.

Would you like to be placed on our mailing list for updates on the mananagement plan review?
☐ **YES- hard copy** ☐ **YES-electronic updates**

Name: Dennis C O'Connell
Address: 44 Jerden's Lane
City: Rockport Ma. **State:** Ma **Zip:** 01966
Phone: 978 546 3742 **E-mail:**

Mark S. Konecky, Ph.D
Licensed Psychologist
Clinical Psychologist
28 Thatcher Road
Rockport, MA 01966

978-546-1364

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

10/14/02

Dear Sanctuary Staff,

Thank you for your work protecting the Stellwagen Bank Marine Santuary. As you review the Sanctuary Plan, please consider the following suggestions.

1. Expand the Sanctuary Boundaries to include Jeffreys Ledge since the Ledge is an important location for spawning of important food fish species, feeding North Atlantic Right Whales, migrating dolphins, birds and seals, and since the Ledge is so close to the coast, it is vulnerable to the same threats from human usage as Stellwagen Bank.
2. Please place speed restrictions on boats operating in the vicinity of whales and dolphins in the Sanctuary. The speeds of boats have increased in recent years and there have been a number of animal collisions documented in Sanctuary waters over the past few years.
3. Please keep part of the Sanctuary sea floor closed to human use. This closure would protect valuable bottom habitat and would help establish data that could inform us about the impact of trawl fishing on marine life.

Sincerely,

M. Konecky, Ph.D.

Mark S. Konecky, Ph.D.

Fish

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066
781-545-8026
sbnmsplan@noaa.gov http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Management Plan Review
Scoping Comments

COMMERCIAL FISHING ON STELLWAGON BANK SHOULD NEVER BE BANNED. WHEN IT WAS DESIGNATED A SANCTUARY WE WERE TOLD THAT COMMERCIAL FISHING WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. HISTORICALLY COMMERCIAL FISHING HAS OVER 300 YEARS BEEN ABLE TO FISH THIS VERY PRODUCTIVE AREA AND IT IS STILL VERY PRODUCTIVE TO LARGE AND SMALL COMMUNITIES UP AND DOWN THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSED BY SOME AS BEING DESTRUCTIVE TO THE HABITAT, SOME EQUATE OUR ACTIVITIES TO "CLEAR CUTTING" THE BOTTOM. IF SO, WHY IS THE BANK STILL PRODUCING A HEALTHY STOCK OF COD AND YELLOW TAIL FLOUNDER AFTER 300 YEARS OF "CLEAR CUTTING". I HAVE FISHED THE BANK FOR 30 OF THOSE 300 YEARS AND HAVE FOUND MOTHER NATURE TO BE MUCH MORE DESTRUCTIVE IN AN AREA OF THE NORTHWEST PART OF STELLWAGON WHICH WAS HARD BOTTOM WITH LARGE BOULDERS (SIZE OF CARS) WE USED TO CATCH ALOT OF BLACKBACK FLOUNDERS. BUT, AFTER THE PERFECT STORM OF 1991 THE GRAVEL AND BOULDERS WERE COMPLETELY COVERED OVER BY TONS OF SAND THUS DESTROYING THE HABITAT

WE HAVE ENDURED A PROGRESSION OF RESTRAINTS OVER THE YEARS TO PROTECT THE FISH AND THE FISH ARE COMING BACK. NOT ALL AREAS IN THE OCEAN ARE AS PRODUCTIVE AS OTHERS. FORCING FISHERMAN FROM THIS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE SHOAL INTO DEEPER WATERS WOULD BE THE FINAL BLOW.

THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN OF NEW ENGLAND SHOULD NOT BE FORCED FROM FISHING STELLWAGON BANK.

Scoping comments may be mailed to the Sanctuary offices at the above address or delivered to Sanctuary staff at one of the Public Meetings scheduled from Sept. 24-Oct. 5 in various locations around New England.

Would you like to be placed on our mailing list for updates on the mananagement plan review?
☐ **YES- hard copy** ☐ **YES-electronic updates**

Name: PETE LOANE
Address: 7 LEONA LANE
City: OSTERVILLE **State:** MA. **Zip:** 02655
Phone: 508-428-0102 **E-mail:** BELLEDUNE@ATTBI.COM

F/V VOYAGER
Todd M. Jesse
27 Olmstead Terrace
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-4938

Fish

October 13, 2002
Katrina Van Dine
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066
Dear Katrina Van Dine,

I would like to submit these written comments on the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan review. I attended the meeting in Woods Hole and made comments but would like to put them in writing. I am a full time commercial fisherman who fishes in the sanctuary 12 months a year. I would like to note that both the Boston and Plymouth meetings were held while the Fish Expo was taking place reducing the number of fishermen at the meetings. There are many important issues that must be dealt with. Commercial fishing was promised would not be closed out of the sanctuary when it was first proposed. This area was set up to protect a very important breeding ground for all kinds of marine life. When this area was set up it was to stop ocean dumping, mining, building and other destructive practices. This area was never intended to stop commercial fishing. This area supports many fishermen and their families and must continue. Rolling closures and whale entanglement reduction measures have been put in place and are working. The commercial fishing fleet is also a great scientific research platform. It is very important that the sanctuary protects water quality in this area. Issues such as the out fall pipe, dredging, mining and building should be sanctuary proprieties. It would also be a good idea to increase education at all levels to help reduce interaction with marine mammals. A no discharge zone would also be a good idea. In closing the sanctuary was named from Congressman Studds who was a very strong advocate for commercial fishing and it would be a dishonor to his namesake if it was closed to commercial fishing. Fishery management should be left to NMFS and the NE council. The fish stocks are coming back strong don't ruin this process. I look forward to further meeting to help protect this great and vast area. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Jesse

