



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
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65th Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Scituate Maritime Center, Scituate MA

SAC Members Present:

Bill Adler	Primary: Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing
Terri Birkeland	Alternate: At Large
Kevin Blinkoff	Primary: Recreational Fishing
Andrea Bogomolni	Primary: At Large
Todd Callaghan	State: MA Coastal Zone Management (Chair)
Laura Howes	Primary: Whale Watch (Secretary)
Moira Kelly	Federal: NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Laura Lilly	Alternate: Education
Marissa Marcoux	Alternate: Diving
Frank Mirarchi	Alternate: Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing
Kimberley Pearson	Alternate: Conservation
Monica Pepe	Alternate: Education
Wayne Petersen	Alternate: Conservation
Kevin Powers	Primary: At Large
CDR Clayton Preble	Federal: First US Coast Guard District Boston
Jeff Rosen	Primary: Business Industry
Dawn Stancavish	Alternate: Marine Transportation
Mason Weinrich	Primary: Research
Kelly Whitmore	State: MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Members Virtual:

Shelley Brown	Alternate: At Large
Susan Farady	Primary: Education (Vice Chair)
John Galluzzo	Primary: Maritime Heritage
Martin Klein	Alternate: Maritime Heritage
Randall Lyons	Alternate: Business Industry
Chris McGuire	Primary: Conservation
Conor McManus	Alternate: Research
Tom Nies	Federal: New England Fishery Management Council
Carol Voigt	Primary: Marine Transportation



Members Absent:

James Bailey	Alternate:	At Large
Tim Brady	Alternate:	Recreational Fishing
Jonathan Brink	Alternate:	Whale Watch
Rich Delaney	Primary:	Education
Marc Gustafson	Primary:	Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing
Les Kaufman	Alternate:	Research
Heather Knowles	Primary:	Diving
Eric Meschino	Alternate:	Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing
Iben Munck	Primary:	Conservation
Jeffrey Ray	Federal:	NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Representative	State:	Massachusetts Environmental Police

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) Staff:

Pete DeCola	Tammy Silva	Alice Stratton
Ben Haskell	Elizabeth Stokes	Mike Thompson
Anne-Marie Runfola	Dave Wiley	Liam Waters

I. Welcome (T. Callaghan)

II. Water Quality, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Presentation (Dr. Anna Robuck)

Dr. Robuck, a former Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar who worked in SBNMS over the course of her dissertation, presented results of a water quality study conducted in Massachusetts Bay in 2019-2020 in collaboration with SBNMS and the US EPA. The study was partially supported by the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar Program Collaboration, which enabled Robuck to design and execute field work for the study aboard the R/V Auk. The study found concentrations of active pharmaceutical ingredients, caffeine, sucralose, and up to 18 different PFAS in surface and bottom water throughout Massachusetts Bay, including a site within SBNMS. Proximity to coastal sources, like a large wastewater effluent discharge, the outflow of the Merrimack River, and smaller wastewater discharges dictated observed concentrations. Water column stratification also played a key role in observed levels, with higher concentrations of pollutants in bottom water during stratified conditions. The pilot study provides first-of-its kind data for the region, and lays the groundwork for future discussion and monitoring.

III. SAC Business (AM Runfola, T. Callaghan)

1. Review and motion to approve Draft 64th SAC Minutes (T. Callaghan)

Motion by Mason Weinrich to approve the 64th SAC Minutes. Laura Howes seconded the motion.

The 64th SAC Minutes were approved by consensus.

2. Reminders

- SAC Hours and Work Plan: Anne-Marie Runfola thanked SAC members for reporting their quarterly hours and notes on activities that tie into the SAC Work Plan and forward the sanctuary mission. SAC members are asked to commit to something individually, as well as to participate in

working groups and other opportunities throughout the year to connect the SAC to their communities.

- Recruitment: SAC member terms were extended to coincide with the Management Plan process and its final release. We are now preparing for a full SAC recruitment which will be staggered between October/November and the spring/early summer timeframes. SAC members should contact Alice Stratton if they have concerns about staying on longer. More information will follow in early fall.

