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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2010

NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Appoints New Advisory Council Members

NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary announced seven new primary members and three alternate members to serve on its sanctuary advisory council. The new appointees bring a valuable range of experience to the council, which provides sanctuary staff with input and recommendations on sanctuary programs and management.

"The sanctuary advisory council is an important link between sanctuary management and user groups and communities," said Craig D. MacDonald, sanctuary superintendent. "The members bring unique perspectives to the council based on their long experience in the New England area. We are very pleased that council members offer their considerable talents to help us manage the resources of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary."

The newly appointed primary (P) and alternate (A) advisory council members are:

- Mason Weinrich, Research (P) — Whale Center of New England, Executive Director
- Wayne Peterson, Research (A) — Massachusetts Audubon, Director of Important Bird Area Program
- Priscilla Brooks, Conservation (P) — Conservation Law Foundation, Director of Ocean Conservation Programs
- Steve Milliken, Whalewatching (P) — Dolphin Fleet Whalewatch Boats, Owner
- William Adler, Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing (P) — Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Executive Director
- David Casoni, Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing (A) — Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Secretary/Treasurer
- Heather Knowles, Diving (P) — Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions, Owner
- Robert Foster, Diving (A) — Environmental Health and Engineering, Director of Marketing and Business
- Theresa Barbo, At-Large (P) — Cape Wildlife Center, Executive Director
- Tim Moll, Business and Industry (P) — Brewers Plymouth Marine, Manager and Vice President

Established in March 2001, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council provides advice and recommendations on managing and protecting the sanctuary. The council is composed of six government and 17 non-governmental representatives. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the council members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public. Sanctuary advisory council primary and alternate members serve two- or three-year terms and meet several times a year in public sessions.

Designated in 1992, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 842 square miles of ocean, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Cod. Renowned for its 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 80 species of fishes, and hundreds of marine invertebrates.

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On the Web:

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