

# Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

## 2020 Management Plan Review Virtual Scoping Meeting

Captain Pete DeCola  
US Coast Guard (retired)  
Superintendent



### WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING!

- Good Evening - I'd like to thank you all for attending this virtual meeting to help us as we begin our management plan review process.
- My name is Pete DeCola and I'm the Superintendent of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- My first order of business is to let everyone know that the presentation I'm about to make is posted on the homepage of our website ([www.stellwagen.noaa.gov](http://www.stellwagen.noaa.gov)).
  - You should be able to access it while I'm making some introductions.
  - The slides are numbered in the lower right hand corner to help you follow along.
- While we're disappointed that we had to cancel our in-person meetings, we hope that this virtual meeting gives us an opportunity to get your ideas and feedback before we begin revising the management plan for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- Engaging with the community is at the core of how we operate and we genuinely appreciate the time, energy, and passion that you're bringing to brainstorm about the future of our Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- With me on the webinar are several staff members from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in addition to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in Washington DC.

### From the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Staff:

- Deputy Superintendent Ben Haskell - He will be monitoring e-mails and taking calls/texts to troubleshoot issues.
- Alice Stratton is our project lead for the management plan review.
- Anne Smrcina is our education coordinator - answering questions as participants ask them.
- Bibi Stokes is our administrative assistant and will be taking notes, along with Michelle Rome, our environmental compliance expert from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.
- Ed Lindelof is a policy analyst providing guidance on the management plan review process.
- And last but not least, Claire Fackler is the National Education Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. She's joining us this evening as the moderator and is graciously lending us her expertise on this webinar platform as we learn a new system on the fly.

- 6:00 Ground Rules
  - Why are We Here/Online?
  - SBNMS Overview
  - Current Management Plan
  - Condition Report Overview
  - Issues and Topics for Management Plan Review
  - Next Steps in Management Plan Review Process
- 6:30 Q&A on Condition Report and Scoping Process
- 6:40 Public Comments
- 7:55 Concluding Remarks



## HERE'S THE AGENDA FOR THIS EVENING

- Before we start, I'd like to review our agenda for the evening.
  - First we'll go over some ground rules for conducting the meeting,
  - provide an overview of why we're here,
  - and a brief summary of the Sanctuary and our programs
  - Next we will talk about what a Condition Report is, what the results are of the one we just finished...
  - ... and let you know the topics we've already identified for inclusion in the management plan review.
  - Following that, a brief overview of the management plan review process we recently started.
- There will be an opportunity for questions about the condition report and the management plan review process so please hold them until the end of my presentation.
- Once questions are answered, we will start taking public comments.
- I realize that this is a new format for most everyone, and may be challenging for some, like me, but please be patient as we work through this.
- Again, we greatly appreciate everyone taking time to join us and will do our best to give everyone a chance to be heard.

- **We are here to listen!!!**
- This session is being recorded to ensure accurate documentation of your input
- We will call speakers from those who registered online and notified us via email.
  - Raise your hand you would like to be added to the list.
- Additional slots at the end if time allows.
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes; please respect the timer to wrap up your comments.
- If you run out of time, please submit the full version of your comments online
- Please be respectful of everyone's opinions



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## HERE ARE THE RULES

- These are the ground rules for providing public comment. I'll repost them once the comment period begins.
- Most importantly, I want to emphasize that we're here to listen to your input on how we should revise our management plan.
- I also want to make sure everyone knows that we are recording this session to ensure we accurately document all the comments input we receive.
- To manage the order of speakers, people who've registered for the meeting and indicated they would like to speak will go first.
- People who have notified us via e-mail will go second.
- If you are not on either of these lists and using the gotowebinar app, please raise your hand so we know you want to speak.
- Last and by no means lest, at the end we will unmute people who call in via phone to see if anyone calling in would like to provide public comment.
  - If you are calling in, we would appreciate it if you would identify yourself but you don't have to.
- All comments received tonight are of equal importance. The order is merely a function of the capabilities of the webinar platform.
- All speakers will receive 3 minutes to provide their comments. If you run out of time, please submit the full version of your comments online, via e-mail or regular mail.
  - If you'd like to submit a written version of your oral comments, you're free to do that either online, by email or regular mail.I'll provide for comment submission later on in this presentation.
- If time allows, we can allow people to provide additional comments.
- I would like to underscore the final point on this slide by asking that we all be respectful of the opinions that expressed during this public forum.

# Why are we here?



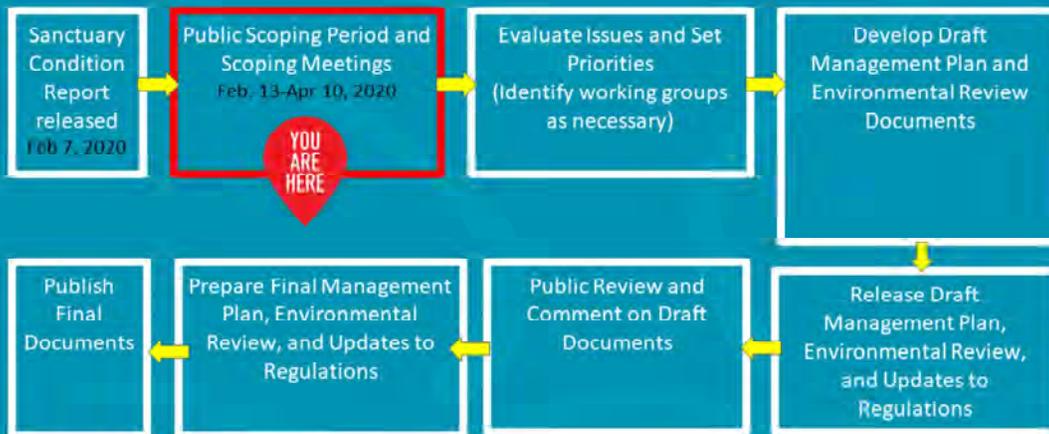
- Start of the management plan review process
- Management plan guides work of sanctuary staff
- Receive input on resource management issues from:
  - sanctuary users and interest groups
  - government agencies
  - members of public
- Input helps define range of issues addressed in revised management plan
- Gathering initial ideas on range of issues to be considered
- No decisions
- Not a popular vote
- First of public comment opportunities

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## BUT FIRST, A WORD ABOUT WHY WE'RE ALL HERE...

- We're currently at the beginning of the process to revise the sanctuary's management plan
- The law that guides our entire program, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, requires us to periodically review our management plan, which guides the work of our staff.
- During this phase, we're looking for your ideas to help us define the scope of issues that our next sanctuary management plan should address.
- I want to emphasize that we're not making decisions during this scoping phase— we are here to listen to your thoughts.
- After the public scoping period, sanctuary staff will review all the comments we receive and use them to prioritize issues to be addressed in the next management plan.
- We will also talk it over with our sanctuary advisory council to get their thoughts, and reach out to agency partners and subject matter experts as well to develop management plan actions.
- Once we develop a draft management plan, as well as an environmental review document that considers alternatives, we will release it for public review and comment.
- So, again, tonight is about receiving your initial ideas at the start of the management plan review process.