3. SAC Elections

The SAC re-elected two active members to positions on the SAC Executive Subcommittee: Vice Chair - Susan Farady, Associate Professor of Ocean Studies and Marine Affairs at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, and Education Primary Seat; and Secretary - Laura Howes, Director of Research & Education for Boston Harbor City Cruises, and Whale Watch industry Primary Seat. The SAC Chair election will be held at the fall meeting.

4. Anne-Marie announced this is her last SAC meeting. She has accepted a position at ONMS Headquarters, as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Director.

IV. Sanctuary Business

1. SBNMS Management Plan Review (MPR) Status Update (A. Stratton, P. DeCola)

Alice Stratton provided an update on the progress of the management plan review process. Since the close of the comment period, SBNMS staff have taken the following steps:

- Grouped all input into 61 comments and began drafting comment responses
- Began incorporating the line edits and technical corrections
- Identified issues which required further discussion with ONMS.
- Prepared content and briefings for use by the NOAA Administrator for his response to constituent inquiries
- Began revising action plans to address issues above

As noted above, Dr. Spinrad, the NOAA Administrator, received several letters from commenters elevating their public comments to his attention. In response, staff provided background and response for him and also had several internal ONMS discussions about how to better address the concerns expressed. Staff are now revising each action plan to more clearly indicate what progress SBNMS has made towards implementing the 2010 Management Plan and also to better describe actions and resulting outcomes that staff have undertaken. This has been the primary focus of the past two months and we are now able to move forward with more clarity to draft the final MP.

Several SAC members inquired whether the SAC would have an opportunity to review the final MP before its public release. Staff plan to reconvene the SAC subcommittees and working group to review the changes, and will consider the best options to share the final MP with the SAC prior to its release.

2. Shipwreck Avoidance Program (B. Haskell)

Ben gave an update on the Shipwreck Avoidance Program (SAP), now in its fifth year. SAP is a voluntary program to help increase the safety of fishermen at sea by avoiding hazardous

shipwrecks and to mitigate fishing impacts on historic shipwrecks. He presented several slides reviewing what the conflict is, the timeline of the program, its five components, and the next steps. SAC member Frank Mirarchi complimented the program and asked what efforts would be made going forward to reach out to the fishing community. Ben said that he would continue to work with GARFO to send out the fishery bulletin prior to the start of the April 1 Northern Gulf of Maine (GOM) scallop season to both the groundfish and scallop fleets as well as mail out over 300 wheelhouse flyers to both fleets next March. He also will attempt to get these wreck locations added to the NOAA digital charts.

3. Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Potential Discharge: P. DeCola)

- Starting in late November of 2021, SBNMS staff were made aware of a possible discharge of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay by the media and concern was also expressed during a virtual public comment meeting for the SBNMS draft management plan.
- In February, the SBNMS Superintendent met with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in addition to some experts in this field from WHOI (Dr Ken Buessler) and Sarah Ochty from the Center for Coastal Studies.
- The SBNMS Superintendent also met with the NOAA General Counsel and the ONMS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordinator to discuss the statutory and regulatory authorities provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Act and SBNMS staff's potential involvement in this issue.
- On March 14th, the SBNMS Superintendent sent a letter to the NRC and EPA Regional Administrators conveying several concerns about the potential discharge of radioactive water from Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. In summary, the letter:
 - Encouraged/supported alternative means of disposal for spent fuel pool water.
 - Expressed concerns about transparency and the lack of appropriate NEPA analysis.
 - Clarified that SBNMS is a federal marine protected area in Massachusetts Bay and not a Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuary.
 - Explained that there is a statutory requirement for NRC and EPA to consult with SBNMS staff prior to taking federal actions that may affect sanctuary resources
 - Explained that SBNMS regulations prohibit the discharge of material from beyond the sanctuary boundaries that enters the sanctuary and injures sanctuary resources and exceptions to this prohibition will require a permit.
 - Clarified that unlike most federal regulations, our definition of material includes both chemical and radioactive pollutants.
 - Stated that SBNMS staff would like to be part of the federal review moving forward.
- On May 23rd, the SBNMS Superintendent briefed Sen Markey, Sen Warren and Congressman Keating's staff on the contents of that letter and provided an overview of the March 14th letter to the Plymouth Nuclear Decommissioning Citizen's Advisory Panel.
- SBNMS staff have not received a response as yet from the NRC or EPA but have been told that a response is imminent.
- There is no certainty as to how either NRC or EPA will respond to the March 14th letter but our engagement to date has been well received.

