

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) was established in 2001 to insure public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The Council serves a vital role as a public forum for consultation and deliberation among its members, so they can advise the sanctuary superintendent on issues relating to the effective implementation of the Sanctuary Management Plan.

The SAC is a community-based advisory group consisting of representatives from various user groups, government agencies and the public at large, including the fishing community, divers, whale watching companies, teachers, boaters, business people, and scientists.

The involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic are essential for protection of National Marine Sanctuary resources. Under provisions of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to establish Sanctuary Advisory Councils to strengthen connections between sanctuaries and the public.



SAC Advisory Council

Meetings are scheduled three to four times a year to develop an informed constituency with increased awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary System. Meetings are open to the public and are advertised by the sanctuary and local media. Minutes of each meeting containing a summary of attendees and matters discussed are archived and made available to the public through the sanctuary website.

The SAC is responsible for providing advice to the sanctuary superintendent by:

- Serving as a liaison between the sanctuary and its community, disseminating information about the sanctuary to the various constituencies and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to sanctuary staff.
- Identifying potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working and forge relationships.
- Helping to identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues of which the sanctuary might not be aware.
- Reviewing and providing input on sanctuary plans, proposals, and products, including prioritizing issues.
- Participating in sanctuary events, activities and programs, and supporting the sanctuary Friend's group and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
- Providing technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary
- Validating the accuracy and quality of information the sanctuary uses for decision-making purposes.
- Establishing temporary working groups and subcommittees to assist in addressing priority issues and employing additional expertise.



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

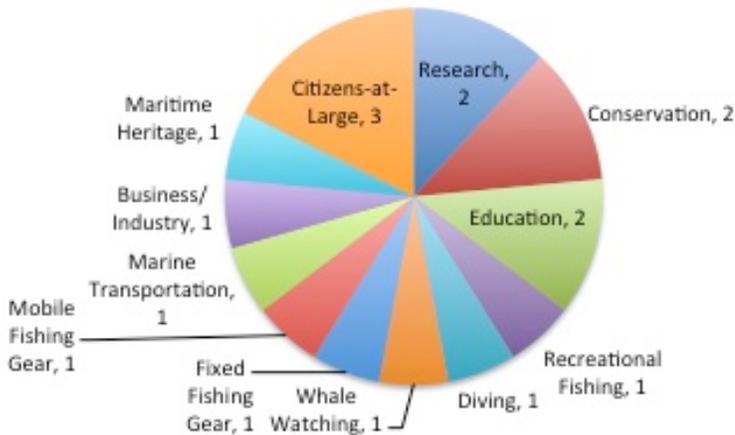
To insure a diverse public membership, the SAC is made up of 17 non-governmental voting members and 17 alternates, one youth member (non-voting) and six governmental ex-officio members (non-voting). The in-depth and varied knowledge of these individuals, as related to sanctuary resources and values, combines to form an extremely valuable collective body of expertise and experience.

The non-governmental members are selected to represent diverse local user groups, conservation and other public interest organizations, scientific and educational organizations, or members of the public interested in the protection and multiple use management of Sanctuary resources. They are appointed by the Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program for three-year terms, and may compete for reappointment. Public notice is provided about vacant positions, applications are reviewed, and new recruits are appointed.

The governmental members represent agencies with regulatory authorities or other direct interests in the sanctuary and its resources. Ex-officio members are non-voting and are designated by the cooperating government agencies:

National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Region
 New England Regional Fishery Management Council
 First U.S. Coast Guard District
 Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
 Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
 Massachusetts Division of Law Enforcement

VOTING PRIMARY SEATS



SAC SubCommittees or Working Groups are active to address local or national issue-specific conservation or management concerns. Current SubCommittees made up of SAC members include the following:

- SAC Leadership Award SubCommittee
- Youth SubCommittee
- Recreation and Tourism SubCommittee

Member News

John J. Galluzzo, Maritime Heritage Alternate, was honored as our sanctuary "Volunteer of the Year" at the Nov. 5th Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting.



SAC Chairman Rich Delaney, John J. Galluzzo, Sanctuary Superintendent Craig MacDonald, Volunteer Coordinator Anne-Marie Runfola.

More information about the SAC and how it conducts its business can be found on the Sanctuary website under the "Advisory Council" button, including Advisory Council member biographies and a downloadable *Council Members List*. To keep informed about upcoming public meetings or opportunities to apply for council membership, or if you have any questions, contact the Sanctuary Advisory Coordinator by email Nathalie.Ward@noaa.gov or phone at 781-545-8026 x206.