## Management Plan Review Process



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### THIS IS THE PROCESS

- This is what the management plan review process looks like.
- For those that can see, we are nearly at the beginning and it's a process that could take as long as 2-3 years.
- It's an iterative process that involves public input, agency consultations, and environmental compliance work.
- While the main project is management plan review, as a Federal action, the project requires accompanying environmental review to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.
- The required level of review depends on how similar, or different the strategies and actions in the revised plan are to the current plan
  - Those differences will determine whether this counts as a "significant" change.
- Before I discuss the steps we've taken to date, specifically completing the condition report, and the steps we will take over the next few years, I'd like to give you a brief overview of the sanctuary and our current management plan.

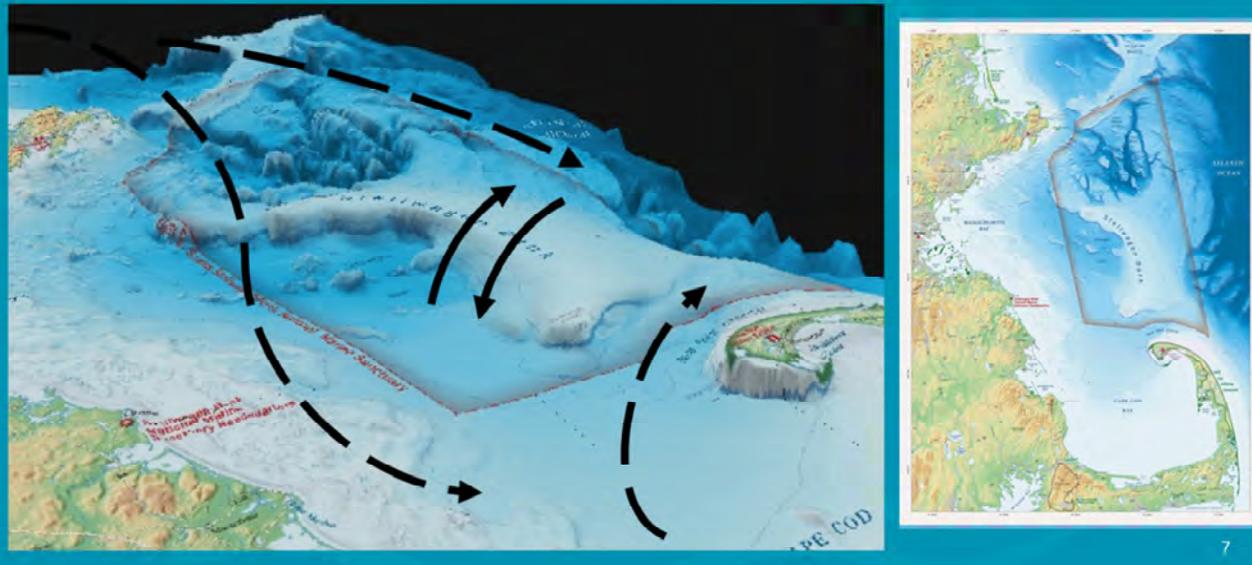
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act passed in 1972
- Oceans Act of 1992 passed by US Congress
  - Designated Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Underwater extension of Cape Cod
- 638 square nautical miles
- Located in federal waters

***Mission: To conserve protect and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of the sanctuary while allowing for compatible uses.***



## SANCTUARY OVERVIEW

- The National Marine Sanctuary Program was founded in 1972 when the National Marine Sanctuaries Act was passed into law.
- 20 years later, Stellwagen Bank was designated as a National Marine Sanctuary as part of the Oceans Act of 1992
- As you can see from the map on the right, Stellwagen Bank is essentially an underwater extension of Cape Cod.
- The sanctuary boundaries extend from north of Provincetown to south and east of Gloucester and encompass 638 square nautical miles...
- ... and the entire sanctuary is located within federal waters.
- The mission of the sanctuary staff is: To conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of the sanctuary while allowing for compatible uses.



## SANCTUARY UNDERVIEW...

- The picture on the left shows the diverse topography of Stellwagen Bank which makes it such a special place.
- Located along the western edge of the Gulf of Maine, water circulation in the sanctuary is heavily influenced by the southerly flowing Maine Coastal Current.
- This current, in combination with twice-daily tidal fluctuations, creates upwelling that brings nutrients up from the bottom.
- This creates a richly productive area that supports over 575 species of invertebrates, fish, seabirds, and marine mammals.

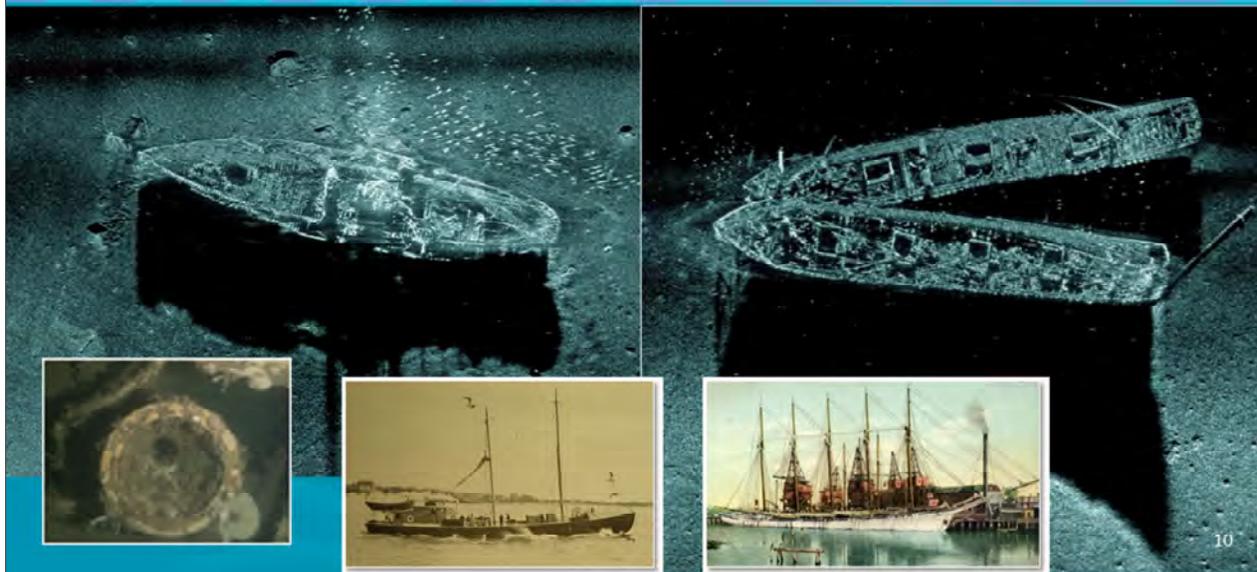


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- The unique bathymetry of Stellwagen Bank and regional coastal currents create a diversity of habitats and remarkable productivity, which in turn supports ....



