



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**  
**Office of National Marine Sanctuaries**  
**Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**  
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**39<sup>th</sup> SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**12 June 2013 9:30 am-3:30 pm**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office, Gloucester MA**  
**MINUTES of MEETING**

**Present:**

Bill Adler	Member:	Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing
Irit Altman	Alternate:	Research
Jennifer Anderson	Federal:	National Marine Fisheries Service
Michelle Bachman	Federal:	New England Fishery Management Council
Priscilla Brooks	Member:	Conservation
Todd Callaghan	State:	Mass Coastal Zone Management
Deborah Cramer	Member:	At-Large
Rich Delaney	Member:	Education (Executive Committee Chair)
Susan Farady	Member	Education
Heather Knowles	Member	Diving (Secretary)
John Galluzzo	Alternate:	Maritime Heritage
Vito Giacalone	Member:	Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing
Jonathan Grant	Alternate:	At Large
Whit Manter	Member:	At-Large
Chris McGuire	Alternate:	Conservation
Rob Moir	Member:	Conservation
Tom Nies	Federal:	Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council
LT Roger Thurlow	Federal:	Mass Environmental Police
Brad White	Alternate:	Recreational Fishing

**SBNMS Staff:**

Craig MacDonald	Deborah Marx	Nathalie Ward
Ben Cowie-Haskell	Elizabeth Stokes	
Matthew Lawrence	Mike Thompson	

Reed Bohne, ONMS, Director, Northeast Region

**I. Welcome, Review of Agenda and Approval of 37<sup>th</sup> SAC Minutes (Rich Delaney)**

The Agenda was reviewed and approved. The 38th SAC Minutes were reviewed and accepted (unanimous).

**II. Discussion Topics (Rich Delaney)**

i. Council Round Robin

SAC members and alternates introduced themselves and provided brief updates on issues within their respective organizations.

Reed Bohne, ONMS Northeast Region Director, stated that the resolution to reactivate SBNMS' and other sites' Site Evaluation List (SEL) has been successful. It is anticipated that there will be a Federal Register Notice (FRN) announcing that ONMS will start a new process to consider areas nominated for potential sanctuary designation. The FRN is not inviting nominations at this time, but rather identifying criteria in evaluating recommendations that are submitted to ONMS. This nomination process to designate new areas will be different than in the past. This time, it will be a much more community, constituent-based, grass roots process. When the FRN is published, sanctuary advisory councils will be asked for criteria to evaluate new sites and then a final notice will be issued with recommendations for SELs. This should all be in place by early fall. The old SEL was deactivated, so any sites previously listed will need to be reintroduced on the new SEL. This is a big milestone for the ONMS program and has been in the works since 1995. Expansion of boundaries of existing sites can be initiated at the site level. All divisions within DOC and NOAA are on board. ONMS leadership very much appreciates the input that this Advisory Council has made to make this happen.

ii. SBNMS Programmatic Updates (Craig MacDonald)

Craig MacDonald provided an overview of the programmatic updates compiled by SBNMS staff. This report is sent to SAC members before each meeting. It summarizes progress and future steps in the various programmatic areas and is sent by email rather than having staff provide oral briefings at each SAC meeting. (See Appendix for a summary of programmatic updates for this reporting period).

*Fathom That Update.* Anne Smrcina, Education Outreach Coordinator, and Bill Grafton from *Stellwagen Alive!* have posted *Fathom That* signs at all whale watch company facilities from Gloucester to Provincetown and on all boats. In addition, another dozen signs have been installed at education partners and key locations around the state, including the Harborwalk at the New England Aquarium, Cape Cod National Seashore, Cape Cod Canal Herring Run, South Shore Natural Science Center, South Shore YMCA, Maritime Gloucester and the sanctuary annex. Additional signs are now in development. The audio tour has approximately 60 recorded messages with accompanying mobile website pages. If SAC members know of additional locations where signage and important messages may be useful for additional recorded audio tours, please contact Anne.

2013 Sanctuary Fishing Classic: Several notices have been sent out to SAC members regarding the Sanctuary Fishing Classic that is taking place June 8-September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a fishing and photo contest within the Sanctuary and its adjacent waters from Newburyport wrapping all the way around Massachusetts Bay to Chatham, and is sponsored by the Sportfishing Conservancy. SBNMS is very fortunate to be identified as a site this year to sponsor this fishing contest for kids; it's a great way for them to be exposed to the marine environment. There are four \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded for the best photos at the end of the contest. The SAC is asked to please help promote this contest by reaching out to their constituents. In addition, a "Best Practices" fishing workshop related to the Sanctuary Fishing Classic will be held at the Plymouth Hilton the evening of June 12<sup>th</sup>. NERO was instrumental in helping set up this workshop.

The Army Corps of Engineers' notice for the Mussel Farm that is being proposed offshore has been announced. This would be a 33-acre floating farm with over 2000 feet of line situated one-half mile north of the sanctuary boundary. Sanctuary staff has notified the Army Corps of Engineers that this will require a consultation with them to discuss possible mitigation. Staff is concerned about the impact on conservation resources within the sanctuary, particularly on whales. If lines break free, this could cause major hazards for entanglement. This action has been initiated.

Anne Smrcina reported on the 2013 Marine Art Contest at the March 5<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting. The Mass Marine Educators notices of awards are being sent out and the new 2013 artwork will be touring in the fall. The 2012 artwork is presently on exhibit at NERO which also plans to host the 2013 artwork as well.

iii. Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) (Rich Delaney)

CHOW is the annual conference that has been held for several years now and is organized by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF). Its objective is to bring together congressional members and the marine ocean community to discuss marine ocean issues. Panels on climate change, ocean acidification, and new age of fishing were held, as well as panels that addressed the connection between tourism, recreation, and fisheries in the sanctuaries and benefits that can be mutually achieved. It was a successful week with key senators and representatives in attendance. Time was spent on Capitol Hill talking to officials about the state of funding for ocean programs. Many of our NOAA funded programs are being “squeezed” and there is now a concerted effort among many constituents and some major national environment and business organizations to create a lobbying effort to restore the NOAA budget to its full funding. There is a lot of support to make this happen and to address our region in particular. Information on any of the topics or proceedings can be found at NMSF website [www.nmsfocean.org](http://www.nmsfocean.org).