4. SBNMS staff changes: Pete recognized Anne-Marie Runfola who has accepted a position at ONMS Headquarters and Hannah MacDonald, SBNMS's resource protection intern, who has accepted a position at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. He presented each of them with a Stellwagen plaque and one of his medals he received on active duty in honor of their hard work and dedication to the Stellwagen mission.

5. SAC Work Plan (T. Callaghan)

- The SAC Chair reminded members that the Council has a work plan which is a living document, and each section has a working group lead. Following are the recent updates for each group:
 - Management Plan Revision – Susan Farady Lead. Done.
 - Protections for Right Whales – Laura Howes Lead.
SBNMS/WHOI dimethylsulfide (DMS) investigation was conducted during two weeks in March. Both DMS levels and right whale occupancy of Cape Cod Bay during that time were low. Additional DMS work was conducted relative to the distribution and abundance of sei whales (also a copepod feeder) in and around SBNMS in April. Data are currently being analyzed.
 - Maritime Heritage – John Galluzzo Lead. No update.
 - Water Quality – Jeff Rosen Lead.
White Papers on PFAS, Microplastics and pharmaceuticals and personal care products are near completion. Significant efforts at reaching final consensus especially on PFAS.
 - Business and Tourism/Public Engagement – John Galluzzo Lead. No update.
 - Annual Workplan and SAC Priorities – Todd Callaghan Lead.
 - Support for SBNMS visibility and SAC participation through attending the New England Boat Show and participating in the “Get into your sanctuary (GIYS)” campaign – Randall Lyons Lead.
Updated the boat show section based on the 2022 show information and the tentative plans for 2023. Currently the show is set for 9 days next year, but may switch to 5 days again like they did successfully in 2022.

V. Space to Sea: A Photographic Journey into Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (Ben Haskell and Keith Ellenbogen)

Ben provided an overview of the signature event of SBNMS' 30th anniversary which is a photography exhibit on the exterior of the New England Aquarium entitled “Space to Sea: A Photographic Journey into Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary” featuring photographs and imagery by Keith Ellenbogen. It opens on June 22 and Ben invited the SAC to attend the opening ceremony at 6pm followed by Keith's presentation of his photos in the Simon's IMAX theater from 6:30-7:30pm. The exhibit will remain up and available to the public through November 1 on Boston's Central Wharf. Keith is known for his intimate portraits of underwater life that captivate the imagination and compel interest in the natural world. Keith and Ben conceived of this project in 2017 and Keith received a grant from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in 2018 to obtain the photographs and has spent the past four years acquiring a portfolio of images of sanctuary wildlife. The exhibit is a partnership between SBNMS, the New England Aquarium, MIT Sea Grant, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

VI. Discussion on Agency/Governmental Written Reports

1. Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM) (T. Callaghan)

- CZM continues to work with the NOAA Office of Coast Management and the state coastal programs from Maine and New Hampshire on a comprehensive seafloor topography map of the entire GOM (including SBNMS).
 - The first phase is complete: a map out to 24 nautical miles (nm) of geomorphological features (bank, crest, depression, flat, mound, pockmark, rise, rocky zone, slope, scar, and sediment wave field).

- o A second phase of mapping is in the works that would use new data from Maine and would also map out to 50 nm south of MA.
 - CZM is working with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to acquire funding and prioritize locations on the northeast shelf for mapping. One item of interest is soft coral “gardens.”
 - CZM continues to work with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the states of Maine and New Hampshire on establishing an offshore, floating wind lease area in the Gulf of Maine.
2. Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) (K. Whitmore)