Luis M. Ribas
Captain of F/V Blue Skies
Barrosa Fishing Corp.
Provincetown, MA 02657
(508) 487-4462
Email: lrfish@gis.net

Fish

Dr. Craig D. MacDonald
S.B.N.M.S Superintendent
175 Edward Foster Rd.
Scituate,MA. 02066

Dear Dr. Craig MacDonald,

Like was promised, here are the maps with the boundary lines from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. I hope that your experience aboard my boat served as a method for you to understand the problems, which face the fishermen. Today, our fishing communities as well as others are in danger of losing our livelihoods. The project to turn our fishing grounds into the Stellewagen Sanctuary is proving to our biggest fight to date. We have come across many problems as a fishing community, but never have we feared that our livelihoods would be taken away. The area that is being considered for a sanctuary is in fact, our fishing territory. From those who are working on the project it's said to have the ideal habitat for this type of consideration. But as a fisherman, and someone who knows the area from so many years of fishing on it, I can tell you that this area is not the ideal place for a sanctuary. Really, it's made of sand and mud, but there is however an area that does have the ideal habitat that is wanted. My purpose for this letter is to give you my opinion and advice on a solution that will benefit both parties involved: those that seek a new sanctuary, and the fishermen who desperately need that area.

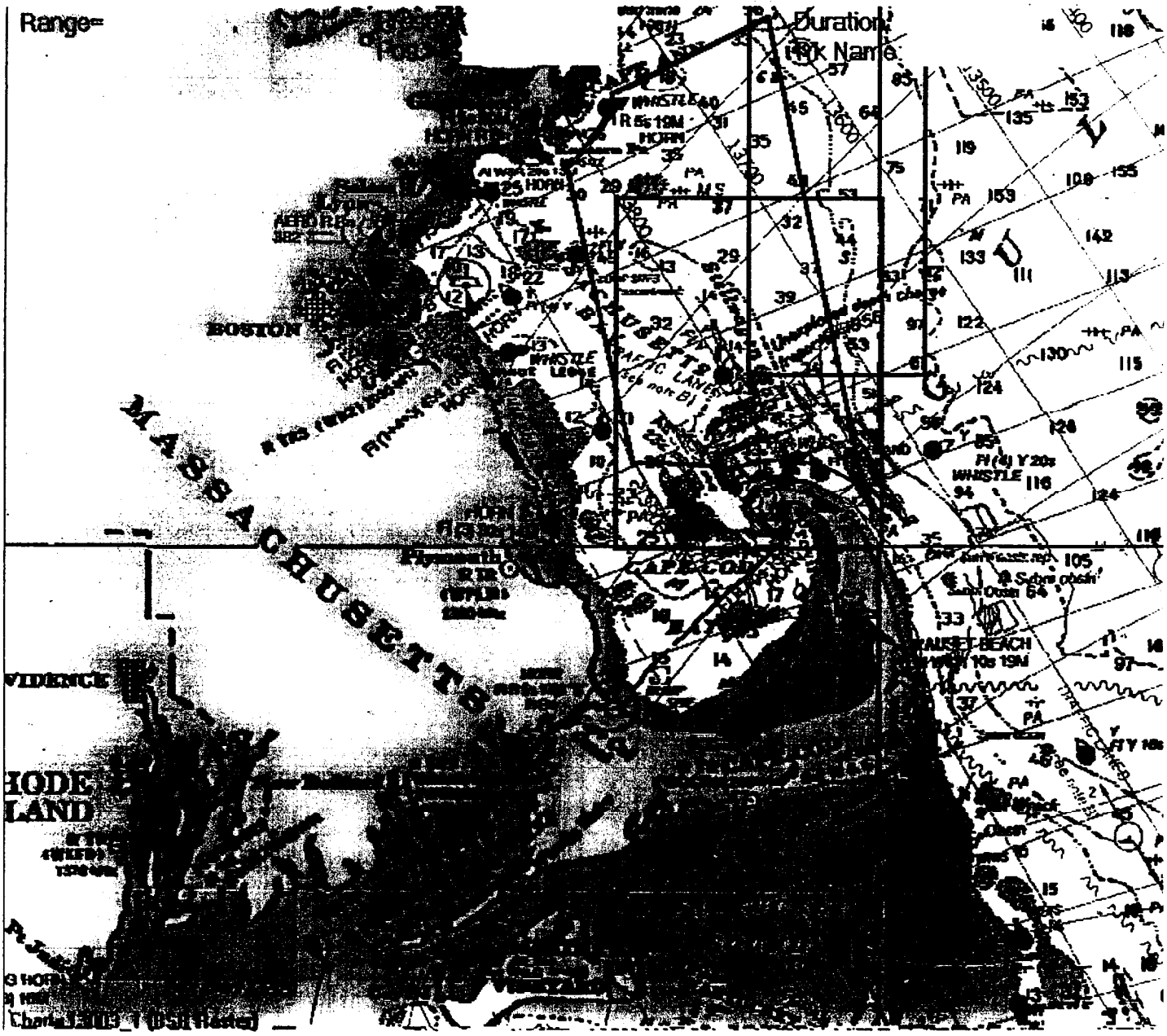
I think that our proposal of making the Western Gulf of Maine closed area (year round) a sanctuary is a better solution. This area is better area for the type of habitat that you are looking for. The area consists of shallow and deep water, and also consists of hard-bottom sea floors (rocks). This is where the fish protect themselves from predators and it's where the fish go repopulate. If you look closely at the maps over 70 % of the time we fish is inside of the sanctuary boundaries and if you see our proposal of WGOM the area is about 2000 square nautical miles. The boundary lines of the sanctuary are 638 square nautical miles. Basically, the area is ideal spot for the sanctuary. The considered area does not consist of these things. In fact, it's really mud and sand. Again, I am showing you and trying to explain to you all these things because I am not thinking of me alone, but rather a whole fishing community. I consider myself a conservator because I looked to the future and I think that only by communication can we, as man, understand each other. What I think is most difficult today is resolving the problems and yet making everyone happy. Yet, I feel that if both sides come together to try and solve this, both may leave happy and with understanding of one another. I will always be at your disposal for anything that is necessary