- ...high biodiversity... and a host of sea life ranging from microscopic plankton to seabirds and humpback whales.



- Because the sanctuary is located at the center of shipping lanes that have been used for centuries, many ships have foundered and sank inside the sanctuary boundaries.
- Historical records indicate that there are more than 200 historic shipwrecks within the sanctuary, 47 of which have been discovered and documented by sanctuary staff or research partners.
- 7 of these shipwrecks have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



- Many economic and recreational activities also occur within the sanctuaries boundaries such as:
  - highly productive commercial fishing
  - excellent recreational fishing
  - world class whale watching and wildlife viewing
  - SCUBA diving
  - sailing and boating
- Maritime shipping traffic to and from the Port of Boston and other ports also passes through the sanctuary.

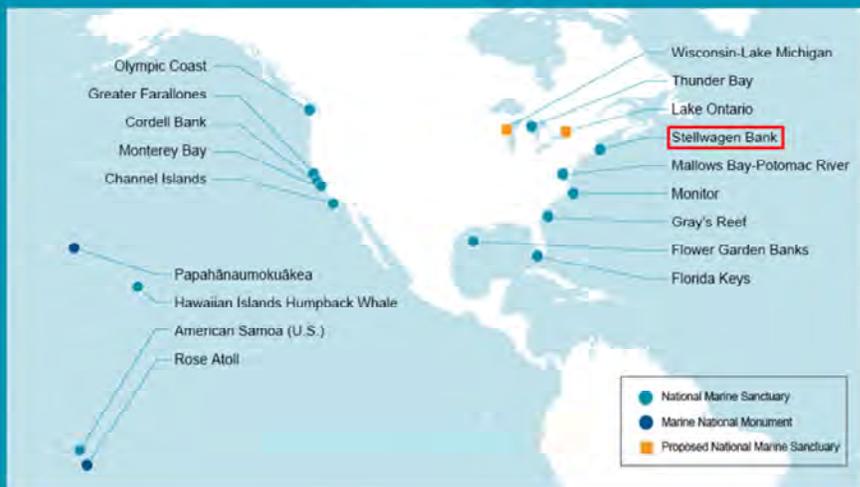
## To protect sanctuary resources, current regulations prohibit:

- Oil and gas exploration/extraction
- Sand/gravel mining
- Discharge any material with special exceptions for fishing operations (chumming) and recreational boating (gray water)
- Alteration of the seafloor with exceptions for anchoring and traditional fishing
- Removing, damaging or possessing any historical or cultural resources with exception for incidental removal or harm from traditional fishing
- Taking of marine reptiles, marine mammals, or seabirds



### REGULATIONS PROTECT STELLWAGEN BANK

- Because Stellwagen Bank is such a special place, current federal regulations protect the physical habitat of the sanctuary through the prohibition of industrial activities such as oil and gas exploration along with sand and gravel mining.
- They also protect water quality, marine life, and historic resources such as shipwrecks.
- There are also exceptions for impacts from traditional fishing operations and recreational boating.
- At this point we have not identified the need for any changes to our regulations other than updating regulatory language so our 10 year old regulations to ensure consistency across the National Marine Sanctuary system.
- However, regulatory changes may be considered based on a review of public scoping comments and, if proposed, would be presented for public review with the publication of a proposed rulemaking.



*“...to identify and designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment which are of special national significance and to manage these areas as the National Marine Sanctuary System...”*  
(NMSA sec. 301)

## THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

- Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is part a national network of special places in the ocean and Great Lakes -- the National Marine Sanctuary System.
- There are currently 14 National Marine Sanctuaries in the system, plus Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii.
- They range in size from the one square mile Monitor NMS, to the 13,581 square mile National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.
- The majority of the areas in the Sanctuary System allow for multiple uses such as recreation, fishing, and shipping just like Stellwagen Bank.

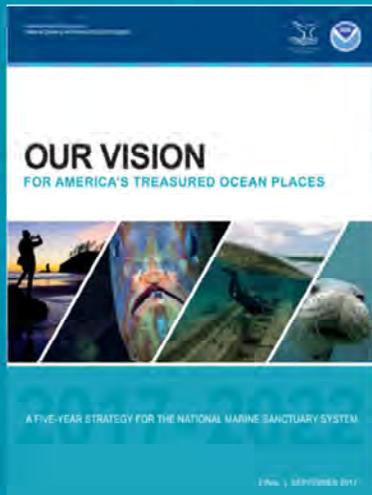
# Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



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## WHERE WE FIT IN NOAA

- Overseeing the sanctuary system is the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, a program office within the National Ocean Service (NOS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.
- NOAA's mission of science, service and stewardship spans from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean.
- While it's important to note that the National Ocean Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are different parts of NOAA, we work closely together on important marine conservation issues.
- NOAA itself is a bureau in the U.S. Department of Commerce.



**MISSION** We protect  
**treasured places** in the  
Ocean and Great Lakes

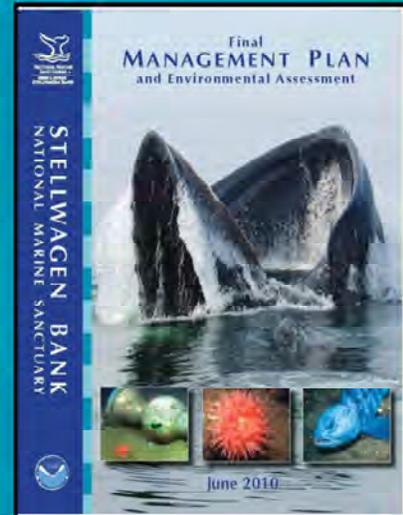
**VISION** A **thriving** sanctuary  
system that protects our Nation's  
underwater **treasures** and **inspires**  
momentum for a **healthy ocean**.

#### NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

- What we do at the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary flows from the guidance provided by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, which takes direction from the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.
- The strategic plan for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries lays out the mission and vision for the National Marine Sanctuary System.
- That plan also sets high-level goals targeted at assuring sanctuaries:
  - remain healthy,
  - effectively engage communities,
  - and continue to advance science to support good sanctuary management.
- The way we pursue this vision through our sanctuary management plan that can guide our efforts for the next 5 to 10 years.

## 70% of Strategies completed or partially complete

Theme	# of Strategies	Completed	Partially Complete	Ongoing
Capacity Building	33	17	6	24
Ecosystem Protection	24	3	9	14
Marine Mammal Protection	23	14	8	16
Maritime Heritage Management	20	6	6	13



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### OUR CURRENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Our current management plan was created in 2010.
- The plan contains 100 strategies under four themes.
  - Capacity Building
  - Ecosystem Protection
  - Marine Mammal Protection
  - Maritime Heritage Management
- An assessment of the management plan conducted in 2018 showed that almost 70% of strategies in the plan have been completed or partially completed.
- When you look at this table, you'll see there is some double-counting.
  - That's because there's a large number of strategies which are designed to be ongoing so several "partially complete" and "complete" activities are also counted in the "ongoing" category.
- All strategies contained in the 2010 Management plan will be reviewed during the management plan review to ensure they are still relevant.
- Accomplishments from the 2010 Management plan include the following highlights...