Right Whale

- DMF’s Ropeless Fishing Gear Feasibility Report - DMF completed the first phase of a two-year project evaluating operational, technological, legal/regulatory, and socioeconomic challenges and opportunities of integrating on-demand fishing gear technology into New England lobster fisheries. The report, ‘[Assessing the Feasibility of On-Demand Gear in New England Lobster Fisheries](#)’, presents an up-to-date assessment of issues and provides recommendations to researchers and policymakers. Interviews and a two-day workshop with fishermen, conservationists, law enforcement professionals, fishery managers, and scientists informed the report. In phase two, DMF will model economic welfare and cost impacts for lobster fisheries under various on-demand fishing gear scenarios. For more information, see: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/ropeless-fishing-gear-feasibility-study>
- Request to Fish On-Demand Trap Gear - In April, DMF issued a decision on a request for a state Letter of Authorization (LOA) to fish ropeless gear within discrete areas of the MA Bay Restricted Area during the state’s trap gear closure. On Jan. 12, 2022, DMF held a public hearing on the proposal from ‘Pioneers for a Thoughtful Co-Existence,’ an industry group comprised of dual-permit holders (state and federal). DMF ultimately denied the request, noting that the proposal lacked a scientifically robust research approach to answer key questions about ropeless fishing. DMF will consider issuing future authorizations to conduct ropeless research and continue to work with NMFS and the fishing industry to support R&D. For additional details, see:
 - o Pioneer’s Request for LOA from DMF, Dec. 15, 2021: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/pioneers-request-for-loa-for-ondemand-trap-gear-2022>
 - o DMF’s Response to ‘Pioneers,’ April 1, 2022: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/response-to-pioneers-for-a-thoughtful-co-existence-april-2022>
 - o Ropeless Fishing Memo to MA Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, April 1, 2022: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ropeless-fishing-memo-to-mfac-april-2022>
- Gear removal project – In February, DMF initiated a joint program with the MA Environmental Police (MEP) to identify and remove all lost and abandoned fixed fishing gear within the seasonal state waters closure. DMF staff worked with six contracted commercial lobster vessels and MEP officers to haul and remove > 2,000 traps and roughly 500 buoy lines from the closure between February 9 and March 17, 2022, across 49 sea-days. This effort ensures that our closure is as effective as intended at reducing entanglement risk; it also provided an opportunity to monitor compliance with the closure and gear regulations.
- Extension of Small Vessel Speed Restrictions – DMF dynamically extended the small vessel speed restriction in Cape Cod Bay through May 15, 2022, after at least 59 right whales were observed in Cape Cod Bay on April 25. Small vessels (less than 65’) were required to travel at speeds no greater than 10 knots; a complementary federal speed restriction applied to

vessels over 65' until May 15. On May 16, the commercial trap gear fishery was opened and vessel speed restrictions were lifted following surveys that indicated right whales had departed state waters. This winter's surveys indicated that 73% of the known right whale population visited MA including 10 out of the 15 mother/calf pairs.

- 2022 Federal List of Fisheries (LOF) – Under NMFS' classification of U.S. commercial fisheries, the MA state waters trap/pot fisheries was removed from the Category I Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot and Category II Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fisheries and a new Category II 'MA mixed species trap/pot fishery' was added to the LOF (Fed. Reg., Apr. 19, 2022). This new designation indicates that the risk of entanglement for the 'MA mixed species trap/pot fishery' is significantly reduced from its former broader LOF classification; it also requires distinct gear markings which DMF has already implemented.
- Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) - Staff participate on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team which met in May to evaluate and develop risk reduction measures to inform Phase 2 of the ALWTRP conservation framework.
- Gear distribution events - DMF held five distribution events this spring to hand out weak rope, weak inserts, and buoy line marking devices to MA commercial trap fishermen, in addition to the 14 distribution events DMF held in 2021. In total, over 2,000 coils of weak rope, 10,000 'South Shore sleeves', and other gear materials have been provided at no cost to industry to assist with buoy line regulation compliance.

Recreational fisheries

- Atlantic mackerel – This summer, DMF will conduct public hearings to implement a complementary Atlantic mackerel recreational possession limit in state waters, following anticipated final action on 2023 mackerel rebuilding/fishery specifications by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in June.
- GOM cod & haddock – On June 6, DMF will hold a public hearing on proposed 2022 GOM cod and haddock recreational limits (consistent with proposed federal rules); comment accepted through June 10.

