



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
 175 Edward Foster Road
 Scituate, Massachusetts 02066
 Tel: 781.546.6004 Fax: 781.545.8036

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)
69th Sanctuary Advisory Council Hybrid Meeting
Wednesday, October 18th, 2023
Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall, Scituate MA

SAC Members Present

Sam Adams	Primary:	Diving
Michelle Bachman	Federal:	New England Fishery Management Council
Carly Bari	Federal:	NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Barbara Berlucchi	Alternate:	Education (2)
Terri Birkeland	Primary:	At Large (2)
Kevin Blinkoff	Primary:	Recreational Fishing
Tim Brady	Alternate:	Recreational Fishing
Todd Callaghan	State:	MA Coastal Zone Management (Chair)
Rich Delaney	Alternate:	Conservation (1)
CAPT A.J. Ford	State:	MA Environmental Police
CAPT Jamie Frederick	Federal:	US Coast Guard
Laura Ganley	Alternate:	Conservation (2)
Michael Henry	Federal:	NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Laura Howes	Primary:	Whale Watch (Vice Chair)
Louisa Kasdon	Alternate:	Maritime Heritage
Mary Jo Larson	Primary:	Education (1)
Steve Lehmann	Alternate:	At Large (2)
Laura Lilly	Primary:	Education (2)
Hannah MacDonald	Alternate:	Research (2)
Chris McGuire	Primary:	At Large (3)
Eric Meschino	Primary:	Fixed Gear Commercial Fishing
Frank Mirarchi	Alternate:	Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing
Calvin Mires	Primary:	Maritime Heritage
Annie Murphy	At Large:	Alternate (3)
Sarah Oktay	Primary:	Research (1)
Kimberley Pearson	Alternate:	Conservation (1)
Wayne Petersen	Alternate:	At Large (1)
Dawn Stancavish	Primary:	Business Industry
Karen Steuer	Primary:	At Large (1)
Carol Voigt	Primary:	Marine Transportation
Kelly Whitmore	State:	MA Division of Marine Fisheries
Finn Yemini	Primary:	Youth

Members Absent

Jonathan Brink	Alternate:	Whale Watch
Les Kaufman	Alternate:	Research (1)
Alison Gregoire	Alternate:	Diving
Marc Gustafson	Primary:	Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing
Conor McManus	Primary:	Research (2)
Iben Munck	Primary:	Conservation (1)



Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) Staff

Pete DeCola	Caitlin Fitzmaurice	Tammy Silva
Ben Haskell	Amy Meloski	Mike Thompson
Alice Stratton	Elizabeth Stokes	Sam Tolken
Liam Waters	Dave Wiley	

HQ Office of National Marines Sanctuaries

Caroline Behe, Cultural Resources Coordinator

I. Welcome and Orientation to SBNMS and the SAC

1. Introduction (T. Callaghan)

Now that we have completed recruitment Todd asked all SAC members and staff to introduce themselves.

2. SBNMS 101 (B. Haskell)

Ben presented an overview of Stellwagen Bank's history, and mission. The sanctuary's vision statement is:

We strive for a productive sanctuary that protects nature's diversity and bounty, respects sustainable human activities, and advances ocean stewardship. He described the current regulations in place that protect sanctuary resources.

The SBNMS 101 PowerPoint presentation is available upon request. Contact alice.stratton@noaa.gov.

3. SAC 101 (A. Stratton)

Alice gave a presentation on the purpose and goals of advisory councils at the ONMS level as well the make-up of the SBNMS SAC.

II. SAC Business (A. Stratton, T. Callaghan)

1. Review and motion to approve Draft 68th SAC Minutes (L. Lilly)

The 68th SAC Minutes were approved by consensus.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Elections (A. Stratton)

SAC Executive Committee elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair seats.

Chris McGuire was elected as the new Chair and Laura Howes as Vice Chair with 23 votes each.

3. Review SAC Work Plan (T. Callaghan)

Todd Callaghan reviewed the existing SAC Work Plan and noted the items that have been completed and others that were no longer relevant due to project leads having rotated off of the SAC. The SAC discussed how a new work plan would need to be developed in the coming year

that would reflect the Sanctuary's priorities and take advantage of the strengths within the new SAC membership.

