

After spending the night on the boat in a protected cove near an island just off Salem Massachusetts, the Admiral and I cruised out to Stellwagon Bank to look for Humpback Whales.

We were 15.5 nm from land at the closest point, Gloucester. We had flat calm seas all the way out and back. We spotted the first whale about 12 nm out. There were several other whale watch and private boats in the area. It is amazing to be reminded of how huge these things are. I was able to take a few good pictures and posted them in a new sub-album titled "Stellwagon Bank August 2008".

One whale stayed on the surface somewhat close to us and slapped the water with a fin. A while later we had 5 whales surface extremely close to the boat. You can see from one of my pictures how close it was. When they exhale the spout rises about 15' in the air. We heard one of them sing while surfacing. At one point a whale came straight out head first then slipped back into the depths. It was very impressive to see these large mammals today.

It was a great adventure. If you were looking at a map, we were almost halfway between Gloucester and Provincetown (tip of Cape Cod).

Matt Foster

Stellwagon Bank