

STELLWAGEN BANK E-NOTES: *sanctuary news & events*

June 2014



First Place High School Division &
Invertebrate Art Award: *Squid and
Shrimp* by Keegan Gilmore, gr. 12,
Nauset Reg. HS

Winners of 2014 Student Marine Art Contest Announced

The Massachusetts Marine Educators have announced winners and honorable mention selections for the 2014 Marine Art Contest for students in grades K-12. There were 797 entries this year, up 10% from last year, with most submissions coming from Massachusetts students, although five other states were represented. The contest theme was “Amazing Ocean Creatures of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.”

See more winning art on pages 4-5.



Photo courtesy Mystic Seaport

Charles W. Morgan Sails

The whaleship *Charles W. Morgan* is underway on its 38th voyage. The schedule now calls for three one-day sails into the sanctuary on July 11-13. See pages 3 and 8 for more information about this historic event.

Watch OceansLive *Morgan*
programs on July 11-13

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Nomination process re-established to designate new marine sanctuaries

For the first time in twenty years, NOAA has re-established a process for the public to nominate nationally significant marine and Great Lakes areas as potential new national marine sanctuaries. This community-based process addresses a growing number of requests for new national marine sanctuaries from diverse interests around the country.

This action will help fulfill NOAA's mandate under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to identify marine areas of special national significance and supports the administration's goals of ensuring healthy coastal communities and economies.

The agency received nearly 18,000 comments on the June 2013 proposal, the vast majority of which were in strong support. NOAA is not designating any new national marine sanctuaries with this action, a step towards addressing the growing number of requests for new national marine sanctuaries from a variety of interested constituents from around the country.

The Next Steps

NOAA's website (www.nominate.noaa.gov) describes the nomination process, including the list of criteria and considerations that NOAA will use to evaluate nominations. NOAA expects the review process for each incoming nomination to take approximately three to six months. After each review is complete, successfully nominated sites will be placed in an inventory of areas NOAA could consider for national marine sanctuary designation.

Once an area is placed in the inventory, NOAA may consider beginning the separate multi-year, highly participatory designation process for that area. The national marine sanctuary designation process is described in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Being in the inventory does not guarantee that NOAA will designate that area as a national marine sanctuary in the future, and it does not establish any regulations or limit activities in the area.

Typically, marine sanctuary designations take three to five years. The designation process depends on a range of factors, including the complexity of the area, the proposed regulations, the level of support from current user groups, and agency resources.

2014 whale tagging cruise set for last two weeks in June

In advance of the visit of the historic whaleship *Charles W. Morgan*, a research team, using approach techniques similar to traditional whaling, is tagging humpback and fin whales in the sanctuary in June. This is an ongoing research program that began in 2006. Using a long pole, researchers approach whales and attach a small equipment package using suction cups. When the tags detach, researchers retrieve the equipment and download data that show the whales' underwater movements. Results of the 2014 science cruise will be detailed in the next *Stellwagen Bank E-Notes*.

Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards (S4) program kicks off 2014 program

The Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards (S4) citizen science research and monitoring program has kicked off its second full year with an active sea-going effort. In April, participants collected data on the spring *R/V Auk* standardized cruise and in May, they started weekly trips on the New England Aquarium/Boston Harbor Cruises whale watching vessels. The volunteers will join at least six whale watch companies again this year to collect weekly data and interact with the public. On May 13, new and returning Stewards participated in an annual training workshop in Scituate, with Massachusetts Audubon's Director of Important Bird Areas, Wayne Petersen, returning as a featured speaker. The program has generated so much interest that additional sessions were offered in Gloucester and Barnstable in June.