# Capacity Building



- Administrative office and Marine Operations Center located in Scituate, MA
- 15 staff
- 50' R/V AUK
- 150 active volunteers
  - 6000 hours/year
- Scores of research and conservation partners

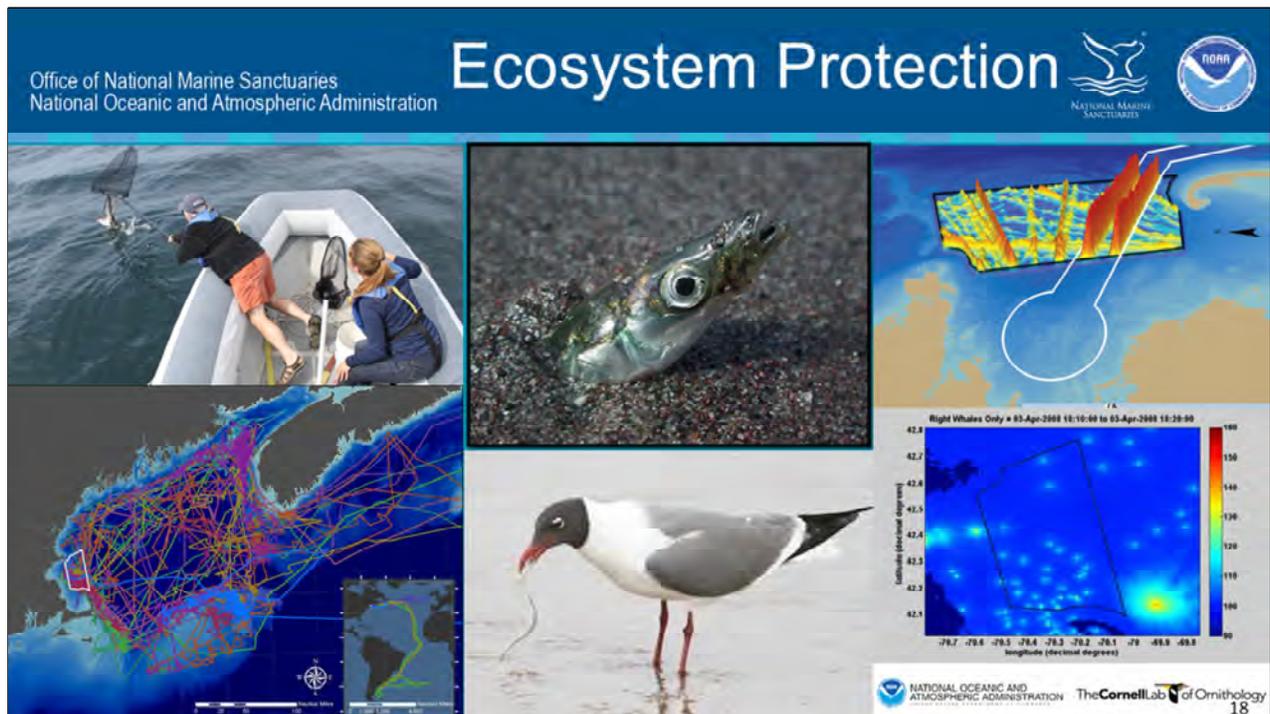


**Captain John**  
Whale Watching and Fishing Tours



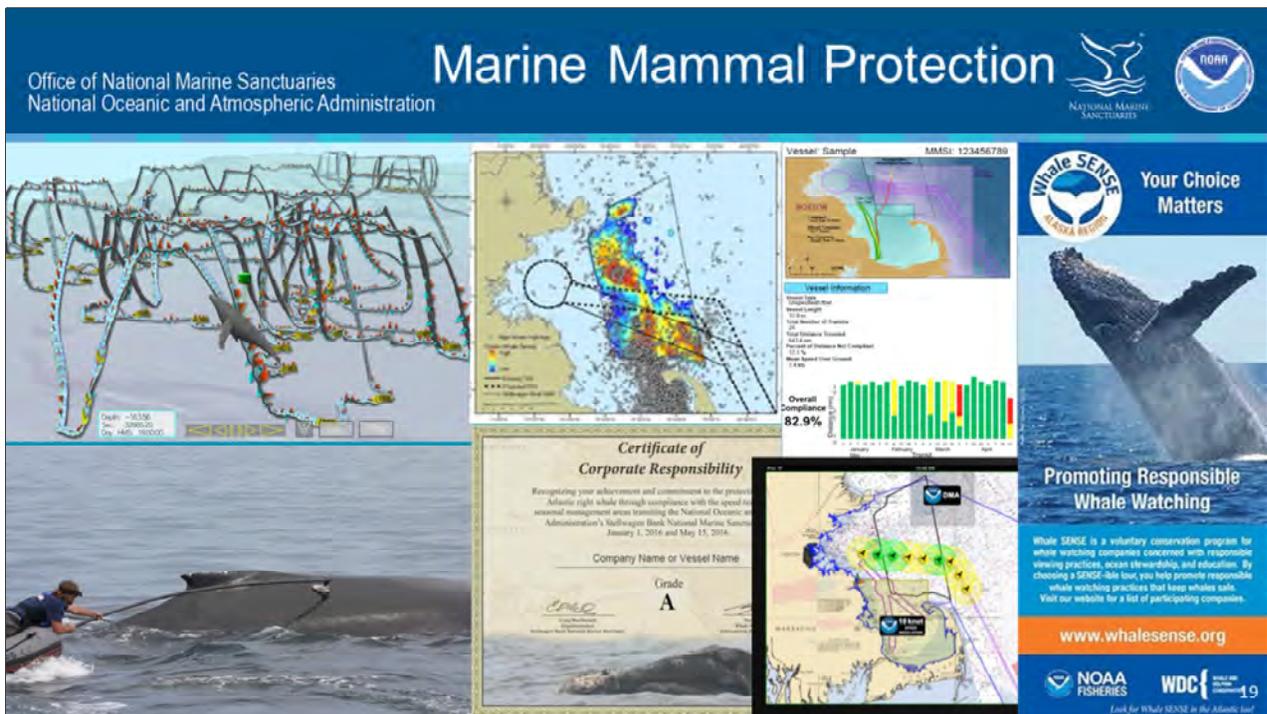
## CAPACITY BUILDING INCLUDES...

- The hiring of our current staff.
- Maintenance of our offices spaces and Marine Operations Center in Scituate where we berth our 50' research vessel R/V *Auk*.
- We successfully leverage the *Auk* to conduct science missions and attract high quality research partners.
- We also created a robust volunteer program that provides over 6000 hours of support per year and staffs a citizen science program in addition to conducting numerous education and outreach events.
- Most outreach events we do would not be possible without the assistance of our volunteers and conservation partners.
- Just a quick note to let you now that the logos presented on this slide are just a small percentage of our research and conservation partners.
- They are intended to represent a range of organizations and are not prioritized in any fashion; rather, they represent the logos that I had readily accessible when I put this slide together.



