



Conservation Law Foundation

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The Role of National Marine Sanctuaries in Marine Spatial Planning

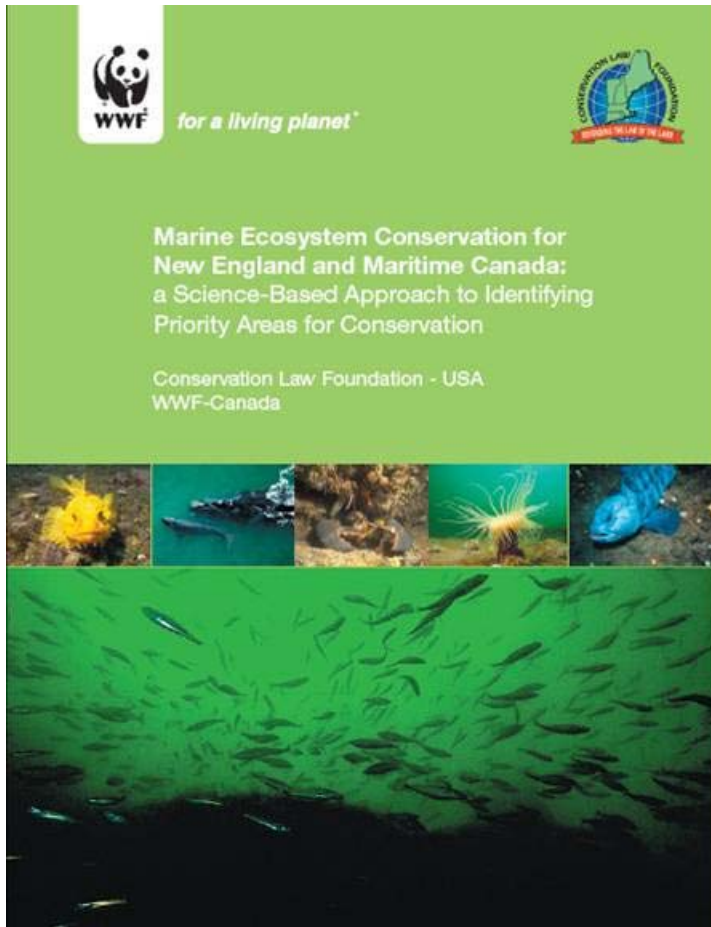
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About CLF

- Founded in 1966, CLF uses legal advocacy, science and economics to protect the people and environment of New England.
- Four program areas:
 - Clean Energy & Climate Change
 - Ocean Conservation
 - Clean Water & Healthy Forests
 - Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice
- Environmental consulting affiliate: CLF Ventures

CLF's science based approach to marine ecosystem conservation



- Conducted six year international study with WWF-Canada
- Gathered extensive data on marine habitats and spatial distribution of marine species
- Identifies areas of high biological importance in Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and Scotian Shelf



National Marine Sanctuaries are Special Places

- Sanctuaries serve as living laboratories, classrooms and playgrounds for all Americans.
- Promote, support, and coordinate scientific research and monitoring of the areas.
- Provide for the permanent protection of nationally significant areas of our ocean waters.
- Manage these areas as ecosystems to maintain and enhance their natural biodiversity, historical and cultural heritage, and other unique qualities



National Marine Sanctuaries are Busy Places

- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Shipping
- Sewage Outfall Pipes
- Whale watching
- Recreational Uses – Boating, Diving, Birding
- LNG Terminals
- Fiber optic cables
- Docks and Moorings
- Wind Power
- Gas Pipelines
- Tidal Energy
- Scientific Research

Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary:

- Most intensively used whale habitats in the Northeast
- 22 species of marine mammals including 7 species of endangered whales
- Longest and most detailed study of baleen whales (humpbacks) in the world