4. Review of SAC Subcommittees/Workgroups (T. Callaghan)

Todd Callaghan identified that several Subcommittees were no longer relevant and that SAC members would need to establish new subcommittees based upon their expertise, ability to volunteer, and the Sanctuary's needs as written in the 15 Action Plans listed in the SBNMS 2023 Management Plan. Stratton began to compile a list of SAC members who self-identified with the various Management Plan Action Plans.

5. Establish SAC Charter Subcommittee (T. Callaghan/A. Stratton)

HQ requires that our SAC Charter be updated by July 2024. Todd Callaghan brought forward a motion to create a SAC subcommittee to revise the SAC charter.

Motion: To form a subcommittee to revise the SBNMS Advisory Council Charter.

Todd Callaghan motioned and Mary Jo Larson seconded. Passed by consensus.

SAC Charter Subcommittee Members:

Chris McGuire

Todd Callaghan

Laura Lilly

Hannah MacDonald

Alice Stratton (staff support)

6. Recap of SAC Chairs Meeting (L. Howes)

Laura Howes attended the 2023 SAC Chair Summit in Oswego, NY. Main discussion topics included the Strategic Plan, Offshore Wind, and Indigenous knowledge. One of the main takeaways she took was ONMS needs more funding. Only 50 million is designated for infrastructure for all of the growing sanctuaries. For the sanctuary system itself, 75 million has been allocated, when 300 million is the amount actually needed. Another takeaway was that burnout has been observed, so we need to recognize limited resources and figure out how to pool together group passions for preservation and conservation interests in order to effectively get the most realistic goals achieved.

Joel Johnson, president of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, spoke at the summit, stressing the climate crisis and that sanctuaries are a living laboratory. His goal is to fund the best ideas as resources are limited. John Armor gave a Director's update, stating that in FY22 more funding for Sanctuaries was requested by the President but we still physically need more money. The inflation reduction act has been a big help. Laura asked how can Advisory Councils help – John suggested advocating for more resources to higher ups (above his rank), reaching out to Congress, and writing op-eds. He offered to share guidelines for SAC members on op-eds (in order to be most effective). Additionally, Laura recommended that we take the time to thank SBNMS staff for their hard work and to recognize burnout. Another take away from this meeting she found was to find common issues among different Advisory councils, in order to try to get more effective funding for all.

Other topics discussed were Indigenous Peoples and Knowledge, and how do we create equitable partnerships. Diversity is also greatly needed within advisory councils. Ideas to work on this included building local relationships, creating new SAC seats, offering stipends to attend meetings, and offering flexible meeting schedules to help fill hard-to-fill seats. We also need to make a goal to figure out who we aren't reaching in SAC recruitment, as well as finding external resources to help solve diversity/equity issues.

III. Recognition of Former SAC Members (P. DeCola)

Pete and Alice presented plaques to former SAC members in recognition of their service to the SAC. Collectively, these 14 members have contributed over 151 years of service to SBNMS!, and we cannot thank them enough for their contributions towards conservation of the sanctuary.

