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NOAA'S STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SEEKS ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICANTS

NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is seeking to fill 16 seats on its advisory council, which represents the public's interests in sanctuary matters and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

The sanctuary is accepting applications for primary and alternate seats representing Research, Conservation, Whale Watching, Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing, Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing, Diving, Education, Business and Industry, and At-Large.

Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and knowledge regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve two- to three-year terms.

"Each member brings a unique perspective to the council based on his or her long experience in the New England area," said Craig MacDonald, sanctuary superintendent. "We are very pleased that council members offer their considerable talents to help us manage the resources of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary."

The Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 2001 to assure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. Specifically, the council provides the sanctuary superintendent with advice on the sanctuary's resource protection, research, education and outreach programs. The volunteer council's 17 voting members and 6 ex-officio members represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and state and federal governmental jurisdictions.

Applications are due June 1, 2010. To receive an application kit, or for further information, please contact Elizabeth Stokes by e-mail at Elizabeth.stokes@noaa.gov; by phone at 781-545-8026 X 201; or by mail at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA 02066.

Designated in 1992, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 842 square miles of ocean, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Cod. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports a rich diversity of marine life including 22 species of marine mammals, more than 53 species of seabirds, more than 60 species of fishes, and hundreds of marine invertebrates.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web:

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>