**III. Agency/Government Reports**

i. NEFMC Report (Michelle Bachman)

Tom Nies (Executive Director as of March 2013) and Michelle Bachman (Habitat Analyst and designee to the SAC) updated the group on NEFMC activities, particularly progress on the Omnibus EFH Amendment. Ms. Bachman explained that the Habitat and Groundfish Committees met jointly during May and June to develop recommended management alternatives for Council approval on June 19. The Committee's alternatives include a dedicated habitat research area that partially overlaps the Sanctuary, known as Sanctuary Ecological Research Area II (SERA II). This area would maintain current restrictions associated with the Western Gulf of Maine groundfish and habitat closures, and could include an additional reference area closed to recreational fishing. There are also two habitat management areas designed to minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH in the vicinity of SBNMS. The larger one has the same boundaries as the SERA II area, and the smaller one is a subset of the area more closely focused on hard bottom habitats. These areas could be designated as mobile bottom-tending gear closures or trawl gear modification areas where specific types of ground cables would be required. In the event of overlapping habitat management area and dedicated habitat research area designations, the more restrictive measures would take precedence. In addition, the Committees recommended converting the current sector rolling closures in the WGOM to groundfish spawning closures. The April and May blocks overlap the Sanctuary, and would be closed to gears capable of catching groundfish, possibly including recreational gears. The Council plans to review a draft of the Omnibus Amendment DEIS at their November meeting, and approve final alternatives next April at the conclusion of a formal public hearing process.

ii. NOAA Fisheries Regional Report (Jen Anderson)

**Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRT) Update**

NMFS convened the HPTRT May 13-15, 2013 in Providence, RI to discuss possible revisions to the Plan including the current consequence closure strategy. Discussions focused on improved compliance and enforcement of the current regulations and the potential to eliminate or change the consequence strategy approach. NMFS will hold a teleconference with the team on June 18th to continue these discussions and provide a proposal for moving forward.

**Whale SENSE update**

New website was created and we launched the first press release of the season. Our calculations show that the program has reached over 1 million passengers over the past 4 years of its implementation. 2013 represents the 5<sup>th</sup> season the program has been running. We've also created electronic trainings that all past participants must complete by July 5. Four new companies are enrolling this season: Queens, NY- American Princess Cruises, Cape May, NJ—The Spirit of Cape May and Cape May Whale Watcher, and

Plymouth, MA- Plymouth Whale Watch. These companies will receive in-person trainings later this month. 13 companies on the east coast now participate in the program.

### **Biological Opinions for Northeast Fisheries**

The draft Biological Opinion for seven Northeast Fishery Management Plans has been posted online (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/section7/bo/actbo.html>). This draft is available for review and comments may be submitted.

### **Proposed Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Rule Published**

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking comments on its proposal to make permanent the rules it implemented five years ago to reduce the number of collisions between ships and North Atlantic right whales. The rule proposes to continue existing speed restrictions during migration periods along three regions of the U.S. East Coast (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast). These measures are implemented during the time of year when right whales occur in each area. Speed restrictions apply to vessels that are 65 feet in length or greater, except federal agency vessels.

The proposed rule also seeks public input on ways to measure the effectiveness of the existing speed restrictions and whether they should be phased out in the future.

You may submit public comments via the Federal Rulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by visiting the comment page on the Office of Protected Resources website at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/comment.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/comment.htm). NOAA's Fisheries Service will also accept written comments mailed to: Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or faxed to [301-713-4060](tel:301-713-4060).

Written comments will be accepted no later than August 6, 2013.

#### *Comments and discussion that ensued regarding the Proposed Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Rule:*

Rich Delaney: Solicited discussion and comments since the SAC will not have the opportunity to meet again as a body before the comment period closes regarding the ship strike rule. Rich suggested a motion be made that would permit SAC to voice its opinion to NOAA, as an advisory council, that the existing speed restrictions be extended into the future as the rulemaking proposes. He proposed the following motion:

***Motion: That the SAC send a letter to NOAA to express support that the existing speed restrictions be extended. Motion by Rich Delaney, John Galluzzo seconded.***

Chris McGuire: Share metrics that define success. How many deaths in those management areas before the institution of the speed restrictions – just trying to build a case?

Jen Anderson: Doesn't have statistics, but will look into it.

Rich Delaney: Modeling studies have shown that these measures have reduced the probability of ship strikes to whales by 80 to 90% — unsure where the studies came from but quoted from NOAA rulemaking introduction. Have not seen any deaths of right whales occurring in the seasonal management areas that we can detect since it went into place. Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (PCCS) scientists believe it's been a very positive management measure and strongly support it.

Deborah Cramer suggests a more detailed motion: That Rich Delaney in his capacity as SAC Chair draft a letter on behalf of the SAC supporting the extension of speed rulemaking but not just as a blanket general support but cite specific reasons why, including the modeling, including the deaths that were taking place before and including the deaths that have not taken place since, because than it's a much stronger case because it's documented.

***Motion: That the SAC submit a comment letter that would support the NOAA rulemaking and cite its consistency with our already approved Management Plan, the stated scientific information that has been effective in reducing mortality and the ship strike compliance.***

Priscilla Brooks: The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) would strongly support this. It's on the CLF radar screen but she needs to run it up her internal flagpole. So she will not be able to vote to approve this. If there are people around the table who feel they cannot sign the letter, is it sent from the SAC or from individuals?

Rich Delaney: The majority vote or consensus option is used as the basis for making a statement, similar to the SEL letter where there was a majority vote and consensus. Others are free to individually, in their external SAC roles, to make comments as well if that route is chosen.

Irit Altman: Is the shipping industry opposed to this measure at this point?