Other

- *F/V Patriot* Derelict Gear Removal – DMF's Vincent Malkoski reported that divers made a trip to Stellwagen's *Patriot* shipwreck in March to install a second sound trap for NOAA and to check on status of net presence. The team plans to return in spring to trim the remaining net.

3. Enforcement Reports:

a. First US Coast Guard (USCG) (CDR Clayton Preble)

- Sector Boston has conducted 55 Living Marine Resource boardings in the vicinity of the sanctuary since February 2022 resulting in 25 commercial fishing vessel safety violations across 11 vessels. Three living marine resources violations were issued in the vicinity of the Sanctuary during this period to coincide with Operation SHUCK AND AWE; specifically targeting commercial scallop vessels. All three fisheries violations were for non-compliant scallop dredge gear.
- Two operations concerning Stellwagen Bank are currently in effect:
 - Operation Tangled Up in Blue coincides with recent changes to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) that include the Massachusetts Restricted Area North

(Feb-Apr) in the vicinity of Stellwagen Bank. The additional restrictions on traditional trap/pot gear go into effect on May 1, 2022. The Coast Guard First District has directed units to inspect trap/pot buoy lines for marking and weak link requirements (current and future ALWTRP requirements) when units are in the vicinity of offshore lobster gear. No trap/pots will be pulled to the surface and will only focus on visible portions of the gear accessible to inspection.

- o Operation Right Speed is an operation developed to inform vessels 65 feet or larger on practices required to reduce whale strikes. Coast Guard Sectors are directed to communicate advisories via Local Notice to Mariners, Broadcast Notice to Mariners, and Navigational TELEX (NAVTEX). Vessel speed restrictions are communicated as well as regulations concerning the approach of Right Whales closer than 500 yards. Vessels observed by radar or Automatic Identification System (AIS) that are in violation are hailed and requested to reduce speed to comply with the Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Rule. Sightings are entered into our database and also communicated to NOAA. This operation is a result of cooperation between NOAA and the Coast Guard First District in a Right Whale Protection working group. To date this fiscal year 2022 the USCG has hailed 40 vessels operating in excess of 10 knots in Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas on the Atlantic coast.
 - Due to increased pressure internationally concerning the interdiction of alien migrants, particularly in the Windward Pass off the coast of Haiti, Coast Guard Medium Endurance Cutter (210'/270') availability has been reduced for Domestic Fisheries Law Enforcement in New England. The First District continues to employ Fast Response Cutters from District Five in support of the Living Marine Resource mission in the First District. The First District will receive its first of six Fast Response Cutters in October of 2022. They will be centrally based out of Boston, MA and will provide significant upgrades in seakeeping and endurance that will support a more active presence on the water.
- b. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) (J. Ray)
- NOAA Fisheries OLE hired one Enforcement Officer since the last report. Enforcement Officers conduct routine patrols and initiate civil investigations. They perform a majority of OLE's contact with the fishing industry and other stakeholders.
 - Our report system shows no new SBNMS-related incidents since the last SAC meeting.
 - OLE staff are partnering with Massachusetts Environmental Police and US Coast Guard to enforce the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan regulations that became effective on May 1. OLE and Massachusetts Environmental Police are including remotely operated vehicle (ROV) subsurface inspections in addition to hauling gear as needed. OLE patrolled approximately 60 hours in the SBNMS and found no violations. Two violations were detected just outside of the Sanctuary, within the "Wedge" area. These investigations are ongoing.
 - OLE, Massachusetts Environmental Police and US Coast Guard conducted a right whale speed rule enforcement operation in the Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area (SMA) from May 12 through May 14. The SMA touches the southern part of sanctuary. OLE is investigating one alleged violation.
 - OLE's sanctuary liaison agent held an annual meeting with enforcement partners on May 16 to foster continued collaboration between agencies on sanctuary related enforcement issues.
 - OLE has been conducting patrols to enforce regulations in the Northern GOM scallop fishery. Primary objectives of these patrols are to deter eVTR (Vessel Traffic Report) and Observer Program violations through compliance assistance.

4. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) (T. Nies)

- In April, the NEFMC held its first in-person meeting since January 2020. The meeting was held in Mystic, CT and provided remote access for Council members and the public that did not attend in-person. The April Council meetings have few Council decisions as the Council begins work in its priorities for the year. This typically leads to final actions in the fall and early winter. The following summary highlights this meeting as well as other management activities that may be of interest.
- Northern Right Whales: The Council is participating in Phase 2 of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team's efforts to design measures to protect right whales. This effort will focus on gillnet fisheries that include several managed by the Council. Areas of interest where fishing overlaps with right whale distribution includes the GOM and Southern New England. The Council is also monitoring other right whale protection efforts to make sure concerns of participants in our fisheries are addressed.
- Ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM): In April, the Council received the Ecosystem Status Report from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). This report summarizes metrics that describe the ecological status GOM and Georges Bank. The report is referred to by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) when setting quotas. The Council also approved plans for a Management Strategy Evaluation that will explore the concept of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank. A contractor will be hired and this summer, with the work expected to extend into the fall and early winter.
- Atlantic Sea Scallops: The Scallop fishing year began April 1. This year marks the implementation of new measures for the Northern GOM scallop fishery which includes part of SBNMS. Most notably, the quota was increased to 621,307 pounds for the small-boat general category Northern GOM fleet, and observer coverage was expanded to that fleet. As of May 18, 78% of this quota was caught; the fishery is likely to end about June 1. The Scallop Plan Development Team also held its annual Research Set-Aside share day, where researchers describe their results. While not part of the RSA program SBNMS representatives reported on recent sand lance research. The Council also began scoping hearings on a proposal to allow the larger limited access vessels to lease days-at-sea or access area trips. The Council will consider the information at the hearings in September and decide whether to proceed with an action to develop leasing alternatives.
- Northeast Multispecies: The Northeast Multispecies fishing year began May 1, but most new measures will not be implemented until June. This year Amendment 23 will be implemented and will require at-sea monitoring of all sector trips. The GOM cod ABC is similar to the previous year. The Council recommended new recreational measures for GOM cod and haddock. If approved, they will include GOM cod open seasons of September 1- October 7, 2022, and April 1-14, 2023, for all modes. The bag limit is one fish per day and a minimum size of 22 inches. GOM haddock will be open all fishing year except for March 2023, with a bag limit of 20 fish per day and a minimum size of 17 inches. Please note these measures are not yet in effect as approval is pending. Looking forward, the Council will consider adjusting rebuilding measures for GOM cod this year. Work continues on a Cod Research Track Assessment that will be reviewed in 2023. This assessment will incorporate a new understanding of cod stock structure and will lead to a change in the way cod is assessed in the GOM and Georges Bank.
- Habitat: Offshore wind issues continue to dominate the Council's habitat work. The Council participated in the GOM Offshore Energy Task Force meeting on May 19. Council staff track all wind activities, and the Council frequently comments on offshore wind issues. The Council is also monitoring offshore aquaculture development proposals.
- Atlantic Herring: On March 8, 2022, the Atlantic Herring Midwater Trawl Exclusion Areas adopted in Amendment 8 were determined to be arbitrary and capricious by the U.S. District

Court of Massachusetts. The areas were vacated on March 29, 2022 and are not in effect. Herring fishing this year, however, will be limited by low quotas. An update of the herring assessment is planned for late June and will be used to set the ABC for 2023.

5. NOAA GARFO (M. Kelly)

On Demand (Ropeless) Trap Fishing Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). The Pioneers EPF was issued on April 26, 2022 with an end date of April 30, 2022. The Principal Investigators have requested an extension of the project to cover the next closure period in CY2023. The project approved 3 vessels to fish in two discrete areas in the Mass Bay Restricted Area, in areas that included SBNMS.

VII. Round Robin, Discussion on SAC Member Written Reports (T. Callaghan)

Kevin Blinkoff

- Kevin attended NOAA Recreational Fishing Summit in Crystal City, VA in March 2022. Participants discussed climate change, ocean uses, recreational data and management at the 2-day summit. Discussed:
 - Recently filmed haddock fishing on Stellwagen, will include messaging on vessel speed restrictions and sustainable recreational fishing (cod avoidance and gear selection).
 - Will be working with John Galluzzo and staff at SBNMS on an article promoting the 30th anniversary of the sanctuary and the 50th anniversary of the national marine sanctuary system. Article will be tailored to recreational fishing audience to run on On The Water website this June.