for the good of the future. Thank you once again for taking out of your time to read this letter and I hope that you take my advice into consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis M. Ribas

Cc. Dr. David Pierce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Plymouth
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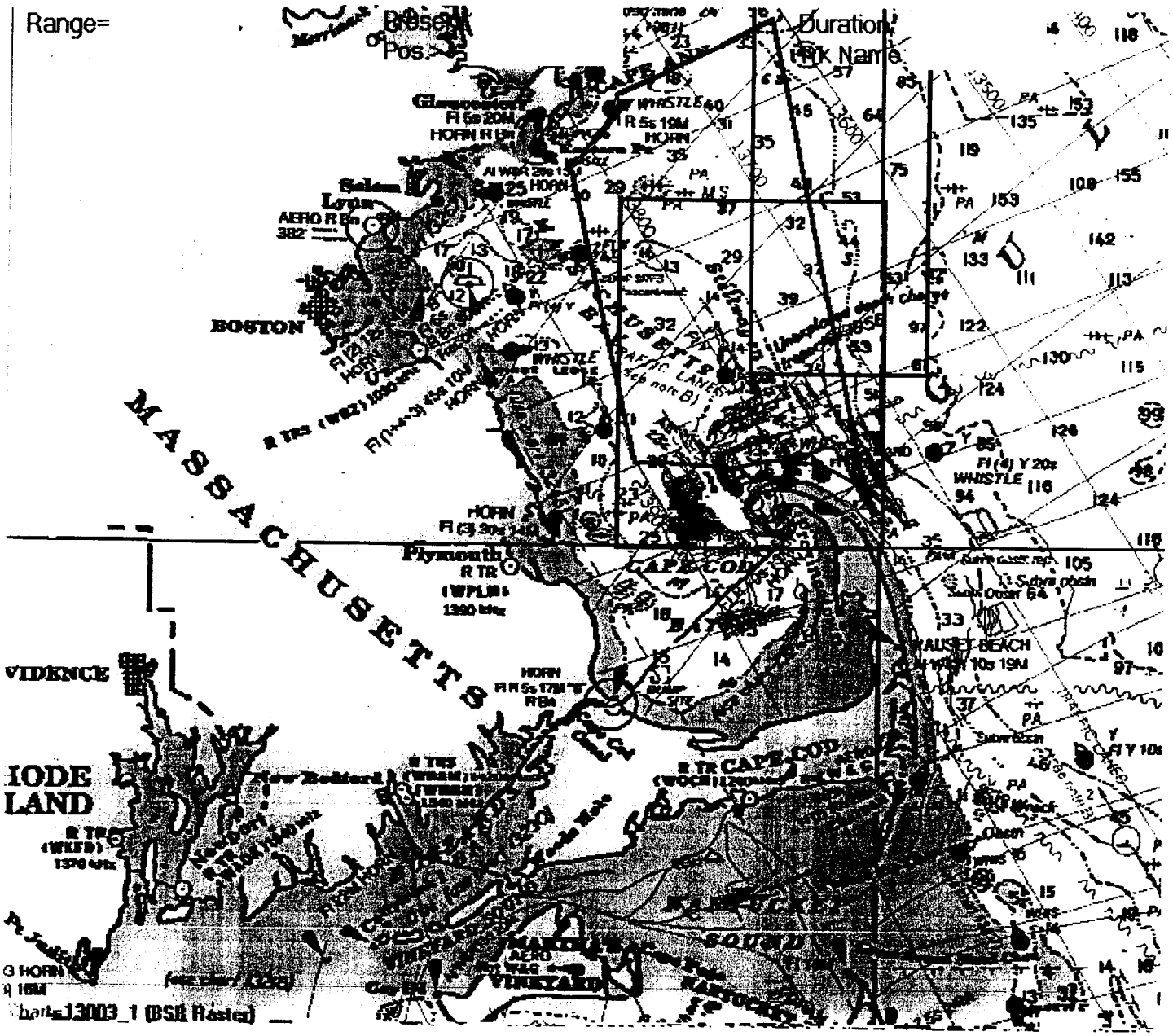