IV. Sanctuary Business

1. Superintendent Update (P. DeCola)

- Visitors Center. We have a \$15M grant from HQ for the Visitors Center. The grant process may take up to one year. A Memorandum of Agreement is being worked on between NOAA and the Town of Provincetown as a starting point to get the process underway. The conceptual design is in place and we want to be a model for sustainable development along the coast so we are not cutting any corners during the design construction. It is a really great building and location. Completion is hopefully within the next 5 years.
- Stellwagen SAC Coordinator/Education Outreach vacancy. The vacancy closed and Pete will receive the list of applicants very soon and hopes to have someone on board by end of the year or early 2024. Caitlin Fitzmaurice has been holding down the Education/Outreach program in the interim and has been doing a great job.
- NOAA finance Blackout update. The Department of Commerce core financial systems are transitioning to a new system, Business Applications Systems (BAS) during the month of October. During this period, there is no federal employee travel and no government purchases allowed. The new BAS is expected to be up and running on 25 October.
- New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) actions (priorities discussion/herring). Staff have been very busy working with NEFMC staff who have been very helpful in framing our requests. Tammy Silva and Sam Tolken are working on making sure that changes to the herring management plan and conservation measures include recognizing SBNMS as a single ecological unit for management purposes. Staff are also working with NEFMC staff and GARFO to mitigate impacts to sand lance larval settlement from the scallop fishery and keep bottom tending mobile fishing gear from operating in the sliver and Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area/Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area.
- SBNMS staff are working with National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) on potential wind energy cable siting. Ben Haskell has been very active with NCCOS and Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) to look at suitability models as to where the cables could go in the sanctuary and will follow up with side scan sonar and analysis on where they should be laid. Wind turbines themselves will not physically be located in the sanctuary.
- Management Plan Implementation. We are working to create an implementation plan that matches priorities with staff capacity and financial resources. We will share the implementation

plan with the SAC in February 2024 and include SAC participation in the plan which should enable this document to serve as a SAC work plan.

2. Mapping Initiative and SS *Portland* Symposium and Maritime Ecology Workshop (B. Haskell)

- Mapping Initiative - Ben gave an update on the Stellwagen Mapping Initiative (SMI). The SMI is made possible by an earmark of \$1M sponsored by Senators Markey and Warren. The funds were awarded to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to administer. The goal of SMI is to enlist the help of fishermen to map as much of the sanctuary as possible with side scan sonar. Ben will serve as overall project manager. Calvin Mires will serve as project coordinator and Mike Bailey will serve as the sonar technician. For year 1 we will contract with Marine Imaging Technologies who will provide the side scan sonar services using a heave-compensated system developed and operated by Ben Roberts. The heave-compensation will enable us to operate in a much wider weather window than traditional side scan sonar, i.e., 3-5 foot seas, which means being able to conduct surveys throughout the winter. We hope to start surveying in late January and our plan is to conduct 3-5 survey days-at-sea per month. Our initial priority survey areas will be potential wind energy export cable corridors (2-3 corridors). Once these are completed, we will start surveying other areas.
- Ben discussed plans to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the sinking of the steamship *Portland* by holding a two-day symposium in Portland, ME at the Southern Maine Community College on October 28-29. This was to be followed by a two-day international workshop on Maritime Heritage Ecology (MHE) also held at the SMCC campus.

UPDATE to SAC Minutes: The tragic shooting in Lewiston, ME on October 25 caused us to cancel the symposium and we moved the MHE workshop to online format via Zoom on October 30-31. We will reschedule the symposium for April.

V. 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 Gulf of Maine (including SBNMS). A second phase of draft maps using new data from off the coast of Maine, north and east of Stellwagen Bank, in southern Cape Cod Bay, and south of Cape Cod has been delivered and is in review. CZM and NOAA, as co-chairs of the Habitat, Coastal, and Ocean Mapping committee of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), has completed a prioritization of seafloor mapping needs across the northeast for bathymetry, sediment, and seafloor video (including in SBNMS). A draft report and a strategy for funding is expected in November. CZM and MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) continue to meet with various fishery sectors to discuss where the fisheries concentrate their activities in the Gulf of Maine and how future floating offshore wind structures might affect those activities.

2. Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) (K. Whitmore)

Recent DMF Publications

- 2022 DMF Annual Report - overviews DMF's fisheries management, fisheries biology, shellfish and sanitation, and administrative programs and activities in 2022. See: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2022-division-of-marine-fisheries-annual-report/download>.

- DMF Newsletter 2023 Q1/Q2 - covers topics such as the Gulf of Maine lobster conservation plan, MA river herring run reports, and a white shark creature feature. See: <https://www.mass.gov/news/dmf-news-2023-q1-q2>.
- New DMF On-Demand Gear Report - 'Estimating the Costs of Using On-Demand Gear in Massachusetts Lobster Fisheries' evaluates operational, technological, legal/regulatory, and socioeconomic challenges and opportunities of alternative lobster gear. See: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/on-demand-fishing-gear-economic-model>.
- Annual Report of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute (MFI) for July 2022 to June 2023 - describes major programs and projects of the MFI, a partnership in fisheries research and education between DMF and the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at UMass Dartmouth.