Dive mooring placed on *Heroic* shipwreck

The sanctuary, in partnership with Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions, has placed a subsurface dive mooring on the *Heroic* shipwreck. The wreck lies on top of Stellwagen Bank, north of the Port of Boston shipping lanes, in 100 feet of water. The *Heroic* is an historic shipwreck that began as the USS *Heroic* (AMc-84) an *Accentor*-class coastal mine sweeper launched in 1941. After World War II, the *Heroic* was sold into the New England fishing fleet; it caught fire and sank in August 1969. The *Heroic's* mooring is the third dive mooring placed in the sanctuary to facilitate diver access and prevent anchoring damage to sanctuary shipwrecks. The project, initiated as a result of the management plan review process, is partially funded by grants from *Project Aware* and the PADI Foundation received by the dive charter company.

38th Voyage Events Sponsored by NOAA

NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, along with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, are working with Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Mystic Seaport to sponsor a number of programs during the *Charles W. Morgan's* 38th voyage.

NOAA Tent at the Dockside Exhibit --Mystic Seaport's dockside exhibit offers demonstrations of whaling/maritime skills, art displays, videos and "Spouter," a life-sized sperm whale model. The NOAA Tent provides information and activities related to sanctuary research and conservation.

OceansLive Web TV – live broadcasts from the *Morgan* and Provincetown during the days when the whaleship will sail into the sanctuary. Visit <http://oceanslive.org> to confirm times and dates. See page 8 of this publication for descriptions of programs.

Future Visions Lectures – special guest lectures by:

- ✿ **Sylvia Earle**, ocean explorer, on July 12, 3:30pm at the Hiebert Marine Laboratory, Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Street, Provincetown; and
- ✿ **Jean-Michel Cousteau**, ocean advocate, **David Wiley**, sanctuary research coordinator and **Stephen White**, Mystic Seaport president at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, July 16, 6:00pm.

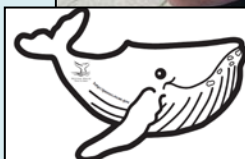
National Marine Sanctuaries *Morgan* 38th Voyage Website – information from the Stellwagen Bank sanctuary related to the *Morgan's* 38th voyage and its cruises into the sanctuary. <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/whales>

Fathom That! –stories and information about whales, sanctuary research and other topics via audio messages accessible by phone and a mobile website.

781-304-1013 ext. 38# or <https://bycell.mobi/stellwagen>

A Child's Sanctuary: Whales in Your Backyard – a free program at the Provincetown Public Library on July 11 and July 30 from 11am-12:30pm with activities, stories and games.

Library Outreach Packs -- posters, reading lists and bookmarks providing information about our society's changing perceptions about whales will be provided to all interested libraries in the region.

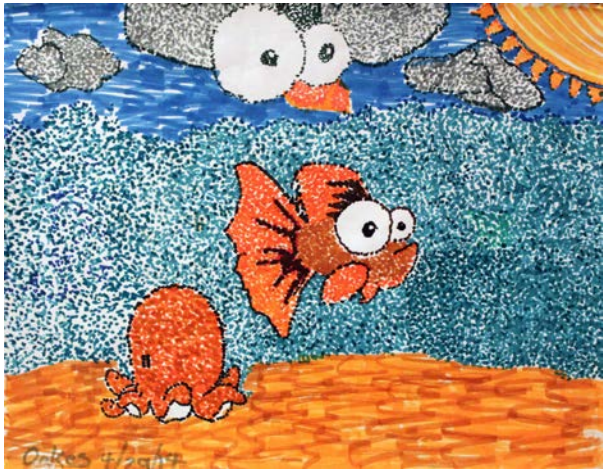


Charles W. Morgan
courtesy Mystic Seaport



Photos(from top to bottom left): a visitor to the dockside exhibit wears her new sanctuary whale hat; the *Charles W. Morgan* sails from New London on an early leg of the 38th voyage; "Spouter," a life-sized sperm whale model attracts attention near the whaleship; Jim Toomey's cartoon invites photo ops at the NOAA booth. All photos except *Morgan* credit: Anne-Marie Runfola, SBNMS.







