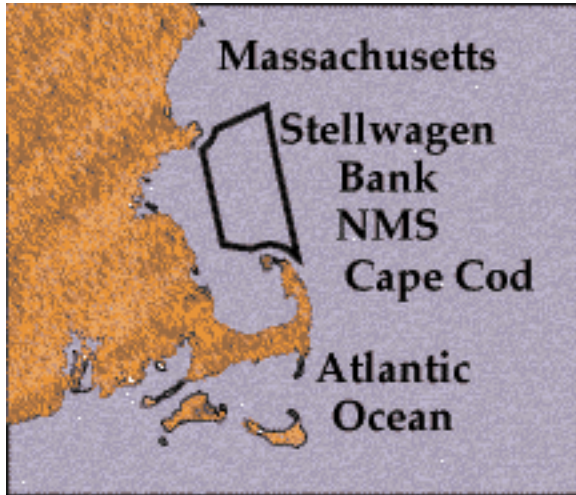


Stellwagen Bank

(Massachusetts)



Description:

Formed by retreat of glaciers from the last Ice Age, Stellwagen Bank consists primarily of coarse sand and gravel. Its position at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay forces an upwelling of nutrient-rich water from the Gulf of Maine over the bank--leading to high productivity and a multi-layer food web with species ranging from single-celled phytoplankton to the great whales.

Habitats and Key Species

Habitats

- Sand & gravel bank
- Muddy basins
- Boulder fields
- Rocky ledges

Key Species

- Northern right whale
- Humpback whale
- White-sided dolphin

Storm Petrel
Northern Gannet
Bluefin tuna
Atlantic cod
Winter flounder
Sea scallop
Northern lobster

Specifications

Location: 25 miles east of Boston, 3 miles southeast of Cape Ann, and 3 miles north of Provincetown

Protected Area: 842-square miles

Designation: November 1992

Education Activities

Curriculum design, professional development workshops, and annual week-long MimiFest for grades 4-8

Interpretive kiosks, traveling exhibit, sanctuary video, and CD-ROM

Whale migration resource center for Journey North internet-based education program; active home page on world wide web--<http://vineyard.er.usgs.gov>

Research Activities

Side-scan sonar survey and geological characterization with U.S. Geological Survey

Fishery habitat research program

Sanctuary user survey

Aquanaut Program: Student research on benthic communities and acoustics with National Undersea Research Center at University of Connecticut

Administration and Support

Full time staff include a manager, education coordinator, and administrative assistant

Work with U.S Coast Guard and National Marine Fisheries Service for enforcement of sanctuary regulations

International cooperation with Silver Bank Sanctuary, Dominican Republic

NOAA representative to Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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