Right Whale Conservation

On July 25, at the Massachusetts State House, NOAA Fisheries gave its "Partner in the Spotlight Award" to DMF for conservation efforts regarding the endangered North Atlantic right whale, namely protection of right whales when they are in MA waters by implementing regulations to reduce entanglements and the potential for vessel strikes, and support of other recovery efforts.

Low Oxygen Zones in Cape Cod Bay

Since 2019, DMF has monitored dissolved oxygen levels of Cape Cod Bay (CCB) to help fixed-gear fishers know when to move their gear for the safety of lobsters and other marine animals. Environmental sensors deployed by the CCB Study Fleet and by the Center for Coastal Studies, who are working cooperatively with DMF, once again detected low oxygen zones in CCB this summer/fall. For information on hypoxia and to use an interactive viewer on recent CCB conditions, please visit www.mass.gov/capecodbaydo.

DMF Bottom Trawl Survey

DMF's Fall Trawl Survey to assess fishery resources completed 91 out of 103 planned stations throughout MA state waters. 12 stations were lost (in Nantucket & Vineyard Sounds) due to weather and vessel staffing issues. One planned station in Muskeget Channel was dropped at the insistence of Vineyard Wind because of an unprotected cable in the vicinity; an alternate station was completed.

Cod and Haddock Recreational Limits

DMF took emergency action to complement recently enacted federal recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock. Rules include GOM Cod: 1-fish bag limit, 22" min. size, open Sep. 1-Oct. 31; GOM Haddock, Private Angler mode: 10-fish bag limit, 17" min. size, open Apr. 1-Feb 28; GOM Haddock, For-Hire mode: 15-fish bag limit, 18" min. size, open Apr. 1-Feb. 28. Regarding GOM haddock, NOAA Fisheries adopted NEFMC-recommended measures for the for-hire recreational angling mode, however adopted alternative measures for the private angling mode. This resulted in delayed rulemaking and a one-month period when federal and state measures were out of phase (fed rules enacted Aug. 14; state rules Sep. 15). DMF hosted a virtual public hearing on the rules Oct. 10.

Atlantic Herring

The Atlantic herring fishery in the inshore Gulf of Maine (Area 1A) is subject to seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters. As such, MA/NH and Western ME spawning areas were closed Sept. 23 to Nov. 3 (by default) to directed sea herring fishing. Season 1 (Jun. 1-Sep. 30) of the 2023 Area 1A fishery closed on Aug. 26. ASMFC's Atlantic Herring Management

Board (ME, NH, MA) determined days-out effort control measures for Season 2 (Oct. 1-Dec. 31) to include: zero landing days Oct. 1-9; two landing days Oct. 10-11; zero landing days Oct. 12-Nov. 4; four consecutive landing days/week Nov. 5 until 92% of Area 1A sub-ACL is caught.

3. Enforcement Reports

a. First US Coast Guard (USCG) (CAPT J. Frederick)

Enforcement since May 2023: conducted 48 vessel boardings, issued 9 safety violations, and observed an 81% compliance rate.

USCG currently has 4 operational fast cutters and will add a 5th in October 2023 and a 6th in May 2024.

b. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) (M. Henry)

Operations

At sea patrols: 2 joint patrols with MA Environmental Police (MEP); 3 OLE vessel patrols; 1 aboard contracted vessel (ROV operations). Focus has been on Highly Migratory Species (HMS), Marine Mammal Protected Areas (MMPA) and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) enforcement.

Investigations and Violations

- Fishing or retaining a bluefin tuna on a Restricted Fishing Day (RFD)
2 new investigations open; 1 pending General Counsel-Enforcement Section (GCES) decision. A previous RFD case settled in August for \$2,500.
- Seasonal Management Area (SMA) speed rule (Offshore Race Point area)
1 investigation open; 1 investigation closed via compliance assistance.
- \$9,000 "Notice of Violation Assessment" issued to a head boat for NMS and reporting violations in 2022 (ongoing, pending hearing).