Craig MacDonald: The initial discussion with the industry anticipates that they would probably not be supportive of this continuation. They prefer a much more definitive notice that this is where an animal is sighted, then they would slow down. The idea of a regional seasonal period is not as desirable. We don't have maritime industry representative present, so Craig cannot speak on his behalf. SBNMS staff is talking with the shipping industry that still shows some remaining reluctance to embrace this. For 4 years now, with support from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), SBNMS has been monitoring all vessel traveling through the sanctuary, off Race Point and Cape Cod seasonal management areas using AIS. We are monitoring compliance and non-compliance and every year, staff sends out to every shipping company that transits these areas a report on the performance of their individual vessels. About 300 letters go out every year. We're seeing a very significant increase in compliance as shown through some of the models along the southeast coast. We anticipate as a sanctuary that comments will be submitted in favor of making these closures permanent based on our monitoring of the two seasonal management areas that overlap the sanctuary.

General consensus among SAC is that more details are needed on the proposed rule before they can take a vote on the motion. Rich Delaney suggested postponing the discussion until Jen Anderson can provide SAC members with a copy of the ship strike rule proposal. ***Motion by Bill Adler to postpone discussion. John Galluzzo seconded.***

*Discussion/comments from continuation follow (Jen Anderson, Priscilla Brooks, Deborah Cramer, Rich Delaney, Susan Farady, Craig MacDonald):*

Jen Anderson distributed the actual rulemaking notification and Michael Asaro, NMFS Protected Resources Division, who drafted the proposed ship strike rule was available to provide more detail to the SAC, as needed.

Susan Farady: There were priorities identified in Management Plan for marine mammals. The SAC cannot contradict what it already signed on for.

Craig MacDonald: Comments will be prepared on behalf of the sanctuary. This is basically information for the public. This is part of the Marine Vessel Strike Action Plan in the Management Plan.

*After back and forth commentary about the content of the rulemaking proposal, Rich Delaney called for a vote on the motion initially proposed during the morning session:*

***Motion: That the SAC submit a comment letter that would support the NOAA rulemaking and cite its consistency with our already approved Management Plan, the stated scientific information that has been effective in reducing mortality and the ship strike compliance. (Motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstain)***

Bill Adler  
Irit Altman  
Deborah Cramer  
Rich Delaney  
Susan Farady  
John Galluzzo  
Heather Knowles  
Rob Moir

Priscilla Brooks abstains.

#### **IV. ONMS Campaign of Engagement (Rich Delaney)**

Rich Delaney reported that at the March 2013 SAC meeting, a Campaign of Engagement subcommittee was appointed composed of John Galluzzo, Vito Giacalone, Jonathan Grant, Chad Smith, Brad White, John Williamson, and Rob Moir, and Rich Delaney. The group had one conference call meeting since the last March SAC meeting; they had a good exchange with lots of substantive ideas all around the goal of attempting to follow on from and contributing to what started at the SAC Summit last year when SAC Chairs from all of the sanctuaries came together with Dan Basta, Director ONMS. The intent expressed at the SAC Summit meeting was to speed up activities that would increase their visibility of sanctuaries with a wider range of constituents and particularly see if there are steps that can be taken to have a mutually more productive and beneficial relationship with some particular sectors such as tourism, recreational industries, and fisheries. Other SACs around the country are engaged in the same process. Generated from the national SAC Summit, there were several topics that seem to be applicable everywhere. The subcommittee discussed increased collaboration with Chambers of Commerce, visitors bureaus, travel advisory boards, etc., and other private public partnerships. Useful next steps could be taken to engage the whale watch industry in a more proactive way; the possibility of branding the sanctuary more with outside school systems; more support to train volunteers in the ambassadors program; summer camps on Southshore that could have an ocean curriculum tied to sanctuaries, to mention just a few. Another major area was to engage youth, and to collaborate with other protected areas (i.e., national parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service designated areas, Cape Cod National Seashore, Boston Harbor Islands, as well as other agency programs that have some relationship to the sanctuary); also, to diversify constituents by targeting non-traditional audiences or untapped groups such as coastal tribes, or older groups. John Williamson conducted a comparative analysis with other SACs and SBNMS stacked up fairly well in the campaign efforts. There is a need to increase positive interaction with recreational fishermen with whom we have ongoing activities, such as the Sanctuary Fishing Classic, and to assess the abilities and difficulties as to how this could be turned in to leveraging for multiple goods. Consideration should be given to re-examining the composition of the SACs to determine whether they work well in all of these aspects mentioned above.

***Brad White motioned to create a media seat on the SAC to share with the “world” what the Sanctuary does so that the outside press would have the opportunity to learn and talk about items that are on the record. John Galluzzo seconded.***

*Comments/Discussion:*

Rich Delaney: SBNMS already has a media person, Anne Smrcina. Subcommittee should have her included in their discussions.

Priscilla Brooks: Interesting idea. Not only educate media but for media to educate the sanctuary about how to get the word out, how to be more effective in communication and public education. Maybe taking a step back and thinking more broadly about the composition of the SAC before taking a simple vote to add a seat. Supports waiting, but it's a good idea.

Brad White: Maybe create a job description for a media seat along with a search to see if we should talk about it or do it. Reach out to recreational outfitters (i.e. Cabelos, etc.) with a sanctuary logo. Promote the sanctuary by distributing flashcards and buttons. Put together a program tied into charterboat operators and promoting SBNMS.

Susan Farady: Has ranted about communications for the sanctuary for years. Agrees it's a problem. But troubled by addressing a problem like this with a seat on the Advisory Council. This SAC constituents' roles are two-fold: take information from the sanctuary and communicate it to constituent groups who have specific interests in sanctuary issues; and, communicate our advice back to the sanctuary when they need it. This is a different role than an operational role like communications. Not in support of creating a seat specifically — would support a subcommittee on communications. No reason you can't invite non-SAC members on broader or specific strategy on how to get better coverage for sanctuary.

Rich Delaney: Hearing some endorsement of the idea of increasing media connections, but to go slowly in solving that by changing the composition of the SAC. Let's not let it slide either — creating a separate working group is a good idea. Subcommittee will continue working on this and will come back to the SAC with some comprehensive ideas. Need to act on this. Rich asked Brad White to withdraw the motion with the understanding that the subcommittee will do something to work with media.