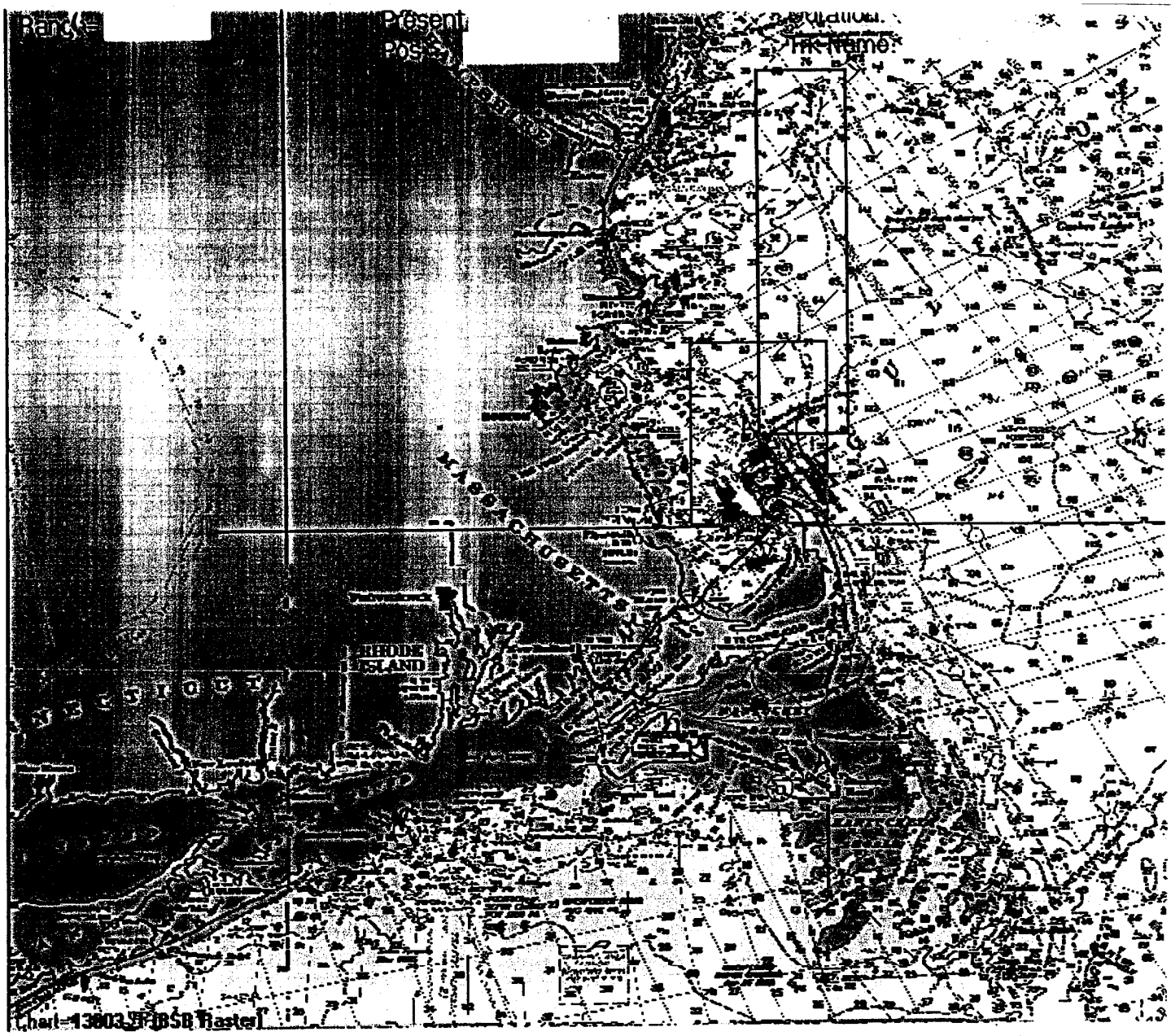
Present
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MASSACHUSETTS
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Green [illegible] (Rolling Closed)
Dark Red [illegible] (year round)
Blue [illegible]
Yellow [illegible]

n=16

16

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Dianna Schulte
PO Box 44
New Castle NH 03854

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

Currently only the southern 1/3 of Jeffreys Ledge is included in the sanctuary boundary. It makes little sense to afford Sanctuary status to only this portion of what is, in its entirety, a critical marine habitat. Arguments to extend this protection to the remainder of the Ledge include:

- It is the most important spawning habitat for Gulf of Maine herring, which are a primary prey item for many marine predators including marine mammals, predatory fish, and commercially important ground fish;

- It is an important fall feeding habitat for northern right whales, one of the most critically endangered whales in the world;

- It acts as a "buffer" ecosystem to Stellwagen Bank in years when prey productivity is low in other portions of the Sanctuary;

- It is vulnerable to the effects of highly developed coastal cities, which in this case includes Portsmouth, N.H., and Portland, ME.

Including Jeffreys Ledge in the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary would be a major stride towards protecting the marine resources of New England, and I encourage you to take this vital step.