Air patrols with USCG

OLE Northeast Division (NED) has increased collaboration with the USCG Air Station (Cape Cod). Training recently provided by a Special Agent (SA) to assist crew identifying fisheries violations.

VMS/Investigative Support

Since March 31, 2023 there have been 2,232 VMS messages sent to vessels entering discrete zones to help protect historic shipwrecks. As part of the SBNMS shipwreck avoidance program, automated messages are sent to vessels that enter geofenced areas to voluntarily avoid known shipwreck locations. There are three geofenced areas with 11 identified wrecks and vessels receive a message every time they enter an area at a certain speed threshold.

We continue to monitor scallop activity in the southern bank area around the Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) closure area. Scallop activity historically picks up in this area during the fall/winter.

Miscellaneous:

- For NARW conservation, our effort continues to be split between ALWTRP enforcement and speed rule enforcement. Starting on ALWTRP enforcement in the third quarter, FY 23 (that's April through June of this year), we saw our ALWTRP patrol compliance rate climb back up to about 87%, up from 78% the previous quarter (Q2). In the 3rd quarter, out of about 312 vessels whose gear was inspected, 270 had no observed ALWTRP violations.

- We completed a multi-day operation in July. Four of our EOs and two SAs alongside MA Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEA) officers and USCG D1 partners conducted seven offshore vessel patrols, as part of this operation. Those patrols covered waters outside or east of Cape Cod from Chatham to Nantucket to approximately 30 NM offshore into the Great South Channel SMA. We mobilized both Northeast Division (NED) patrol vessels for this operation. In addition, both were outfitted with state-of-the-art electronics prior to this op and were able to successfully conduct vessel speed checks using a mini-automatic radar plotting aid (MARPA) and handheld radar on vessels inside, entering, and exiting the SMA. 100% compliance was observed.
- Officers conducted patrols in the first week of Sept within the SBNMS in response to reports of large concentrations of anglers fishing in the vicinity of feeding whales. Officers contacted two charter party vessels during the patrol and boarded four other HMS vessels. All vessels were compliant with MMPA regulations.

c. Massachusetts Environmental Police (MA MEP) (CAPT A.J. Ford)

MEP completed over 100 boat and 220-man hours in SBNMS resulting in 120 vessel checks and 88 violations.

The OLE also completed hundreds of hours enforcing MA General Law 130 and Code of MA Regulation 322 into and around the Commonwealth's contaminated and conditionally open shell fishing areas.

The OLE is also in the process of approving a management plan for the standardization of the shell fishing process regarding harvesting and storing shellfish during that process with DMF and the MA Department of Public Health.

Every coastal region MEP officer from New Hampshire to Rhode Island is responsible for completing 48 shellfish checks per month.

The OLE is also in the process of purchasing a new offshore patrol boat that will enhance OLE's capability in its mission to patrol the SBNMS.

The Massachusetts Environmental Police Mission Statement: *To protect the environment and natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through enforcement, education, and public outreach.*

4. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) (M. Bachman)

The New England Fishery Management Council met in June and September 2023. Council decisions from both meetings that may be of interest to the SAC are summarized below. Additional information can be found on the Council web page, www.nefmc.org.

Atlantic Herring

During the June Council meeting, the Council voted to develop and implement management actions designed to attain optimum yield and improve the conservation status of Atlantic herring by accounting for its role as a forage species in the ecosystem and minimizing user conflicts between the directed herring fishery and other groups. During the September Council meeting, the Council voted to develop Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to address spatial and temporal allocation and management of herring at the management unit level to minimize user conflicts, contribute to optimum yield and support rebuilding the resource. The Council also voted to develop a scoping document and a schedule for hearings by the January

2024 Council meeting. This would include a review and compilation of records of user conflicts in the fishery from Amendment 8 development and other Council actions. The Council received a letter from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Captain Pete DeCola on August 28, 2023, requesting that all of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary be included in any proposed management measures when revisiting alternatives to conserve herring under Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan.