***Brad White withdraws motion but with the understanding that the subcommittee create a program of some sort to more broadly communicate the needs of the sanctuary.***

John Galluzzo: Conducted a survey of other SACs and their seats. SBNMS is one of the few sites that does not have a tourism seat.

Craig MacDonald: Need help in branding the site. The sanctuary is often referred to as “Stellwagen Bank” and not “Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary”. Need to get “sanctuary” promoted and incorporated into people's consciousness. A SAC “subcommittee” can only be made up of SAC members; a SAC “working group” can bring in outside people. Craig really wants to encourage this. Cultivating media can be time consuming for the staff. Having outside sources pushing, like John Galluzzo's articles in various publications, is great media attention and is very much appreciated.

Rich Delaney: Moving forward, the SAC Campaign of Engagement Subcommittee may want to become a “working group” to encourage broader participation.

Deborah Cramer: The media is not a constituency of the sanctuary. The media is a vehicle through which the sanctuary reaches its constituency. This is a really important distinction; therefore, the media should not have a place on the SAC. Distinction among the different kinds of media. The sanctuary has in the past gotten excellent coverage from some portion of the media and that has tended to be when the work done with the sanctuary staff has been interesting and compelling to the general public. Suggests that if members of the media are being convened, convene them to ask how to better communicate with them and also giving them something by bringing the most exciting pieces of work that the sanctuary staff is doing. It's extremely

difficult these days to court the media. The subcommittee could get the word out there about the incredible work being done on behalf of the sanctuary staff. Whale watching companies and recreational boaters are the logical place to get out the word. Get sanctuary maps out to the whale watch boats.

Rich Delaney: Will circulate the minutes from the working group's first conference call meeting. The working group will take all of these news ideas and report back to the SAC. He will come back with a set of directives for the sanctuary staff and SAC at the next SAC meeting.

#### **V. Working Lunch: “Effects of Climate Change on Marine Resources in GofM” (Jon Hare, NOAA Fisheries Service)**

The ocean and weather climate of the Gulf of Maine is changing more rapidly than expected. Temperature is increasing. Salinity is decreasing. Precipitation and river runoff patterns are changing. These physical changes have been linked with biological changes including shifts in phytoplankton and zooplankton community structure and changing distribution and productivity of the regions fisheries species. Efforts to couple climate projections with fishery models suggest that in the Gulf of Maine region some species will be negatively impacted by climate change (i.e., Atlantic cod, cusk), whereas other species will be positively affected (Atlantic croaker). These projections are first order and do not include species interactions and only simply define habitat. Much more work is needed, but the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is changing and this will create challenges for current management structures in the region.

#### **VI. New SAC Issues (Craig MacDonald)**

##### **i. SAC Vacancies and Recruitment – 15 August Notice (Nathalie Ward)**

Deadline for submitting applications is 30 September. There are six SAC vacancies and new recruitments for existing terms. Nathalie contacted all SAC members whose terms will expire. She asked SAC member to please rally their constituents and inform them of these vacancies.

- Research Member
- Education Alternate
- Business Industry Alternate
- At Large Alternate
- Youth Member
- Youth Alternate

##### **ii. ONMS Standardized Website**

Nathalie thanked SAC members for providing their bios and photos for the newly revamped SAC webpages. Please visit the new SAC webpages and send Nathalie any comments for improving them.

iii. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 November, at the Plymouth Yacht Club. More information will follow.

iv. No constituency report will be given at the present SAC meeting. However, Nathalie solicited constituency reports for future meetings. It's a wonderful opportunity for advisory council members to let everyone know what they're doing and to update the SAC in general. She would appreciate any suggestions or hearing from members who would like to give a constituent report at future meetings.

v. Leadership Award Nominations (John Galluzzo)

Last year, Bill Grafton of *Stellwagen Alive!* was the Leadership Award winner for his tireless volunteer work with the sanctuary. Once more, the leadership award nomination is open and John will be sending out an email to solicit nominations for this year's award. Please send John your nominees by mid-September. Also, more SAC members are asked to serve on the subcommittee; he needs help and it entails very little work.

**VII. New Business (Craig MacDonald)**

No Discharge Area Designations along the New England Coastline (Rich Delaney)

Rich Delaney: EPA has had this as a priority initiative for quite some time. The State of MA and Coastal Zone Management are very active in these discussions. Most of the New England coastline has gone through the process, and it has been really successful. It's not just a designation but a process where constituents can weigh in. There is a major requirement that there be a sufficient number of pump-out facilities within the areas so that vessels that are subjected to no-discharge regulation have a chance to comply. There is talk about SBNMS being worthy of designation as a no discharge area, since it's a special and critical area. Designating SBNMS as a no discharge area is one of the highest recommendations in the sanctuary's Management Plan. So the timing and SAC discussion should be on everyone's radar screen.

*Lengthy discussion/comments ensued among several SAC Members (Bill Adler, Priscilla Brooks, Todd Callaghan, Deborah Cramer, Rich Delaney, Susan Farady, John Galluzzo, Heather Knowles, Chris McGuire, Rob Moir, Tom Nies, Brad White, Reed Bohne, Ben Haskell, Craig MacDonald):*

The SAC felt this was an excellent idea. But how can it be addressed and how does it tie into the Clean Water Act. The sanctuary is in federally protected waters.

By 2014, every part of Massachusetts State waters will be both no sewage/no discharge. There were a lot of moving parts to accomplish this. Where do you put it and how do you build it. For example, Woods Hole Steamship Authority needed about 4 years to retrofit their plumbing systems on their ferries. Always wanted to do this for the whale watch vessels. Pump out facilities have been funded on Cape for this process. So funding is available to help with this process for both the design and implementation.

Typically one hears about no discharge designation areas in State waters along the coast. Has this been done offshore in Federal waters? Would it require some kind of change to the Designation Document to do this? Designating the sanctuary as a no discharge area is clearly one of the goals stated in the Management Plan. Don't dump in a special place. There is a lot of congressional red tape with the Coast Guard and everyone else. Standards and process to go through that should be considered. Target cruise ships rather than all vessels including small privately owned ones or fishing boats – consider selective targeting. Safe Waters in Massachusetts (SWIM) may be a receptive constituency in support of this. There are constraints and mitigations. Is there evidence that this is a problem for the sanctuary? What are the impacts? Discharge that is going on now in the sanctuary is entirely legal. Legal analysis should start with MARPOL.