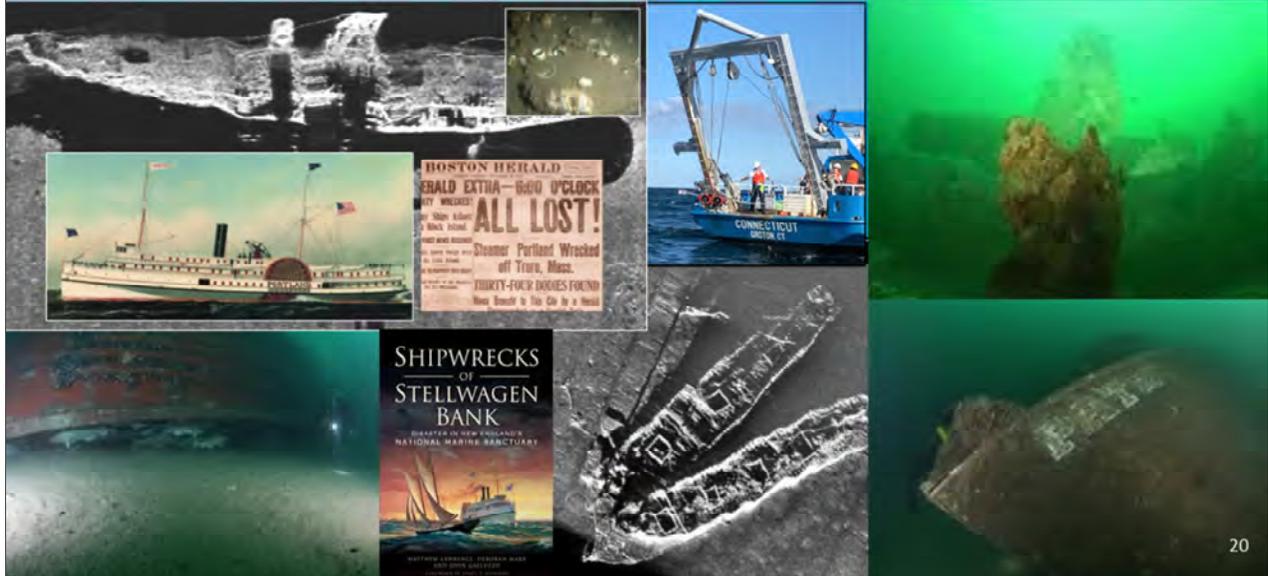
OUR ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION IS...

- ... to conduct research that helps inform management decisions and solve problems.
- As a result, sanctuary staff have built world-renown research and monitoring programs in humpback whale ecology, seabirds, sand lance ecology, and bioacoustics.
- These research projects provide a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on forage species such as sand lance.
- They also help us understand how undersea sounds, both natural and manmade, affect wildlife behavior in the sanctuary...because a wide range of marine life rely on sound to help them find food, navigate, and communicate with each other.
- We also conduct work with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to monitor water quality in the vicinity of the Deer Island Outfall which is not in, but adjacent to the sanctuary.
- We conduct all this cutting edge science by developing strong, long-lasting partnerships with local, regional, and international researchers and government agencies.



#### MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Scientists from Stellwagen Bank run the longest-running whale tagging program in the world to better understand the behaviors of baleen whales and protect them from man made hazards
- They also work with other scientists on teams such as the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team to reduce injuries and deaths of large whales due to incidental entanglement in fishing gear.
- Another major partnership-based effort is the work we've done to help lower the risk of fatal ship strikes on endangered whales.
- Data used by sanctuary staff supported the shift of the traffic separation scheme for Boston to areas where whales were less likely to be encountered, reducing the likelihood of a ship strike.
- To help mariners better understand where whales are, we also pioneered the development of the smartphone app, Whale Alert...which uses data from acoustic buoys to notify mariners when endangered right whales are in the area so they can slow down.
- Our staff also uses data from the Automatic Identification System (better known as AIS) to track compliance with mandatory speed management areas designed to protect whales.
- Using the power of positive reinforcement, we acknowledge compliant vessels with a certificate of corporate responsibility.
- We also helped develop WhaleSENSE in partnership with NOAA Fisheries and Whale and Dolphin Conservation to create a voluntary program that encourages responsible whale watching by commercial whale watch companies.



## MARITIME HERITAGE PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS...

- Include efforts from sanctuary staff that resulted in 6 sites comprising 7 shipwrecks being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- We have worked with the charter diving industry to place underwater moorings on three popular shipwreck sites to facilitate access and avoid anchoring or grappling which can damage the site.
- In 2018 we initiated an outreach program with the fishing industry to prevent fishing gear from impacting shipwrecks.
- And last summer we kicked off a telepresence project with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to bring live remote exploration of historic shipwrecks and deep habitats to the public.



## CUTTING ACROSS ALL THEMES...

- ... are our education and outreach programs.
- Our education and outreach team excels at reaching audiences of all ages.
- We believe that marine conservation is everyone's responsibility, so we help people understand the significance of this special marine ecosystem, and inspire people to be good stewards.
- As I mentioned earlier our volunteers play a key role in outreach and education.
- They exponentially expand our reach, from school- and event-based education programs, to staffing our booth at the New England Boat Show and other events.
- Our inflatable whale modeled after *Salt*, the most famous whale that visits our sanctuary, serves as a popular ambassador to children and adults across the region.
- One of our signature outreach events is giving tours of *Salt* at the annual New England Boat Show which attracts over 50,000 people.
- We also manage an annual Marine Art contest which engages about 750 students each year from around the country to learn about the marine life in the sanctuary.



#### ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR MANAGEMENT PLAN...

- ... is our Sanctuary Advisory Council
- Public involvement in sanctuary management is important and the National Marine Sanctuary Act created Advisory Councils to allow for greater input into sanctuary management
- Our Sanctuary Advisory Council is comprised of 43 stakeholders.
- They meet 3 times a year and advise our staff on management issues and bring their concerns to the Council for consideration.
- [several Advisory Council members in the audience this evening]

## Management Plan Review Process

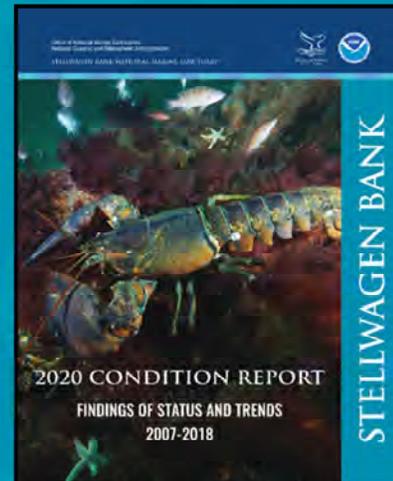


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### BACK TO THE BEGINNING

- So getting back to the Management Plan Review process, it officially started on February 7th with the release of the Condition Report
- I'll now provide a brief overview of that report