Atlantic Sea Scallops

During the September Council meeting, the Council voted to develop management measures that consider increasing Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) ping rates in Framework 38 for the scallop fishery for FY2024 to improve enforcement in the fishery. The Scallop Committee along with the Habitat Committee are also in the process of developing an action for potential scallop access areas in the Northern Edge of Georges Bank. The two groups are working on estimating biomass, percent disturbance from the fishing effects model, and consideration of possible impacts to other fisheries resources based on four concept areas within the current Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area.

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Framework 65 was approved on August 17th, which implemented emergency measures for Gulf of Maine haddock to increase the catch limit from the level originally proposed, which would have resulted in a substantial reduction from FY2022. This emergency action is in place for an initial 180 days, though may be extended through the end of the fishing year.

The Atlantic cod research track assessment is now complete, with the peer review held in August 2023. This work was in response to the new understanding that there are five biological cod stocks, which were considered in four assessment units, including Southern New England, Georges Bank, Western Gulf of Maine combined winter and spring spawning components, and Eastern Gulf of Maine. In September, the Council added to the potential priority list for 2024 Council work to develop a transition plan for Atlantic cod management units including addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect spawning cod.

Atlantic Salmon

The Council is awaiting formal correspondence from NOAA Fisheries on Framework 1 to the Atlantic Salmon FMP, which the Council submitted to NOAA Fisheries in early May. Final submission of this framework is anticipated this fall. The action is considering adjustments to the management measures in the FMP that prohibit the possession and harvest of salmon to enable Atlantic salmon aquaculture operations to be carried out in federal waters.

Large Whales

The Council established the on-demand fishing gear conflict working group to address ways to reduce or prevent gear conflicts that may occur between fixed and mobile fishing gear given the requirements for fixed gear are changing to protect large whales. The group met for the first time in July and the Council approved the group's Terms of Reference in September.

Atlantic Sturgeon

The New England and Mid Atlantic Councils are developing a joint action to reduce interactions with sturgeon by the monkfish and spiny dogfish gillnet fisheries. During the September Council meeting, the New England Council approved the narrowed range of alternatives to be analyzed for both monkfish and spiny dogfish fisheries based on input received from the Coast Guard and Office of Law Enforcement. The Mid Atlantic Council is expected to approve the same range of alternatives during its October meeting.

Other

In September, the Council received a report on Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary recent activities from Ms. Sam Tolken, including the announcement of the release of the final management plan for the sanctuary.

At the September meeting, the Council considered initial management priorities for 2024, which will be evaluated in the coming with final approval of 2024 priorities to be determined at the December meeting. The Council received a letter from Superintendent Captain Pete DeCola on September 14, 2023, requesting that the following language be added to the list of potential management priorities for 2024: "Consider the development of seasonal (spring-time) management measures for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary that reduce potential impacts of the directed scallop fishery to sand lance (key forage fish) habitat and population, and that recognize the entire sanctuary as a single ecological unit."

The Council continues to closely monitor offshore wind development, particularly pre-leasing public engagement opportunities (e.g., Gulf of Maine, Central Atlantic region, and others).

5. NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) (C. Bari)

North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Risk Reduction Technology Workshop in February:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/north-atlantic-right-whale-vessel-strike-risk-reduction-technology-workshop>

And information about the \$82 million in funding received by NOAA Fisheries for North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery under the Inflation Reduction Act:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/endangered-species-conservation/north-atlantic-right-whale-recovery-under-inflation-reduction-act>

VI. Round Robin, Discussion on SAC Member Written Reports (T. Callaghan) - None.

VII. Old and New Business - None.

VIII. Public Comment - No public comment.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Todd Callaghan to adjourn the 69th SAC Meeting. Barbara Berlucchi seconded the motion.

The 69th SAC meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

*"Audio recording of SAC Minutes and Presentations and Discussions are available on request.
Contact Alice.Stratton@noaa.gov or Elizabeth.Stokes@noaa.gov"*