Sincerely,

Dianna Schulte

Please **do / do not** (circle one) send me further information about the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan Review as the process continues.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Jennifer Hafner
24B Bradstreet Ln
Eliot ME 03903

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

DEBORAH SCHULTE
Box 122
New Castle NH 03854

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Deborah Ingman-Marien
9 Collins Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

Deborah Ingman-Marien

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

F A Schulze
PO Box 122
New Castle NH
03854

September 2002

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F A Schulze

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

JOAN DOWARD
395 EDWARD J ROY DR. APT 103
MANCHESTER, NH 03104

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

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Sincerely,

Joan Doward

Please **do** / **do not** (circle one) send me further information about the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan Review as the process continues.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Sandra LaBelle
590 Laydon St
Manchester NH 03109

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

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Sincerely,

Sandra LaBelle

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Julie Whelan
45 Mulberry Ln.
Chester NH 03036

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

Julie L. Whelan

Please **do** / **do not** (circle one) send me further information about the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan Review as the process continues.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

92 Megan Dr
Manchester NH 03109

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

Katherine I St Pierre

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Ryan Langley
6 Deer Run Rd
North Hampton, NH 03862

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Jamie Nancarrow
997 1st NH Turnpike
Northwood, NH 03261

September 2002

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

LEO AXTIN
144 WEST RD
RYE NH 03870

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

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Sincerely,

Leo Axtin

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Peter Reynolds
PO Box 768
Rye NH 03870

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

Peter Reynolds

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Beth Boucher
489 Bremer St.
Manchester, NH -03102-

September 2002

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Sincerely,

Beth S. Boucher

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Jacqueline Doucher
488 Bremen St
Manchester NH 03102

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

Currently only the southern 1/3 of Jeffreys Ledge is included in the sanctuary boundary. It makes little sense to afford Sanctuary status to only this portion of what is, in its entirety, a critical marine habitat. Arguments to extend this protection to the remainder of the Ledge include:

- It is the most important spawning habitat for Gulf of Maine herring, which are a primary prey item for many marine predators including marine mammals, predatory fish, and commercially important ground fish;

- It is an important fall feeding habitat for northern right whales, one of the most critically endangered whales in the world;

- It acts as a "buffer" ecosystem to Stellwagen Bank in years when prey productivity is low in other portions of the Sanctuary;

- It is vulnerable to the effects of highly developed coastal cities, which in this case includes Portsmouth, N.H., and Portland, ME.

Including Jeffreys Ledge in the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary would be a major stride towards protecting the marine resources of New England, and I encourage you to take this vital step.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Doucher

Please **do / do not** (circle one) send me further information about the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan Review as the process continues.

Scoping comment
OOM

NEW BEDFORD OCEANARIUM

Craig MacDonald, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02055

NGO

October 4, 2002

Dear Dr. MacDonald:

We appreciate the opportunity we had at the New Bedford hearing to be part of the exchange regarding the future of the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine sanctuary. We wanted to follow up with you regarding a collaboration to re-produce and distribute the Voyage of the Mimi series.

The New Bedford Oceanarium, Massachusetts Marine Educators and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth work collaboratively to create education programs and development opportunities for teachers. The Oceanarium is partnered with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth – School for Marine Science and Technology and Center for Teaching and Learning. Together we work to improve math and science education, and as partners we raise funding from private, state and federal sources.

At the hearing we suggested that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary has a tremendous opportunity at this time in recreating the "*Voyage of the Mimi*" television series. In the original *Voyage of the Mimi* viewers saw a dramatization of an environmental or science problem in the first half of each episode and the remainder was spent at a science / research site. It covered 12 topics, each episode lasting 20 – 25 minutes (classroom length). The *Mimi* sailed out of Gloucester into the Gulf of Maine, transecting Stellwagen on every trip. The vessel is still in Massachusetts Bay and available and "Captain Granville" is interested in picking up the story once again. The original non-profit producer has secured significant funding for math and science education. Together, we would approach them for the funding for the project. They know this series is a proven educational success.

The Voyage of the Mimi project is a match to education, outreach, resource protection goals and responsibilities of the Sanctuary:

- It will enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Sanctuary resources and show the need for their protection

Post Office Box 1906, New Bedford, MA 02741-1906 Telephone 508.994.5400 Facsimile 508.994.6623
www.nbocean.org

- It creates a product with widespread appeal, which can be marketed to public television, the Discovery Channel, the Nature Channel and others
- It is an outreach opportunity with schools and the University of Massachusetts system
- It will develop curriculum materials and other teacher aids
- It is accessible to the general public through broadcast
- It can be offered as CDs to libraries, environmental groups and other public service organizations
- It will have wide appeal and distribution
- It is a "traveling exhibit"

Outlined on page 6 of the Management Plan Review Update: 1998-200, Stellwagen Bank Issue 4: Lack of Public Awareness:

Concern A: Low Name Recognition

Develop and Implement Outreach Plan for Various Media

The *Voyage of the Mimi* series is the most compelling media. It will air on television and be available as a DVD and videotape. And anything that is "shot" for video can also be done live. Also, the return of this popular series would be widely publicized by general media (newspapers, radio, TV) and specialized media including trade and special interest magazines.

