

# SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

January 11, 2013

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Dr. Rebecca M. Blank  
Acting Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator  
1401 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, DC 20230

Daniel J. Basta  
Director  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
1305 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3278

### **Re: Reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List**

Dear Acting Secretary Blank, Dr. Lubchenco, and Director Basta:

We are writing to support the reactivation of the sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) which is a vital part of the process to create national marine sanctuaries.

The SEL is an important and proven process by which local community groups can start a public conversation about options for creating a new national marine sanctuary off their coast. The SEL will open up the process for communities across the country, not just those near the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, to engage in this process and make their voices known.

We believe that each community must decide for itself whether a national marine sanctuary is right for their area, but without the reactivation of the SEL, the opportunity for local communities to pursue this option is essentially closed.

Sincerely,



Richard Delaney  
Chair, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

*"The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 01 2013

Richard Delaney  
Chair, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
175 Edward Foster Road  
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066

Dear Mr. Delaney:

Thank you for your letter to Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca M. Blank, NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., and me regarding your council's support for reactivating the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Site Evaluation List (SEL). I appreciate the effort and time your council dedicated to discussing this important issue and plan to transmit your thoughts to agency leadership.

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to the National Marine Sanctuary System and for providing your advice and recommendations on how best to manage and protect ocean resources.

*Just had a great meeting  
@ the SITE -*

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Basta  
Director

Cc: Reed Bohne, Director, Northeast and Great Lakes Region  
Craig MacDonald, Superintendent, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
Elizabeth Stokes, Program Support Assistant, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

