



Contact: Anne Smrcina  
781-545-8026 ext. 204

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 21, 2012

## **NOAA'S Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Advisory Council Applicants**

NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for five seats on its advisory council, which ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

"Each of the members brings a unique perspective to the council based on their long experience in the New England area," said Craig MacDonald, sanctuary superintendent. "Since its establishment, the council has played a vital role in advising the sanctuary and NOAA on critical issues. We are very pleased that council members offer their considerable talents to help us manage the resources of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary."

The sanctuary is accepting applications for one citizen-at-large member; two research alternates; and two youth member and alternate seats.

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

The advisory council consists of primary and alternate members representing a variety of public interest groups. It also includes six governmental seats representing associated state and federal agencies.

Applications are due by April 27. To receive an application kit or for further information please contact Elizabeth Stokes via e-mail at [Elizabeth.Stokes@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Stokes@noaa.gov); by phone at 781-545-8026 X 201; or by mail at 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA 02066. Application kits can also be downloaded from the sanctuary's website at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>.

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 30 species of seabirds, over 60 species of fishes and hundreds of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

### **On the Web:**

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

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

# # #