- Update to First Condition Report (2007)
- Best available science
- Assesses status and trends from 2007-2018
  - Ratings range from good to poor
- Identifies Gaps In Data and Current Monitoring Efforts
- Identifies Issues and Topics for Management Plan Review



<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/media/docs/2020-stellwagen-condition-report.pdf> 24

## THE CONDITION REPORT

- The 2020 condition report marks a second comprehensive description of the status and trends of sanctuary resources.
  - The first condition report for Stellwagen Bank was released in 2007.
- The purpose of a condition report is to use the best available science to assess the status of various parts of the sanctuary's ecosystem....
  - ...including water quality, habitat, living resources, and maritime heritage resources, as well as ecosystem services which are the benefits people receive from the sanctuary such as seafood production and recreational activities.
- The report uses a rating system that ranges from good to poor and also provides a status of trend from improving to declining based on data from 2007 to 2018.
- The report helps identify gaps in current monitoring efforts, as well as issues and topics that may need to be addressed during the management plan review.
- Developing the Condition Report was a two year process which relied heavily upon input from over 60 experts, partners, and staff from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.
- While I could spend the rest of the evening discussing this 263 page report, I'll provide a high level summary in the following categories...

## The Good

- Water quality does not appear to be impacted by human activities
- Several key species are doing well (Great shearwater, lobster, Atlantic white sided dolphin)
- Food web foundation species are in good to fair condition
- Outreach efforts for shipwreck avoidance appear to be working

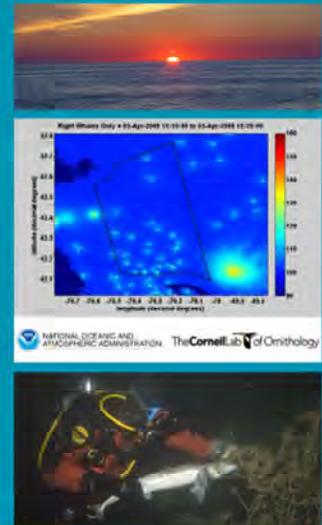


### GOOD NEWS FIRST...

- ... is that water quality parameters that we assessed were generally good.
- Contaminants in the sediments were at low levels and didn't appear to be affecting animals or human health.
- Several key species we assessed such as shearwater seabirds, lobsters, and white-side dolphins, were in good shape...
- ...as were several species at the base of the food web like calanus copepods, sand lance fish, and herring...
  - ...although since the data was collected for this report in 2018, the trend in the herring population appears to be declining.
- Also, outreach efforts with scallop fishermen in 2018 and 2019 appear to be successful in helping them avoid historic shipwrecks by increasing awareness of their locations.

## The Concerning

- Climate change impacts are measurable and more robust monitoring is necessary
- Noise has detrimental impacts on animals and is increasing
- There is measurable habitat degradation due to impacts of bottom contact fishing activity
- Shipwrecks are a non-renewable resource and every shipwreck shows some signs of impacts with fishing gear
- Several iconic species are in poor condition (North Atlantic right whale, humpback whale, cod)



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### ITEMS OF CONCERN

- There are several significant pressures on the ecosystem and resources that we are concerned about.
- Foremost on our minds is the impact of climate change given that the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of the rest of the global ocean.
- Warming waters are causing major shifts in species distributions such as cod.
- As I mentioned earlier, our research has also showed that noise from ships is interfering with the ability of right and humpback whales to communicate with each other.
- Habitats continue to be impacted by bottom contact fishing gear despite a reduction in overall fishing effort over the study period..
- ...and habitat recovery in the sanctuary has been unpredictable.
- Shipwrecks continue to show impacts from fishing gear.
- Several iconic species are in poor condition.

## The Benefits

- Ecosystem Services (i.e. the benefits that humans derive from the sanctuary)
  - Measured for first time
- Recreational activities such as whale watching are popular and appear to be increasing
- Concerns about declines in stocks led to fair ratings for commercial & recreational fishing
- Internationally recognized research program
- Strong education programs
- Cultural heritage resources (i.e. shipwrecks) are a valued asset



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### BENEFITS OF THE SANCTUARY WERE ALSO EVALUATED IN A NEW WAY...

- ...using a concept known as “ecosystem services.”
- Ecosystem services are those benefits that we humans receive from the natural and cultural resources of the sanctuary.
- Probably the best example of an ecosystem service is the production of seafood by the commercial fishing industry.
- Other examples are recreational activities that don’t extract resources like whale watching and the capacity to provide scientific and educational programs
- The status of the services we evaluated were generally good however...
- ...seafood production and recreational fishing were rated as fair primarily due to the poor condition of some stocks like cod.
- We received good ratings for the benefits provided by our science and education programs
- and cultural heritage resources such as shipwrecks are considered to be valued assets to convey historical legacies.

## By the Numbers: Economic contributions of commercial and recreational fisheries

**700**

jobs supported by  
commercial fishing

**\$66  
Million**

average annual output from  
commercial landings

**\$3.9  
Million**

annual average output  
by charter boat fishing

**\$19  
Million**

value of commercial  
landings

**90**

jobs supported by  
recreational fishing

**\$7.8  
Million**

annual average output by  
party boat fishing

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### THE BLUE ECONOMY

- As you can see, a significant amount of economic activity occurs within the sanctuary.
- A first-ever economic study referenced in the Condition Report documents the economic activity by the commercial and recreational fishing industries.
- According to the study...
- Commercial fish landings support \$66 million in economic activity per year and 700 jobs.
- Recreational fishing by charter and party boats supports 90 jobs and average annual output of \$11.7 million.
- We are expecting a similar report on the economic contribution of the whale watching industry to be published soon.
- This commercial and recreational activity is part of what's known as "the blue economy," which seeks to balance economic and environmental health, to support sustainable development.

## The Information Gaps

- Emerging contaminants and microplastics: Fate and Effects
- Deepwater ocean acidification monitoring
- Ocean warming effects on food web, particularly copepods
- Habitat productivity/recovery
- Trends in uses
- Economic contributions of SBNMS and closed area
- More outreach/social media needed to increase recognition



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### THE GAPS

- In addition to assessing the status of the sanctuary, the Condition Report also identified several areas where more research and outreach is necessary.
- These issues range from the study of emerging contaminants, impact from climate change, trends in use by stakeholder groups, to increased outreach efforts among others.
- These areas will be considered for inclusion in the management plan review process.

