

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary



- **Year Designated:** 1992
- **Size (area):** 842 square miles
- **Location:** 25 miles east of Boston, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Cod at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay
- **State Waters:** None
- **Purpose:** To facilitate the long-term protection and management of the resources and qualities of the Stellwagen Bank system.
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** None
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1992
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** The Draft Management Plan is under NOAA review and is expected to be released in late spring 2006.



Map credit: Stellwagen Bank NMS

Sanctuary Website: <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>
Sanctuary Regulations: 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart N

Research and Monitoring in the Sanctuary:

- Marine mammals research including entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes, and human disturbance.
- Research in the Western Gulf of Maine closure area (created in 1998) on the effects of closed areas on responses of fish populations to changes in fish habitat, recovery rates of seafloor habitat from chronic gear disturbance, and (if experimental fishing would ultimately be permitted within the closure) habitat-gear-effort specific rates of impacts.
- Cod tagging program every summer to determine the extent to which cod return to the same locations.
- Searching for and identifying shipwrecks.

Examples of Endangered and Threatened Species in the Sanctuary:

Endangered	Threatened
Sperm Whale	Green Sea Turtle
Sei Whale	
Northern Right Whale	
Humpback Whale	
Finback Whale	
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	
Leatherback Sea Turtle	
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	
Atlantic Salmon	

**Summary of Regulation of Activities and Uses in
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**
(For full regulations, see 15 C.F.R. § 922 and contact the regulating agencies)



Type of Use	Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS)				Examples of Other Regulating Agencies, States/Territories, or Laws (may not be comprehensive list)
	Zoned (areas closed to this type of use)	Restricted	Prohibited	Comments	
Commercial Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	New England Fishery Management Council
Recreational Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	New England Fishery Management Council
Bottom Trawling				Not regulated by NMS regulations	New England Fishery Management Council
Collecting Aquarium Fish				Not regulated by NMS regulations	New England Fishery Management Council
Aquaculture				May be regulated under Discharges and Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency
Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor		√		Only listed activities, including anchoring and traditional fishing operations, are allowed	
Seabed cables or devices				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC
Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals			√		Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Removal/Damage of Natural Resources		√		Take of marine mammals, sea turtles, or seabirds restricted	Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources		√		Only allowed if occurs incidental to traditional fishing operations	Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987
Overflights				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Use of motorized watercraft		√		Lightering prohibited, all other use is allowed	
Underwater Noise				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS		√		Listed types of discharge allowed	U.S. Coast Guard
Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources		√		Listed types of discharge allowed	U.S. Coast Guard

Other Regulations: Permits for research, education, or salvage/recovery operations may be issued to allow any otherwise prohibited or restricted activity except: exploring for, developing, or producing industrial materials (including sand & gravel), and discharging dredged materials within the Sanctuary.