Craig MacDonald made reference to the actual SAC working group report for Water Quality, and EPA was part of that working group. It came out as a recommended strategy in the Management Plan. It is possible in Federal waters, but requires EPA to do it. There were discussions with the Coast Guard at the time as well. There were two issues that related to the sanctuary — whale watch companies was one issue, but the larger issue was the cruise ships. Craig will have to go back and look at the language of the report and the discussions that were generated from the working group. There is no violation of the Clean Water Act, although the standard of conservation in the sanctuary should be higher. Alice Stratton is a sanctuary staff

member who is trained in spills and contamination and would be the ideal person to look into this. She could report on this at the November SAC meeting. Susan Farady offered her legal staff of young lawyers who are neutral and could also help.

Rich Delaney summarizes: SAC would like to instruct Craig MacDonald and his staff to prepare a background paper on this topic that would address some of the impacts that these boats are causing in environmental degradation (revisit and review the documents generated from the SAC Water Quality working group); do some legal analysis and possibly identify some of the key stakeholders with whom further discussions should be conducted and constituents (SWIM, EPA, CZM, among others). This will enable a more detailed discussion at the next SAC meeting.

**VIII. Public Comment.** None.

**IX. Adjourn:** 1:40 pm.

## SBNMS PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE – SPRING 2013

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Anne Smrcina):

#### OUTREACH AND MEDIA

**Press Releases/Media Advisories/Feature Stories** – A press release on the WhaleSENSE program was developed with NMFS and released by NOAA on May 6. A media advisory on the vacation week “Child’s Sanctuary” at Bass Pro Shops/Patriot Place was issued on April 17. Media campaigns will be prepared for upcoming announcements of Sanctuary Classic recreational fishing and photo contest as well as announcement of the winners of the 2013 marine art contest with Mass. Marine Educators. A media campaign will also be developed with Stellwagen Alive! to publicize the Fathom That! program.

**Fathom That! Audio Cell Phone Tour** – The sanctuary and Stellwagen Alive are actively completing work on version 1.0 of the audio cell phone tour, which may potentially reach large numbers of listeners throughout the sanctuary region. The first group of Fathom That signs have been installed (at SBNMS HQ, New England Aquarium, Cape Cod National Seashore, Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal Herring Run, and Maritime Gloucester). A second group of locations is being finalized at this time. Audio messages for a variety of topics (not necessarily tied to individual locations) have also been recorded and uploaded to the phone system. It’s a new way of exploring the sanctuary – fathom that! Call 781-304-1013 to begin your tour. Call Anne Smrcina about having your facility become a Sea Spot on the cell phone tour.

#### EDUCATION

**2012 Student Marine Art Exhibit** – The collected winning artwork from last year’s Marine Art Contest continues on its 2012-2013 tour. The show traveled to the Salem Maritime National Historic Site visitor center in March, to the New Bedford Ocean Explorium in April and will continue on to NOAA Fisheries NE Regional Office in May.

**2013 Student Marine Art Contest** -- Deadline for the annual Marine Art Contest for students was April 25, and 725 entries were received with many outstanding creations. The contest is sponsored by the Massachusetts Marine Educators, with co-sponsorship by the sanctuary, NE Aquarium, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Whale and Dolphin Conservation and Stellwagen Alive. The theme of the contest was “Amazing Ocean Creatures of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.” The sanctuary’s education coordinator, who is also on the Board of MME, is the contest director. Entries are now being judged and winners will be announced in late-May. Winning art from the 2013 contest will replace the 2012 winners in the traveling exhibit, which will begin a new tour in June.

**Undergraduate Course with Massasoit Community College** – A three credit introductory marine science course will be offered through Massasoit Community College in the fall at host site South Shore Natural Science Center (Norwell). Planning is now underway. Contact Anne Smrcina for more information about this effort.

#### PUBLICATIONS

**Stellwagen Bank E-Notes/Constant Contact Notices** – A Jan-March issue of E-Notes, the sanctuary’s online publication, was released and an Apr-May issue is in preparation. The intention is to post a new issue every two months (or as needed). With the Apr-May issue we will begin using Constant Contact as the means of notifying our contact list of some 20,000 individuals (newsletter mailing lists, staff lists, and

management plan/scoping comment lists). This service forwards emails and has an updating/unsubscribing service that would be unavailable through the regular NOAA email service. The E-Notes publication is also distributed on a number of electronic bulletin boards and listserves. SAC assistance in distributing this publication is appreciated. Contact [anne.smrcina@noaa.gov](mailto:anne.smrcina@noaa.gov) to provide any group contacts or individual names.

**Map/Poster Distribution Centers** – In an effort to distribute the SBNMS map/poster, bulk copies have been given to various organizations along the coast. Individuals interested in obtaining copies of the map are directed to these locations (PCCS, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, South Shore Natural Science Center, New England Aquarium, Salem Maritime National Historic Site visitor center, Maritime Gloucester. These “distribution centers” around the region help us reduce our mailing costs and make it easier for the public to acquire personal copies. If you would like your organization to serve as a distribution center, contact Anne Smrcina.

**Fact Sheets** – The sanctuary will continue to produce fact sheets on an as-needed basis.

#### **EXHIBITS (Deborah Marx and Anne Smrcina)**

**New England Aquarium Signage** – The sanctuary continues to work with the New England Aquarium on the rewrite/redesign of the backlit panels near the sanctuary tanks on the upper Cold Water Gallery level. This project was made possible by funding from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

**Seacoast Science Center/NERACOOS/SBNMS Exhibit** – An exhibit on sanctuary whale research is being developed for the Seacoast Science Center in New Hampshire by NERACOOS, the seacoast center and the sanctuary. Programming for the touchscreen kiosk is underway; text edits were done in April and forwarded to NERACOOS. The exhibit partners expect an opening for the exhibit in May-June.