Develop Outreach Program for Virtual Sanctuary Visitation (e.g. Website)

The Voyage of the Mimi would be a major component on the web site. The *Mimi* would feed back images to the web site from cameras strategically placed around the vessel (e.g. bow camera). On board NOS scientists and student participants can step in front of the cameras at planned times to share stories and pieces of actual production shoots can also be fed to the web site. There is the potential for two-way broadcast via satellite for public and media dialogue. This method is used by the Ocean Alliance broadcasting internationally to its web site from *The Odyssey*, and is done as well by the Jason Project.

Develop Corporate/Celebrity Sponsorships and Other Partnerships

The voyage of the Mimi featured a young actor, Ben Affleck. Now a famous star, he is one of many potential celebrities that would be drawn to a high profile project such as this. Corporate sponsorship and public as well as private foundation support is much more easily obtained for any product that is widely distributed, particularly broadcast. The benefits of partnership are evident just in this letter alone. The opportunities coming out of this project would add pages to this letter and we would like to discuss them with you.

Concern B: Better Information Dissemination to the Public and User Groups

Develop Network of Sanctuary Information Centers

The Mimi would serve as the Sanctuary's floating Information Center. It could enter ports all along the coast and conduct workshops, open house, field trips, etc. Port communities would recognize the value of the Mimi and opportunities to place Sanctuary Information Centers within existing community resources (e.g. Visitor

Information Center on New Bedford Harbor) would proliferate, and at little or no cost to the Sanctuary. Schools participating in the Mimi program could serve as Information Centers, as could libraries in their communities.

Establish Sanctuary s Regional Marine Education Resource Center

The Voyage of the Mimi is well recognized as an excellent teaching tool. Each episode could focus on an issue identified by the Sanctuary, and include hands-on learning activities for students. We are offering a proven partnership to create exciting science and math programming indexed to state standards, to conduct teacher workshops and outreach to schools. This is all work the Oceanarium, Mass Marine Educators and UMass Dartmouth are already doing together.

Concern C: Program Support

Establish Graduate Intern Program to Facilitate Joint education / Research with Area Universities.

We are an established partnership that includes the graduate School for Marine Science and Technology, UMass Dartmouth. The School is also the main campus for the Intercampus Graduate School for Marine Sciences and Technology, University of Massachusetts.

We propose that by working together we could take the *Mimi* on another voyage through the Sanctuary and Georges Bank area. We believe the funding is there and we are offering our team to work with the Sanctuary to raise the money, produce the series and create educational materials and exhibits as well as develop alliances to disseminate Sanctuary and Mimi outreach materials. We believe there is a tremendous opportunity here and hope to get together soon to discuss this with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Belknap
Director, Education & Research
New Bedford Oceanarium

Jack Crowley
President
Massachusetts Marine Educators

TERRA NOVA
CONSULTING

Ac/Res

BY FACSIMILE

October 18, 2002

Ms. Katrina Van Dine, Management Plan Review Coordinator
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

RE: Management Plan Review Scoping Comments

Dear Kate:

I welcome this opportunity to provide comment on the issues facing the revision of the Sanctuary's management plan. As you know, marine protected areas have been a focus of my work for the past five years. As the author of two reports on marine protected areas in the Gulf of Maine and an advocate for greater community involvement in the management of marine areas, I am pleased to see that the review process for Stellwagen's plan has finally gotten off the ground.

At this point in the review process I want to offer relatively general observations about the role of the Sanctuary in the Gulf of Maine. These comments are enumerated below.

1) For the past few years it seems that everyone but the agency itself has tried to bring definition to the operational purpose of this site. The mission statement, although reflected in Sanctuary activities is not realized by them.

   It is of paramount importance to the effectual functioning of the Sanctuary that it clearly communicate, through its actions as well as its words, its primary and most compelling reason for existing. The public needs to know, from the deeds and practices of the site's managers and trustees, why is a National Marine Sanctuary present on Stellwagen Bank. What role is it unequivocally fulfilling? What fundamental contribution is it making? This raison d'etre needs to be realized unambiguously and repeatedly so that it provides the ultimate frame of reference for evaluating the Sanctuary's processes and products from one year to the next.

28 Martin Point Rd. • Friendship, Maine • 04547
ph: 207/832-6162 • fx: 207/832-6160 • e-mail: jatkinson@acadia.net

As the management plan review process moves forward I believe that this is one of the more important scoping issues that needs to be resolved. If there is not a shared understanding of why the Sanctuary exists, of what role it serves, then the search for common ground among stakeholders about what it should be doing becomes that much more fractious.

2) The role of the Sanctuary must be relevant to the context in which it functions. The Gulf of Maine is not an undisturbed wilderness. It is, however, a biologically productive area which has met generations of human needs. Stellwagen represents a critical site in the life of many of the Gulf's resources. Yet, like the rest of the region, it has been profoundly altered by human use. If the Sanctuary is to serve as the flagship MPA in this region it must lead efforts to understand the impacts of this use and the methods available to manage it most appropriately. To do this it must operate not only as a site of research in the natural and social sciences but also as a locus of management experimentation and learning.

   To date the Sanctuary has provided opportunities for marine scientists to increase the body of knowledge about aspects of the Gulf of Maine's ecosystem and impacts of human use. The site may soon also provide clues into our maritime past. What the Sanctuary has rarely done, however, is introduce, test, evaluate, and adapt to this region new methods available to improve the way we manage our use of the broader ecosystem.