## Topics For Management Plan Review

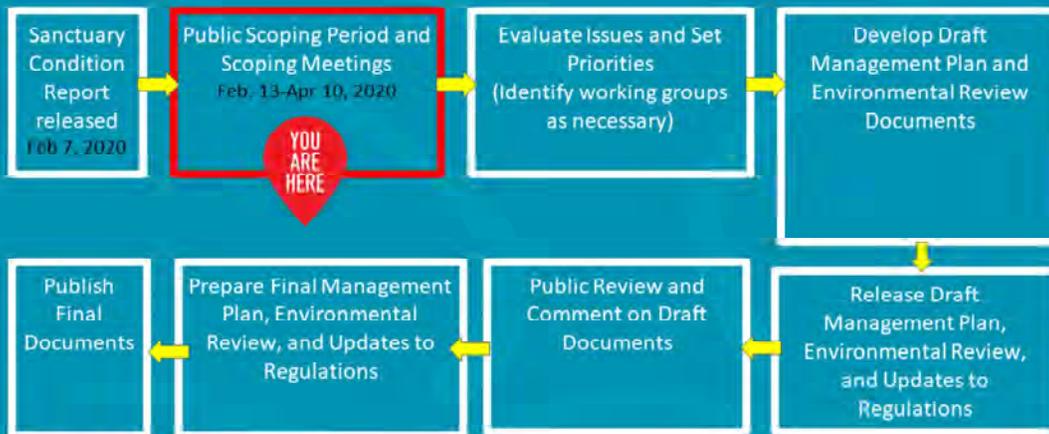
- Climate Change Impacts
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Education, Outreach, and Citizen Science
- Sanctuary Soundscapes
- Maritime Heritage Management
- Other Items Identified Through Public Scoping
- Updates to Regulatory Language



### TOPICS WE ARE ALREADY PLANNING TO INCLUDE IN OUR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW...

- ...are based on Condition Report results but also from discussions with our Sanctuary Advisory Council over the past two years.
- Based on that information, we included these topics in the Notice of Intent that announced scoping and officially started the management plan review process.
- To be clear, the public can submit comments on ANYTHING, we just list these as areas we have already identified as ones that will be considered.
- For example Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has updated some system-wide definitions, and we need to update our regulations for consistency.
  - So the definition for deploying scientific equipment (tags, gliders) is now considered a discharge, so we need to reflect that in SBNMS regulations.
- -----
- Once again, regulatory changes may be considered based on a review of public scoping comments and, if proposed, would be presented for public review with the publication of a proposed rulemaking.

## Management Plan Review Process

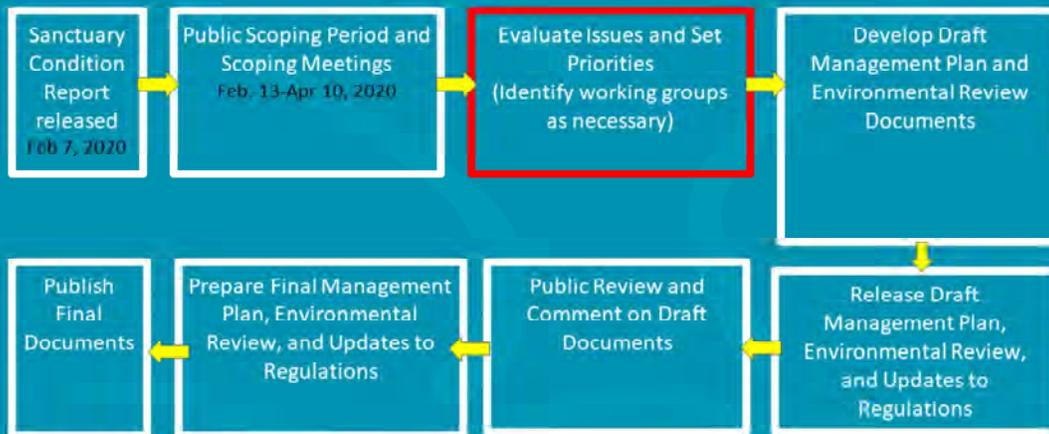


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### THE NEXT STEPS

- So now that the condition report is complete, we'll go back to the management plan review process to talk a little more about the next steps.
- First, we need to answer your questions and receive your input on how we should go about revising the sanctuaries management plan which is what we are going to do tonight.
- Next is to continue receiving public input from e-mail, online submissions and by regular mail until April 10th.

## Management Plan Review Process

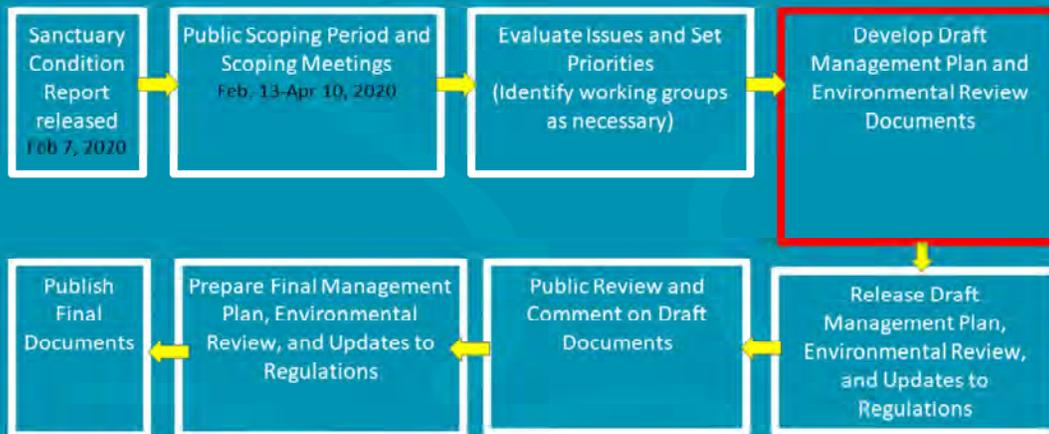


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### THE NEXT STEPS

- Once the public comment period is complete, we will take all this input and develop a framework for our new management plan and establish any necessary working groups to help us with drafting the management plan

## Management Plan Review Process

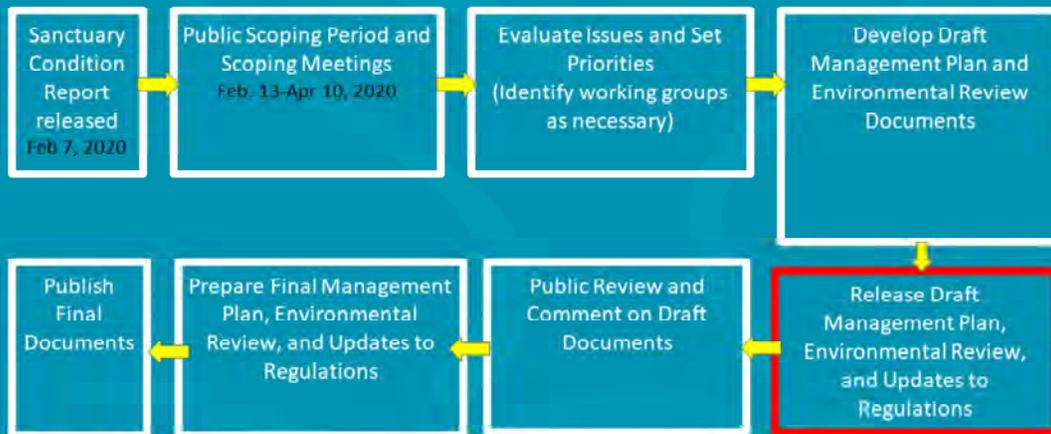


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### THE NEXT STEPS

- The next step will be to sit down and actually write the plan and the accompanying environmental review documents. This should take about a year or so depending on the complexity of the plan