John Galluzzo

Wrote an article that was published in *Sea History* magazine titled "National Marine Sanctuaries at 50!" with an introduction by Elizabeth Moore, of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, which focuses on the celebration of 50 years of conservation and stewardship, to include the protection of shipwrecks, for all the sanctuaries nationwide. He is also involved in kicking off several 30/50 events over the next few months.

Les Kaufman

- New Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) contract: Standardized Integrated Ecosystem-Based Assessment. We have secured funding under contract from BOEM to provide a national protocol and science to support ecosystem-based management of BOEM's activities on the US outer continental shelf, particularly the development of offshore windpower under President Biden's 30 x 30 initiative.
- PESH- Modeling in support of trade-off analysis for beach renourishment based on studies of the biology of northern sand lance, *Ammodytes dubius*. This report covers the dynamic modeling aspects of our collaborative work on sand lance with SBNMS.
- An Assessment of Ecological Important Marine Areas in the GOM (EIMAs). We conducted an analysis of the applicability of the Northeast data Portal and expert knowledge to the identification of ecologically important marine areas in the Gulf of Maine.

Heather Knowles

Slow start to the season but beginning to return to in-person interactions at dive clubs and recently gave a presentation on the sanctuary to Metro West Dive Club. There was significant interest in the Shipwreck Avoidance Program, divers would like to learn more.

Monica Pepe

At the last SAC meeting, Monica shared that the See A Spout, Watch Out! partners (Whale and Dolphin Conservation, NOAA Fisheries, SBNMS) were developing a course for boaters - Boater Safety Around Whales. This free, online course is now live and can be found at seeaspout.org/boating-course. In just 30 minutes this self-guided course shares best practices for boaters that will help to keep themselves and whales safe. We would appreciate the help of the SAC to share with boating audiences and we have a toolkit that we can provide you to facilitate promotion. Please email monica.pepe@whales.org for more details.

Anne-Marie Runfola

- The Conceptual Design Phase of the Visitor's Center was completed in Oct 2021. On May 18, 2022, representatives from the three project partner organizations met in Provincetown to meet new team members, review project status, discuss next steps, and identify potential funding opportunities. Anne-Marie Runfola transitioned project management responsibilities to Ben Haskell.
- This is Anne-Marie's last SAC meeting as coordinator and as a Stellwagen staff member. Anne-Marie started a new position at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Headquarters - Senior Advisor to the Director of ONMS. In this position she will:
 - Support leadership in achieving organizational excellence in areas such as Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility; strategic planning and implementation; workforce development; and system-wide connections and collaboration.
 - Help the ONMS Deputy Director with policy with the management of programs and activities.
 - Work closely with ONMS, the National Ocean Service (NOS) and NOAA's broader leadership to address strategic planning, budget formulation and program issues.

THANK YOU ALL FOR A GREAT 11 PLUS YEARS! I'll be commuting to Silver Spring, MD, so still in Falmouth. I will keep in touch.

Alice Stratton

Sanctuary Permitting Coordination: Alice Stratton, the SBNMS Permit Coordinator, has been participating in several ONMS-wide efforts to improve consistency of permitting across all sanctuary sites. These include: a) the Superintendent's Permit working group, to update guidance and resolve discrepancies in the ways sites issue Superintendent's permits; b) co-leading a permit coordinator's meeting to discuss how submarine cables and other utilities are permitted across the sites; c) coordinating with NMFS and other NOAA offices in the review of the proposed Amitie Fiber Optic submarine cable.

Mason Weinrich

Research Work: Take Reduction Team meeting: 5 days, Science Meeting (including North Atlantic right whales and humpback whales, North Pacific humpback whales, and North Atlantic sei whales) - 11 days.

VIII. Old and New Business: None

IX. Public Comment. None.

X. Adjourn:

Motion by Bill Adler to adjourn the 65th SAC Meeting. Jeff Rosen seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm by consensus.