#### **Animals without Passports Traveling Exhibit Receives its First Passport Stamp**

The “Animals without Passports” traveling exhibit was installed at its first venue, Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT, in April 2013. The exhibit follows the humpback whale’s migration between North Atlantic feeding grounds, including Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Caribbean breeding grounds. It showcases information on SBNMS’s sister sanctuaries program and describes the various hazards humpback’s face as they journey across ocean borders. Mystic Aquarium, one of America’s leading aquariums, showcases the living collections, science and conservation work of the Sea Research Foundation through exhibits and educational programs. Hosting approximately one million visitors annually, the Mystic Aquarium is the largest attraction outside of Boston, the largest non-casino attraction in Connecticut, and the fourth largest attraction in the entire New England region. The Animals without Passports exhibit is located in the Aquarium’s Foxwoods Marine Theater queuing hall and will be on display through October 2013. Exhibit funding was provided by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. For more information contact [Deborah.Marx@noaa.gov](mailto:Deborah.Marx@noaa.gov).

#### **RESEARCH (Dave Wiley and Michael Thompson):**

##### **WHALE ALERT**

(Partial Funding by the International Fund for Animal Welfare)

*Whale Alert* is experimentally being enlarged to include several new features.

##### **1. Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) data**

SBNMS is collaborating with the USCG, UNH/CCOM, IFAW and NOAA PORTS to display real-time tide and current information through Whale Alert. NOAA ports data are not currently transmitted via AIS and this would be one of the country's first programs to do so. An AIS transmitter will be placed on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge

## **2. Whale Sightings Function**

SBNMS is working with NMFS, IFAW, UNH/CCOM and EarthNC to develop a right whale sightings function to be incorporated into *Whale Alert*. Sightings data submitted through Whale Alert would go through the validation process currently used by the NEFSC before being displayed.

## **3. SkyMate Satellite Communication**

SBNMS is currently working with SkyMate to incorporate Whale Alert into their production platform, potentially greatly increasing access to portions of the maritime community

4. A Whale Alert web site is being developed

## **SEABIRD TAGGING**

(Partially funded by the Vogenue Foundation)

Tags purchased for great shearwater habitat use project:

11 x 12g Solar PTT-100 Satellite Transmitter

11 x Pressure Proofing

11 x Customized Housings with suture tubes

Permit received from **United States Department of the Interior**

Project approved by the **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

At the **University of Massachusetts Amherst**

Collaborators: USF&W and UMASS –Amherst.

Project includes placing solar PTT tags on 11 great sheawaters in 2013 May/June) to investigate habitat use. Body condition will be determined by mass measurements. Blood and feather samples will be collected for stable isotope (food habit) analysis in collaboration with BU. Capture for body condition and stable isotope data will be taken 3 times per year.

## **WHALE TAGGING**

2013 cruise was cancelled due to sequestration.

Team convening for writing and analysis assignments at SBNMS on 25 – 27 June.

Publication:

Ware, C., **D. Wiley**, A. Friedlaender, M. Weinrich, E. Hazen, A. Bocconcelli, S. Parks, A. Stimpert, M.

Thompson and K. Abernathy. In Press. Bottom Side-Roll Feeding by Humpback Whales (*Megaptera Novaeangliae*) in the Southern Gulf of Maine, USA. *Marine Mammal Science*

## **MARINE PLANNING**

David Wiley was a guest speaker and workshop convener for the Switzer Environmental Foundation's Meeting on Marine Spatial Planning (Woods Hole MA, 5 – 7 April). Major Representatives of marine spatial planning and students of the discipline in New England attended.

The Paper; “**Marine Spatial Planning to Protect Endangered Whales:** Realigning the Boston Traffic Separation Scheme and other MSP actions to reduce the risk of collisions between ships and North Atlantic right whales” has been accepted for publication in the Proceeding Magazine of the USCG. The *Proceedings of the Marine Safety and Security Council* is a principal outreach and communication tool for the Coast Guard’s Marine Safety & Security Council. The magazine reaches our partners and customers in industry as well as members of the Coast Guard. Authors are: David Wiley<sup>1</sup>, Leila Hatch<sup>1</sup>, Lindy Johnson<sup>4</sup>, Kurt Schwehr<sup>2,3</sup>, Michael Thompson<sup>1</sup>, and Craig MacDonald<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA’s National Ocean Service, 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA, 02066, USA

<sup>2</sup>Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping Joint Hydrographic Center, University of New Hampshire, 24 Colovos Road, Durham, NH 03824, USA

<sup>3</sup>Google Oceans, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043

<sup>4</sup>NOAA General Counsel’s Office of International Law, NOAA, Herbert C. Hoover Bldg., 14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20230, USA

## **NANCY FOSTER FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT**

Caitlin Jensen, a master’s student in GIS from the University of San Francisco and a Nancy Foster Scholar, spent 3-months at SBNMS learning from Mike and Brad the trade of operationalizing AIS data.

## **OPERATIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (Ben Cowie-Haskell, Alice Stratton, and Dave Slocum):**

### **Vessel and Facility Operations**

- The RV *Auk* has returned to its homeport on Scituate Harbor after spending the winter at Brewer boatyard in Plymouth. Thanks to Tim Moll for his excellent service.
- Due to budget cuts the RV *Auk* has only three internally-funded missions planned for this field season (May-Oct) and 19 externally-funded missions that are funded by partners, such as WHOI, through grants.
- In the next two months the RV *Auk* will be retrofitted for a Scientific Computer System which will collect and log meteorological and oceanographic data while underway. The parameters measured will be: wind speed and direction, air temp, relative humidity, barometric pressure, surface water temp and salinity.
- We hope to receive some Hurricane Sandy repair funds to help shore up the pier which took a beating during the hurricane but suffered no major damage.

### **Special Projects**

Shipwreck Ecology- Staff have initiated an effort to document the fish and invertebrate communities on shipwrecks in SBNMS, in order to develop a baseline habitat characterization of the shipwreck communities and to enable long-term monitoring as recreational diving increases within SBNMS. Using photos and videos from previous surveys, staff are working with Peter Auster at University of Connecticut to identify species that use each shipwreck. In addition to creating a baseline characterization, we hope the data will also reveal whether there are differences between types and locations of wrecks (wood v. iron, deep v. shallow, muddy bottom v. sandy bottom). Data has been collected for Paul Palmer, and species identification has begun for the Portland.