Marine art contest winners announced

Massachusetts Marine Educators and the sanctuary have announced winners of the 2014 marine art contest. All prize-winning and honorable mention selections, including these pieces, will be posted on the sanctuary website by early July.

Page 4 (clockwise from top left): *American Lobster* (3rd Sci. Illus.) by Sally Z., gr. 8, Central Tree MS, Rutland; *Atlantic Wolffish* (4th HS & Fish Art Award) by Saiya Rivera, gr. 9, Greater Lawrence Tech. School; *Common Eider* (1st Sci. Illus.) by Arianna Griffin, gr. 12, Plymouth So. HS; *Green Sea Turtles* (2nd HS & Turtle Art Award) by Meghna Tummala, gr. 9, Washtenaw Intl. HS, Ypsilanti, MI; *Wilson's Storm Petrels* (1st Comp. Graphics) by Isabelle Cadene, gr. 9, Boston Latin School; *Octopus, Fish & Bird* (1st Elem. Sch) by Oakes A., gr. 3, Lincoln Sch. Extended Day, Brookline; and *Tuna* (2nd Comp. Graphics) by Deanna Longo, gr. 10, Old Colony Reg. Voc. Tech. HS, Rochester.

Page 5 (clockwise from top left): *Great Shearwater* (1st MS & Seabird Art Award) by Daniel X., gr. 8, Marshall Simonds MS, Burlington; *Cod, Shark & Orca* (6th HS) by Coleman Barnes, gr. 12, Plymouth S. HS; *Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle* (4th Sci. Illus.) by Marissa Freeman, gr. 10, Nauset Reg. HS; *Loon* (3rd HS) by Emily Nickerson, gr. 11, Plymouth So. HS; and *Harbor Seal* (2nd MS) by Milan S., gr. 7, Pierce MS, Milton.



Photo: Two humpback whales observed during the May sand lance research cruise.



Photo: Dave Wiley being interviewed by the CBS Evening News team.



Photo: Sand lance were retrieved during the trip.

The Little Fish with a Big Impact

Whales are usually the big draw for spectators to the sanctuary. But what brings the whales are the humble sand lance, aka sand eels. When the sand lance are here, the whales feast on these

nutritious morsels. When the small fish disappear, so do the larger predators. Sanctuary and U.S. Geological Survey scientists are trying to understand where and why the sand lance come to these waters. With the SEABed Observation and Sampling System (SEABOSS), the team has been taking video and still images and sampling sediments. In Oct. 2013, there were no sand lance – and few whales. In May 2014 the sand lance appeared in large numbers, and whale watching thrived.

The story of whales and sand lance attracted media attention, with stories released by Associated Press, the Boston Globe, and WBZ-TV4 in Boston. The *CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley*'s reporter Vinita Nair interviewed sanctuary research coordinator David Wiley and USGS geologist Page Valentine during one of these research trips on board the R/V *Auk*.

Photo: SEABOSS is deployed from the R/V Auk. All photos on this page by Anne Smrcina, SBNMS