   As a specifically designated marine site, Stellwagen Bank NMS should also be a locus of learning and experimentation into the efficacy of new management tools and approaches in the Gulf of Maine such as those designed to:

   - rationalize multiple use, such as zoning;
   - protect biological diversity, such as marine reserves;
   - reduce the unintended mortality of fish and wildlife, such as gear modifications; and
   - reduce the adverse impacts of nature-based tourism and maritime transport on wildlife.

This question of role is just one of the many issues facing the Sanctuary in the revision of its management plan. Although I have chosen to highlight this threshold issue, I remain deeply concerned about the Sanctuary's practical commitment to resource protection within its boundaries to date. Consistent with improving 1) our understanding of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and human use impacts and 2) our ability to manage these uses, is a need to ensure that the very resources that define the ecological character and significance of this area are sustained from one generation to the next.

28 Martin Point Rd. • Friendship, Maine • 04547
ph: 207/832-6162 • fx: 207/832-6160 • e-mail: jatkinson@acadia.net

J. Atkinson comments/ cont. page 3 of 3.....

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in this first stage of your management review process. I look forward to continued opportunity to express my views on the role and direction of management within the Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Atkinson

28 Martin Point Rd. • Friendship, Maine • 04547
ph: 207/832-6162 • fx: 207/832-6160 • e-mail: jatkinson@acadia.net

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
MPR Coordinator
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

KVD
Rec'd
10/11/02

Indiv

Mr. Laurent E. Autotte
55 River Rd. # 70
Manchester, NH 03104

September 2002

Dear MPR Coordinator:

I am writing to ask that the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary extend its boundaries to include the full length of Jeffreys Ledge as it revises its management plan in the coming months.

Currently only the southern 1/3 of Jeffreys Ledge is included in the sanctuary boundary. It makes little sense to afford Sanctuary status to only this portion of what is, in its entirety, a critical marine habitat. Arguments to extend this protection to the remainder of the Ledge include:

- It is the most important spawning habitat for Gulf of Maine herring, which are a primary prey item for many marine predators including marine mammals, predatory fish, and commercially important ground fish;

- It is an important fall feeding habitat for northern right whales, one of the most critically endangered whales in the world;

- It acts as a "buffer" ecosystem to Stellwagen Bank in years when prey productivity is low in other portions of the Sanctuary;

- It is vulnerable to the effects of highly developed coastal cities, which in this case includes Portsmouth, N.H., and Portland, ME.

Including Jeffreys Ledge in the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary would be a major stride towards protecting the marine resources of New England, and I encourage you to take this vital step.

Sincerely,

Laurent E. Autotte

Please **do** / **do not** (circle one) send me further information about the Stellwagen Bank Management Plan Review as the process continues.

RECEIVED 9/26/02

September 24, 2002

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

To the Committee:

I live in Wisconsin, but have braved the heavy traffic at least five times to go whale watching with Captain Bill. I most care about two things in this life:-the preservation of the environment and the preservation of animals. Humans are the enemy with their "I want, I need, you must give me, I have my rights" sort of thing. My parents once owned a little summer cottage on a little lake many years ago, but the population grew and grew and encroached on it, everyone had a speed boat, everyone cut down trees, trampled the vegetation, built large houses, chased out the birds, created dust, and made a wasteland out of a once beautiful area. So goes the whole world.

People must not be allowed to have their own selfish way on everything or to have their every whim satisified. They must be kept in check, or they will destroy every last thing on earth. The whales need to be protected, the ocean must remain a living entity, an ecosystem full of life and vitality. Stand up to the speed boaters and the fishermen who won't admit that the oceans are becoming virtually fished out & those who insist that everything was put here for their taking. We all know what humans are like. They would eagerly line up for the distinction of being the one to kill the last animal on earth. We need badly to hold the line against our own kind.

The key words should be "conserve" and "preserve" and "expand" in any decisions made regarding the Stellwagen Bank and the Jeffreys Ledge. There is so little left in the world of anything to conserve that we can't afford to lose anything more.

Thank you for your time and attention, and please remember that I speak for many, including future generations.

Sincerely,

Esther Mattson

Esther Mattson
11328 North Riverland Rd.
Mequon, WI 53092-2714

9 Clinton Lane
Highland Falls, NY 10928
22 September, 2002

Stellwagon Bank National Marine Sanctuary
175 Edward Foster Road
Scituate, MA 02066

Dear Sirs;

After being on a most successful whale watch and thoroughly enjoying seeing these wonderful animals we are in favor of anything that will protect them and encourage their future safety.

We are strongly in favor of extending the Stellwagon Sanctuary borders to include all of Jeffrey's Ledge.

We're sure you also wish to insure the safety of the whales and will consider this matter favorably.

Sincerely,

Doris Koziak

Doris Koziak

Erwin Koziak

Erwin Koziak

52 Derby St.
Waltham, MA. 02453

Rec'd 7/16/02 JVD

July 11, 02

Dear Ms. Van Dine,

Thanks for your return call & your interesting information. I am very concerned about the water quality on Stellwagen as a result of the Deer Island sewage pipe. You also pointed out that the balance between salt water/fresh water is also of concern. I am interested in attending public fora as time permits.