Spill Preparedness- Staff are planning a Spill Preparedness Workshop to be held at the end of May. This workshop is being planned in partnership with staff from NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration and with the ONMS Emergency Response Coordinator, and will include partners from NMFS, USCG,

Mass DEP, and local responders. The goal of the Workshop is to focus SBNMS staff and partners on roles and responsibilities in responding to a spill in the sanctuary.

### **SANCTUARY AMBASSADORS PROGRAM (Anne-Marie Runfola):**

#### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DEVELOPING CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

The Volunteer Program has developed partnerships with Bass Pro Shops and Eastern Mountain Sports this spring. The collaborations were successful, paving the way for future programs with both companies and contributing to the ONMS goal of creating industry partnerships.

*A Child's Sanctuary: Whales In My Backyard!* at Bass Pro Shops: On April 18th, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary offered a four-hour program at Bass Pro Shops in Foxborough, MA for 2,000 visitors. Nine volunteers joined SBNMS staff members Deborah Marx and Anne-Marie Runfola to introduce families to the wild ocean place just off their coast. Participants also “migrated” through an obstacle course between Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary and the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic. The course highlights threats to these travelers and our Sister Sanctuary Program, which works to address issues at both ends of the whales’ migratory corridor. The 140,000-square-foot Bass Pro Shops’ outdoor retail and lifestyle superstore is the signature tenant for the new Patriot Place development project located adjacent to Gillette Stadium where the New England Patriots football team plays. Bass Pro Shops is part museum, art gallery, aquarium, education, conservation, and entertainment center that attracts 1.2 million visitors annually from all over New England.

This event enhanced our existing relationship with Bass Pro Shops that began in November 2012 when Deborah Marx and Matthew Lawrence installed an interactive touchscreen kiosk there. The Bass Pro Shops Director of Operations and Events Manager both said that Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary was a natural fit with Bass Pro Shops and invited us to return with more programming.

*EMS Club Day:* Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) is an outdoor recreation company with stores throughout New England. They have a history of partnering with local environmental organizations, so we offered to bring Ambassadors programming to a local store, to establish a relationship with the company. On May 3-4, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary participated in its first EMS event, *Club Days*, at the Bourne store on Cape Cod. Volunteer Coordinator, Anne-Marie Runfola, set up a booth featuring the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, ONMS, and our sanctuary. We reached at least 1,500 shoppers. Visitors were asked to show membership in an environmental organization or sign up to join one of the featured non-profits in order to receive a discount. Of the four organizations featured, we had the largest number of people who signed up to receive more information and contributed to the NMSF. The partnership with the Bourne store will serve as a template for working with other EMS stores, and other outdoor recreation companies in Massachusetts and beyond, such as REI.

#### **SANCTUARY AMBASSADORS EARLY SPRING PUSH REACHES 2,300 FROM BOSTON TO CAPE COD**

Stellwagen Sanctuary Ambassadors have sprung into action in the last month, helping SBNMS staff booths and run educational activities at six events along the coast of Massachusetts. Ambassadors talked up the sanctuary with dive aficionados at the Boston Sea Rovers show, families at the Science in the Streets festival at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, and professionals and retirees seeking opportunities at a Volunteer Expo in Scituate. They ran activities at the South Shore Natural Science

Center's Whale Day, and the Scituate Science Spectacular. Overall, they have reached 2,300 community members directly in the past month.

These events relate directly to NOAA's mission of conserving marine resources by communicating to the public the existence and value of such resources. The volunteers communicated their passion for the sanctuary, reasons they volunteer and the activities they perform, which resulted directly in requests for more information and new volunteer applications submitted. Without the volunteer Ambassadors to help represent us, sanctuary staff would have had to turn down as many as half the requests for participation in these events.

### **25,000 SPECTATORS CHEER FOR STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DURING ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

25,000 spectators cheered as Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary staff, family and volunteers marched in the Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Sanctuary's "Friends" group, Stellwagen Alive!, was represented by its Executive Director, Bill Grafton, who marched and photographed along the nearly 3-mile route. Scituate is called the "Irish Riviera" and boasts the second largest parade in the state of Massachusetts and the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest in the country, drawing huge crowds and publicity each year. Sanctuary staff festooned their whale tagging boat and pickup truck with St. Patrick's green and NOAA blue, creating a festive 45-foot float complete with a Humpback fluke, miniature tagging pole and "D-tag," and volunteers blowing "bubble nets" with soap bubbles. Humpback whale songs accompanied the 30 marchers as they made their way along the route with 73 other organizations. Spectators cheered and thanked us for our work.

Students and the lead teacher from the Gates Intermediate School Ecology Club, an active group with the Sanctuary volunteer and education programs, carried two banners, including one announcing them as "Stellwagen Bank Gates School Student Ambassadors." The students wore the whale hats they designed for the parade last year. Several alumni of the club, now high school students, joined us and brought their friends to drum up interest in a high school collaboration with the sanctuary.

### **STELLWAGEN SANCTUARY SEABIRD STEWARDS PROGRAM (S4)**

#### **S4 Named in Top 10 Sanctuary Volunteer Programs of 2012**

For National Volunteer Week in April, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries named the Top 10 volunteer programs for 2012, and the Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards made the list:

[www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

#### **Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative Conference and Working Group Meeting, March 6-9, 2013**

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is a member of the Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative, a consortium of U.S. and Canadian government agencies, non-profit organizations, and research universities that focus on marine bird work along the Atlantic coast. The goals of the cooperative are to share information, set research priorities, collaborate on projects and funding strategies, and work with government regulators and industry to set policy regarding wind turbine siting and other projects with potential impact on marine birds.