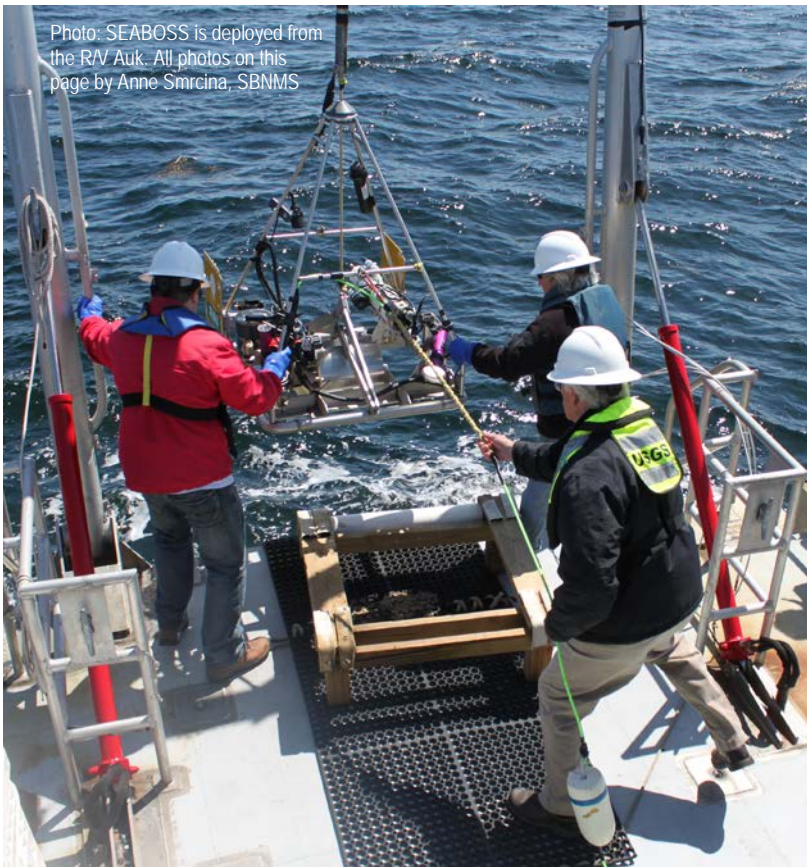


Photo: A feeding humpback displays its extended throat pleasts.





The Sanctuary Classic

Summer 2014



Reel 'em in, ready the shot and release!

Get your fishing rods out and your cameras ready for a summer-long catch-and-release photo competition. Beginning June 8, submit your favorite fishing photos taken in our nation's [National Marine Sanctuaries](#) for a chance to win great prizes. Celebrate quality recreation on our nation's coast and take part in a sustainable practice to ensure that the tradition of recreational fishing can be enjoyed long into the future!

How the contest works

Simply take pictures of your fishing fun in any of our 13 national marine sanctuaries and register online to win at www.sanctuaryclassic.org. The first 20 photos submitted each week will win a Guy Harvey t-shirt! In addition, one photo among those submitted will be chosen each week for a special prize. Selection of this photo will be based on the representation of Sanctuary Classic themes, including youth, family fishing and respect for sanctuary waters.

At the end of the contest, eight photos will be selected by a panel of judges to win a \$500 Guy Harvey Youth Scholarship based on the representation of some or all of the following themes: Kids Fishing, Kids and Family Values, Kids in the Outdoors, Kids in the Sanctuaries and Kids' Conservation.

Get Started

All participants must register online at sanctuaryclassic.org, follow all federal, state and local regulations, and agree to observe conservation and [ethics guidelines](#) provided by [The Sportfishing Conservancy](#). Catch and release is strongly encouraged for photo competition participants. The Classic runs all summer, from June 8 through September 1, 2014, with the last submissions due Labor Day.

Don't Forget!

- To review "sport fishing best practices" before beginning your trip.
- Each participant must agree to follow conservation guidelines and all federal, state and local regulations.
- Catch and release is encouraged.
- Last day to submit photos is Labor Day, September 1, 2014!
- Don't stop with just one fish picture... visit as many national marine sanctuaries as you can to discover the unique marine life and recreational opportunities found in each sanctuary.

In partnership with:



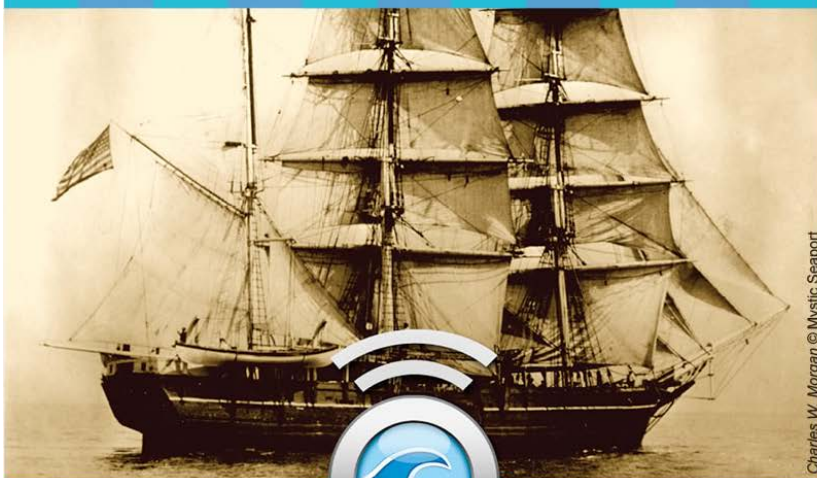
The Sanctuary Classic, is a free, recreational fishing and photography contest in celebration of America's national marine sanctuaries and conservation-based fishing practices. The event, coordinated by Sportfishing Conservancy, is co-sponsored by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation with support from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The Sportfishing Conservancy believes recreational fishing is an important part of the social and economic and fabric of our nation and it supports recreational anglers who follow sustainable fishing conservation guidelines.

Did You Know?

National Marine Sanctuaries provide citizens with opportunities to responsibly enjoy special ocean places, while also safeguarding their unique beauty, diversity and historical significance for future generations. National Marine Sanctuaries encourage recreational anglers to experience nature first-hand and develop a greater appreciation for American's great outdoors

JOIN THE VOYAGE, ONLINE!



Charles W. Morgan © Mystic Seaport

OCEANSLIVE

Following a 6-year restoration, Mystic Seaport will sail the *Charles W. Morgan* to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world's finest whale watching destinations. But instead of hunting whales, the last wooden whaleship afloat sails as an ambassador for ocean conservation.

Visit OceansLIVE.org as we broadcast **LIVE** from the *Morgan*. Be amazed by views and captivated by commentary as historians, scientists, authors and artists interpret this transformative story in real time.

July 11, 12 & 13, 2014

3 shows a day

10 a.m., 12 noon, & 2 p.m. EST

[HTTP://OCEANSLIVE.ORG](http://OCEANSLIVE.ORG)

Tune In to OceansLive programming

Nine OceansLive programs will be broadcast live during July 11-13 while the *Morgan* takes day sails to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Check the website to confirm topic, time and date.

A Whaleship Among Whales – introducing the Charles W. Morgan, the major themes of the 38th voyage and the partnership between Mystic Seaport and NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries.

Tag, You're It! – understanding whale behavior, from early observations by whalers as recorded in whaling logs to the detailed data now obtained from recording units attached to animals with suction cups.

A Sea Change in Marine Technology – comparing technology from whaling days to today for studies of seafloor mapping, weather and oceanographic observations, navigation and exploration.

Provincetown – Whaling Town to Whale Capitol – exploring the history of a town that was once a whaling center and has become the east coast birthplace of whale watching, a gateway to the sanctuary and a center for whale research.

Danger Zone: Threats to Whale Survival – whaling was once the major threat to whale populations; now whales contend with entanglements in fishing gear, strikes from ships, poor water quality, sound pollution and other human-caused problems.

Historic Whaling and Fishing Vessels of the 38th Voyage – the evolution of the whaling and fishing industries will be explored as several historic vessels are highlighted.

The Art of the Whale – whales were once pictured as animals to conquer and their bones, baleen and teeth turned into items of adornment or display; now the whale form inspires and fascinates.

Women and Whales – whaling was a male-dominated activity at sea, although women played important roles at home; but today, women are taking on leading positions in ocean-based field research.

Can You Hear Me? Whales and Sound – whaleships and other sailing ships were relatively quiet, but today's engine-powered vessels fill the whales' environment with noise that may have a significant effect on their well-being.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

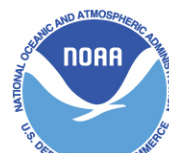
● National Marine Sanctuary
▲ Marine National Monument

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

National Ocean Service

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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National Marine Sanctuary



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>