Elsa Lichman

MS. ELSA LICHMAN

WILLIAM L. BLANTON
9101 VOETMANN RD • FALL CREEK WI • 54742

The American Creativity Academy for B
P.O. Box 1740
HAWALLI 32018
Kuwait

August 29, 2002

RECEIVED 9/9/02

Dear Mrs Studds,

I was in Massachusetts in July and visited the Stellwagen Bank on Captain Johns Whale Watch Boat. The sea naturalist provided our group of teachers with literature from which I gleaned your name and address.

During the trip she explained that the region is open to re-evaluation of its use. It is this I'm most interested in writing to you. I would ask that you pass this on to proper channels.

Most simply, I feel that the restrictions in place are not severe enough to protect this global treasure. Drag nets, and gill nets should not be allowed at all. I agree totally with the dumping ban and sea floor preservation.

One of the most blatant abuses of the banks I witnessed was in whale watching. Captain Johns fleet and other similar vessels are keenly atuned to the dangers they present to marine life in this area. They cut motors at whale displays and travel only at low speeds. Additionally, each boat can handle a couple hundred viewers.

In my July visit, I witnessed a cabin cruiser with a pilot and a mere <u>three</u> passengers harass the whales we saw by speeding from spray to spray. I feel private vessels must obey the exact, if not more restricted, regulations of the commercial boats. Futhermore, I believe a law should be passed that commercial boats be <u>required</u> to report registration numbers to the Coast Guard of violators - perhaps even video tape as evidence their ruthless use of the area.

Obviously, I feel this area must be protected from destruction by man. I trust you and your colleagues feel the same. I was very impressed and reassured by current management/educational practices and strongly wish them to continue unabated with perhaps the strengthening I mentioned earlier.

Trusting in your stewardship,

William L. Blanton
Fall Creek, WI 54742

Currently teaching in
Hawally, Kuwait

RECEIVED 7/12/02

JUL 12 2002

6 July, 2002
31 Old Stage Rd.
Centerville, MA. 026
(617) 543-3862

Dear Dr. MacDonald,

This letter is to offer comment re.: SBNMS management.

My comment is to recommend creation of a BIG, pro-active P.R. committment, i.e., a vehicle (recognizing structure within management strategy) dedicated to finding and incorporating the most effective tools of communication to enhance public response and involvement.

To that vehicle, my contribution is that, the most effective

communication that enhances, nurtures and best speaks to my love of Marine life and all of Nature are:

① The vided series "OCEAN WILDS" THE JOURNEYS OF FEODOR PITCAIRN directed & created by Feodor Pitcairn; (available via PBS)

② The words as presented in the book, "THE EARTH'S WILD PLACES - VOL. 4" THE PRIMAL ALLIANCE EARTH & OCEAN (a Friends of the Earth series published with McCall Publ.) of John Hay;

③ The books of naturalist John Hay;

④ The photos as presented in the

covers of your

"MANAGEMENT REVIEW UPDATE: 1998-2002"

and "STATE OF THE SANCTUARY REPORT";

(5) Last but not least -

Direct experiences of and with Nature in its' undisturbed state.

Thank you for your commitment to good communication and for this opportunity to contribute comments.

Sincerely,

Kanoi Koberson

✓ also at Scoping Ptown recd 10/11/02 KVD

For the record my fishing activity and all other commercial fishing activity should not be stopped or restricted any further by the sanctuary authority.

Several years ago at the fish expo in Boston Brad Barr representitive for the Sanctuary told me personally, the creation of this sanctuary would never affect my ability to earn a living there. Their concern was to protect the bank from mineral and gas exploration.

Now the Sanctuary Authority is here seeking direction from the public as what to do. There are some that would like to stop all human activity out there, except for their pet projects.

Whats broken that need fixing? I wonder presently there are more Scallops, cod, haddock, Flounder than I've seen in more than 20 years fishing there. whats the problem? These species and others have made a great recovery in short time. They are rebuilding to their historic levels.

We fishermen have made the sacrafices to accomplish this recovery. Limited to 88 days at sea, Rolling closures up to 6 months in length, Larger mesh sizes. The list of restrictions goes on and on. These restrictions are from the New England fisheries Management council and the National marine fisheries service.

We dont need Marine Protected areas restricting us even further or creating no fishing zones. We already have hundreds of square miles that we are shut out of.

Stellwagen bank is very special, I know this from 20 years commercial fishing there year after year. My familys fishing heritage goes back several generations. This is were we harvest the renewable resource that helps feed this Country. I have a hard time thinking of this as a National Park for the general public, example Yellowstone, the Redwood forest, etc. So far thru my experience over the years I have seldom seen a family outing or a recreational fisherman utilize this sanctuary. The public generally pays 60 to 80 dollars for a family of four to stand in line on a whale watch boat to get a peek at a few whales. Is the intent to create a whale park? no other access

Recently at another meeting we were told the boundary lines are flexible, meaning it can grow, shrink or move any direction to better accomplish its goals.

I feel if the enviromental groups and all concerned parties including myself want to get the biggest bang for the buck, we should turn our attention to the coastline, wetlands, example P-town harbor, Hatches harbor, and Parret river.

All incredible classrooms where my children and the public can easily access it, free of charge and really experience the beauty of our marine environment. I think Commercial fishing as it presently exists should continue to exist on the banks It creates jobs and opportunities for our community and feeds thousands of people daily with a local fresh product.

Phillip Michaud Jr
Truro MASS