



**NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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May 14, 2014

### **NOAA to Demonstrate Unmanned Aircraft System for Ocean Monitoring** *Media Invited Dockside Prior to Deployment*

NOAA will conduct a test project May 20, 2014 of the PUMA Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for use in ocean monitoring and environmental research. The test in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) will allow NOAA researchers, managers and partners to observe the UAS in operation so they can better understand its capabilities and explore its potential to enhance management of the sanctuary.

The primary objective of the test is to compare observations of fixed fishing gear (buoys) in SBNMS by PUMA and from the sanctuary research vessel. If successful, this type of technology could be used for marine wildlife surveys, visitor and vessel use operations.

On Tuesday, May 20, members of the media are invited dockside to observe equipment being prepared and loaded for the demonstration. NOAA representatives will describe how the UAS operates, outline the demonstration project and be available for interviews.

**What:** Dockside preparation for the NOAA test of a PUMA Unmanned Aircraft System

**When:** Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
175 Edward Foster Rd., Scituate, MA 02066

**Who:** Craig MacDonald, superintendent, SBNMS  
Ben Cowie-Haskell, deputy superintendent, SBNMS  
Matt Pickett, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
LTJG Kevin G. Doremus, NOAA Aircraft Operations Center

**Visuals:** PUMA Unmanned Aircraft System, to be deployed at sea in a NOAA test, NOAA R/V Auk, researchers, operators

**IMAGES:** Digital video/photos of UAS in flight, being launched, video from UAS.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

**On the Web:**

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>

NOAA UAS: <http://uas.noaa.gov/>

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>

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