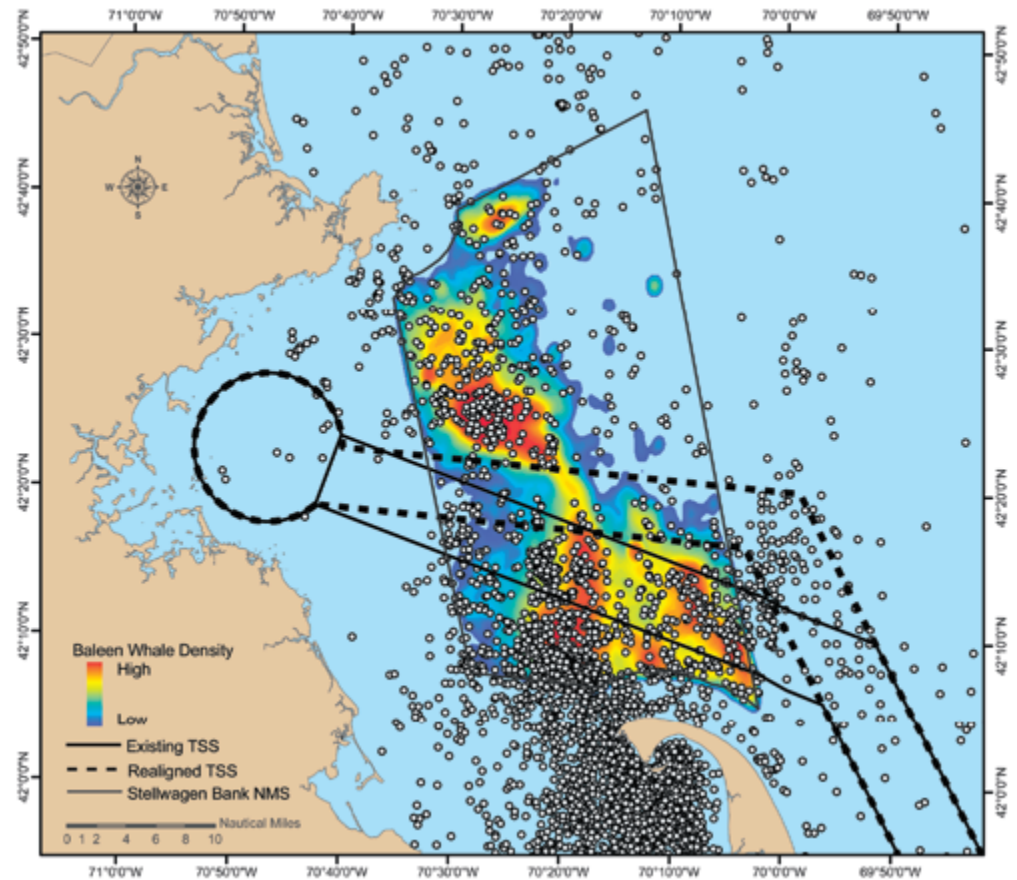
Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary has one of the busiest shipping lanes in the country



MSP Implements Ecosystem Based Management

Shifting shipping lane 12 degrees reduces the risk of vessel strikes on whales

- *81% for all whales*
- *58% for critically endangered Northern right whales*



Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Still Needs Protection

- Fishing pressures every resource state in the Sanctuary
 - Removal of herring can cause depletion of food source for whales and other wildlife
- There is no habitat protection provided by the current NMSA or the Stellwagen Bank management plan
- Sanctuary managers need legal authorities to protect resources





Ocean Policy Task Force

Presidential Memo on June 12, 2009:

- Created a temporary Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force
- Directed the Task Force to develop a proposed National Ocean Policy
- Directed the Task Force to develop a framework for marine spatial planning
- Directed the Task Force to propose policy coordination for implementing NOP and MSP



Ocean Policy Task Force

- “We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.”
– President Barack Obama
- Presented interim report on NOP to President on Sept. 10
- OPTF will complete final proposal for NOP and MSP on Dec. 10



National Marine Sanctuaries Act Reauthorization

Strengthen the ability of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to fulfill its *primary objective of resource protection* while managing competing uses within sanctuary boundaries

- by clarifying this primary objective in the purposes and policies in the Act
- by allowing managers to certify that uses are compatible with this primary objective and prohibit uses that are incompatible
- by authorizing temporally and spatially managed areas within sanctuaries
- by allowing greater permitting discretion



National Marine Sanctuaries Act Reauthorization

- Lift the limitation on the designation of new sanctuaries and creating clear standards for identifying and prioritizing places to be considered for designation;
- Provide an overarching mission statement and clarifying the authority of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on local, regional, and national levels.
- Elevate the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to a service within NOAA;
- Improve the efficiency of the process for designating sanctuaries and amending designation documents after a sanctuary is designated;
- Improve the ability of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, through this Act, to manage marine national monuments for which they now have or are later given jurisdiction.



National Marine Sanctuaries Act Reauthorization

- Address the conflicts regarding fishing regulations within sanctuary boundaries to better allow sanctuary managers to protect sanctuary resources on an ecosystem basis;
- Increase the appropriation authorization levels to adequately support the size and functions of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the National Marine Sanctuary System as a whole.



For more information...

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*Protecting the health of New England's ocean
waters for over 40 years.*



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