Volunteer Coordinator, Anne-Marie Runfola, represented Stellwagen Sanctuary in the Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative Meeting on March 6-9, 2013 in Charleston, S.C. Participants represented government agencies (US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA NMFS, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, e.g.), universities, and non-profits. Anne-Marie Runfola presented on the Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards program, a long-term citizen science research project to collect baseline data on seabirds in the sanctuary. The group confirmed the importance of this finer-scale study, and its outreach and education

benefits, and reaffirmed that the data could and would be included in the full East Coast database being organized by the Cooperative.

The Cooperative recommends projects for funding (e.g., to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management), and some of the members are funders themselves (e.g., USFWS). By joining the group and presenting at the meeting, SBNMS projects are more visible and will be considered for funding and collaboration. In fact, at this meeting, US FWS committed to a first small grant this spring for the S4 program. Data collected in the sanctuary can be useful for larger databases used in policy decision-making, such as the USFWS Atlantic bird map and the USGS database. The Cooperative has allowed us to identify joint research projects, and Sanctuary Research Coordinator, David Wiley, and US FWS's Linda Welch began a shearwater tagging project last summer that will continue into the future.

### **Seabird Stewards Run First Ever Spring Research Cruise**

Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards (S4) found a large enough gap in the wind and rain to run the program's first ever spring research cruise on 4/5/13. Six trained volunteer Stewards, from a high school student to retirees—all top-level birders—joined SBNMS Volunteer Coordinator, Anne-Marie Runfola, and Nancy Foster Scholar, Caitlin Jensen for the 108-mile trip. The group sighted a variety of alcids, including Common and Thick-billed Murres, Razorbills and an Atlantic Puffin; Icelandic and Glaucous Gulls; and a number of Northern Gannets, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls.

The observations will add to the growing dataset for this long term study, to help us obtain baseline data and then track changes over time in distribution, relative abundance, diversity, behaviors and associations. Funding from SBNMS and the Blake Nuttall Fund allowed us to run the first spring cruise, and data from each season is critical for intra- and inter-annual comparisons. The data is being shared with NOAA Fisheries and Boston University, and will be added to the Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative's database, encompassing survey data from the entire east coast along Canada and the U.S.

### **Citizen Scientists Trained to Contribute to Sanctuary Research; More Whale Watch Companies Join the Effort**

On May 7, 2013, SBNMS held a workshop to present results from the first year of the Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards research program (S4) and to train 20 new or returning Stewards. To date, our 30 citizen scientists have helped us record 26,000 bird sightings in less than 1.5 years on 11 cruises on our *Research Vessel Auk*, and 41 whale watch trips.

After kicking off 2013 with our spring *Auk* cruise, we will soon resume data collection on whale watch vessels. In addition to the three whale watch operators on the south shore and Cape Cod (Dolphin Fleet, Hyannis Whale Watch and Captain John's), we are expanding to partner with 2-4 more companies in the north, in Boston, Gloucester and hopefully Newburyport. This will give us more complete coverage of sanctuary waters. In general, the companies consider it a bonus to have the Stewards on board. They announce that Sanctuary volunteers are on board, one captain/lead naturalist blogs about the program, two companies use this for their Whale SENSE stewardship project, and some are planning to add S4 to their promotional materials. In return, our volunteers provide a tally to the lead naturalist at the end of each trip, so that naturalist can announce findings to guests, and we will send the operators a report each year.

### **High School Marine Science Symposium**

The sanctuary played a major role in this year's Massachusetts Marine Educators annual High School Marine Science Symposium. Anne Smrcina, education coordinator ran two workshops on the Integration of Art and Science, which provided information on marine species diversity in the sanctuary and ways students can use that material in the annual marine art competition sponsored by MME and co-sponsored by the sanctuary and four other organizations. The sanctuary's volunteer programs coordinator, Anne-Marie Runfola, gave a keynote talk on Seabirds in the Sanctuary, which included information about the

sanctuary's Seabird Stewards Program, a volunteer effort with Mass Audubon to document the types and numbers of birds that frequent the sanctuary through both standardized surveys and observations from vessels of opportunity (whale watch fleet). The March 20 symposium attracted approximately 325 students from schools throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

## **A CHILD'S SANCTUARY PROGRAM**

### **Teen Ambassador Earns Highest Level Girl Scout Award for Sanctuary Project**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Teen Ambassador, Caitlin Fitzmaurice, received the Girl Scout's highest and most prestigious honor, the Gold Award, for her outreach work with SBNMS. Caitlin, who gave a presentation at the last SAC meeting, developed and produced two events, *A Child's Sanctuary: Go Green for Marine Life*, for young children and their parents this summer/fall (8/25 and 9/22). The programs celebrated the sanctuary's marine mammals. 130 children and their parents listened to ocean stories inside a life-size whale, tried on a blubber glove, ate like a whale and learned about entanglement risks to marine mammals and how the sanctuary and its partners work to protect them.

Caitlin led six other sanctuary Ambassadors for each event, and organized the programs in partnership with the Scituate Town Library. Both events garnered several articles in the local press, including a full-page photo spread in the Scituate Mariner. Feedback was very positive, with participants requesting future events, introductions to local schools, and more information on volunteering with the sanctuary. In addition to running the programs, Caitlin also gave presentations to several groups about the sanctuary and her work with us, including to a group of science teachers from Scituate to help connect them with sanctuary staff and programs. By attaining the Gold Award, Caitlin will garner more press this spring and have more opportunities to talk to the public about her work with the sanctuary.

In addition to the publicity and educational value of the programs, this is the first time a volunteer has run A Child's Sanctuary programming without the Volunteer Program Coordinator present. This paves the way for additional programs run by volunteers, giving the sanctuary much greater outreach potential.

### ***A Child's Sanctuary Returns to Scituate Town Library***

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Gates Intermediate School Environmental Club offered *A Child's Sanctuary: Bottom of the Sanctuary*. Six teens and one teacher joined Volunteer Coordinator, Anne-Marie Runfola, in introducing 50 parents and young children to the wonders below the surface of the sanctuary and how we explore, document and protect the resources we discover. This is the second annual *Child's Sanctuary* event run with Gates and is helping prepare them to run the second annual Gates *Stellwagen Sanctuary Day* on May 30<sup>th</sup>, with activities for all 500 students in their school.