## Management Plan Review Process

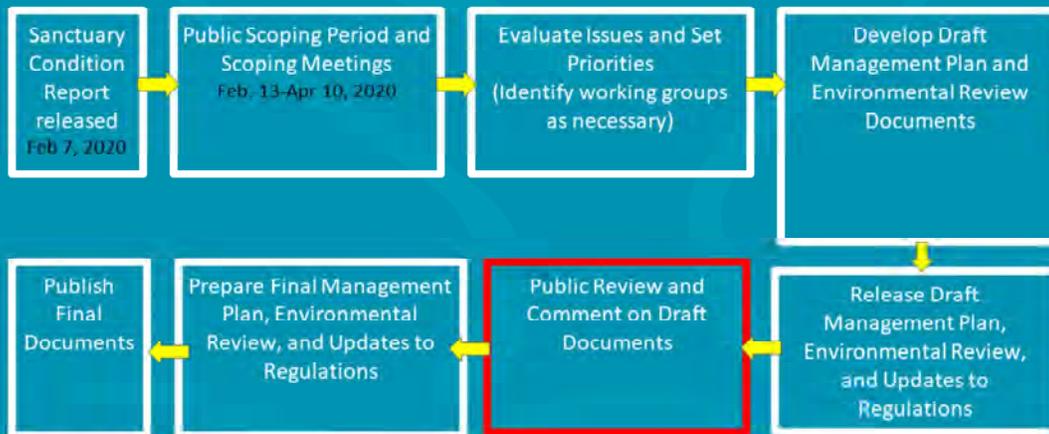


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### THE NEXT STEPS

- Once the draft is complete, it will be released to the public for...

## Management Plan Review Process

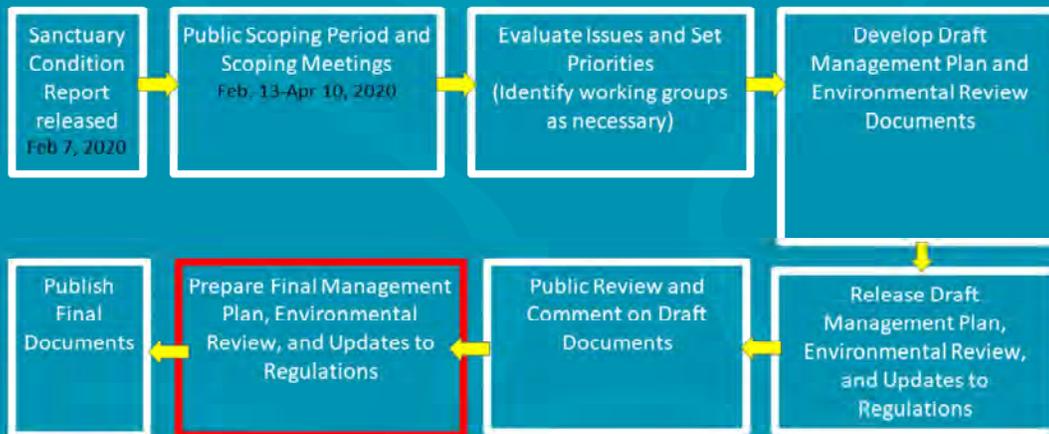


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### THE NEXT STEPS

- ... review and public comment.
- We will hold meetings similar to this one (and hopefully some in person meetings as well) and get feedback on our draft management plan and environmental review documents.

## Management Plan Review Process



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### THE NEXT STEPS

- After we compile this feedback, we will make any necessary changes to our documents and...

## Management Plan Review Process



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### THE NEXT STEPS

- ...Publish the final documents
- Then we get to start work on carrying out the goals and objectives of our new management plan.
- No days off!



## Email

Comments should be addressed to:  
[sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov](mailto:sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov)  
Please use subject line: COMMENT



## Online

Go to the Federal  
eRulemaking Portal,  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).  
Use docket number  
NOAA-NOS-2020-0003.



## Mail

Comments should be addressed to:  
Management Plan Review  
NOAA Stellwagen Bank National  
Marine Sanctuary  
175 Edward Foster Road  
Scituate, MA 02066

**All comments must be submitted or  
postmarked by April 10, 2020**

## SUBMITTING COMMENTS

- A reminder that there are other ways to submit comments.
- They can be submitted by e-mail to [sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov](mailto:sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov).
  - Please use the word COMMENT in the subject line so we can readily identify it.
- Online via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
  - You can either use the docket number on the screen or type stellwagen in the search bar. It will be the first entry on the page.
- And of course you can also submit written comments via regular mail
- All comments must be postmarked or time stamped by April 10, 2020.

## Questions on the Condition Report and Scoping Process?

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### QUESTIONS?

- At this point, I'd like to take questions on the condition report and scoping process.
- Public comments will follow but we wanted to provide an opportunity for you to ask some questions first...
  - fully realizing that I've just provided a high level overview of a lot of information.
- Anyone using this time to make a public comment will be asked to hold your comments until all the questions have been answered.

## Guidelines during comment time

- We will call on speakers in the order registered, and unmute speakers individually
- If you want to be added to the speaker list, please “raise your hand”
- Please limit your comments to 3 minutes; please respect the timer to wrap up your comments. If there is additional time at the end we will add speakers.
- If you experience technical difficulties, please email [sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov](mailto:sbnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov)
- Please be respectful of everyone’s opinions and give everyone a chance to speak
- If you run out of time, please submit the full version of your comments via email, regular mail, or via [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov)



3 min

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### TIME FOR COMMENTS

- Now we’ll move on to the important part of this evening, which is hearing from you.
- As a reminder, the ground rules are posted on the screen.

Thank you for participating tonight!

Your input is essential...  
and greatly appreciated!

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THAT CONCLUDES OUR MEETING...

- I'd like to thank everyone for participating in our virtual scoping session.
- I greatly appreciate the thoughtful input we've received tonight from all of you.
- Special shout out to Professor Faraday's Ocean Governance class at the University of New England (in Biddeford, Maine)
- I'm fond of saying ocean management/ocean governance is a team sport so thanks for being on our team and thanks for being here.
- Please stay safe and have good night.



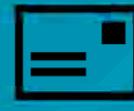
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**All comments must be submitted or  
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#### FINAL REMINDER...

- of the different ways to provide comments
- If all else fails, go to our website [stellwagen.noaa.gov](http://stellwagen.noaa.gov) and this information is there as well.