

DISCOVER WONDER

KEITH ELLENBOGEN

Underwater photographer



My love of the oceans and photography have always been intertwined. When I was sixteen, I volunteered at the New England Aquarium in Boston, where I learned first-hand about the complexity and beauty of the oceans and the myriad exotic creatures that inhabit them. That same year my grandfather, an amateur photographer, unknowingly set me on my career path when he gave me my first underwater camera, a Nikonos V.

I grew up just outside of Boston and I remember vividly my first dives in the cold and murky waters of New England where I learned the artistry of underwater photography capturing images of starfish, flounder, and lobsters. From the surface, I would set sail on whale watching boats to get a glimpse of a humpback whale. From the moment I started exploring the sea, I found myself captivated by the ocean, the wildlife and how to make compelling underwater photographs.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is an 842 square mile area that is just 25 nautical miles off the coast of Boston. It is a wonderland where the public can experience humpback, minke, and fin whales and a symbol of the dynamic marine ecosystem that is off the Northeast coast of the United States.

I am currently working on a project to use the art of underwater photography to raise awareness about the extraordinary diversity of marine life within the sanctuary. My goal is to use the art of underwater photography to give the fish and animals a voice to share their everyday story from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary with people around the world. But the conditions within this area can be challenging. The seas are rough, the water is cold, and the visibility is limited. However, there is also something to discover. In June, I observed and photographed a bloom of lion's mane jellyfish. They are absolutely beautiful, but potentially dangerous, as they do sting with their vibrant orange-purple bell and long flowing tentacles that resemble a lion's mane. The increased numbers have captured the public's attention along with a recent interview on the local news.

Over time, I look forward to sharing many of the images and stories that I have been capturing from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

[WATCH KEITH'S VIDEO](#) ▶

There's an Ocean of Sanctuaries to Discover

Beautiful and awe-inspiring, they are home to miraculous wildlife that soar above and swim below the water's surface. Explore and do your part to help protect these wet and wonderful places.

Discover your story, Discover Wonder.



**National
Marine Sanctuary
Foundation**