

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6520

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 11, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, LAVINE, BARNWELL, D'URSO, RAMOS, RAYNOR, JEAN-PIERRE, GLICK, THIELE, GRIFFIN, SOLAGES, STERN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Article 11 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new title 20-A to read as follows:

### TITLE 20-A

#### MARINE MAMMAL AND SEA TURTLE PROTECTION AREA

Section 11-2050. Establishment of the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area.

11-2052. The marine mammal and sea turtle protection area advisory committee.

§ 11-2050. Establishment of the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area.

1. There shall be created the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area consisting of the waters in the area from mean high water seaward fifteen hundred feet, except further seaward in shallow areas to the outermost limit of waters fifteen feet in depth, around Plum Island, Great Gull Island and Little Gull Island. Such boundaries shall be described and depicted upon a map and a copy of any and all such documents shall be forwarded to the commissioner for inventory, research and reference purposes for the general public. Such protection area may also be designated as a New York state bird conservation area pursuant to section 11-2001 of this article.

2. For purposes of this title the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area shall mean:

(a) a site providing habitat to species including:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (i) harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*);  
2 (ii) harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*);  
3 (iii) gray seals (*Halichoerus grypus*); and  
4 (iv) sea turtle species including kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*),  
5 green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback (*Dermochelys coreacia*);  
6 (b) presence of a state-designated natural protective feature; and  
7 (c) location within the boundaries of two estuaries of national  
8 significance.

9 3. The department is authorized to promulgate regulations to prevent  
10 the harassment and for the protection of marine mammals and sea turtles  
11 within the marine mammal and sea turtle protection area.

12 § 11-2052. The marine mammal and sea turtle protection area advisory  
13 committee.

14 There shall be created within the department the marine mammal and sea  
15 turtle protection area advisory committee whose non-governmental members  
16 shall serve without pay, meet not less than twice each year, and whose  
17 sole purpose shall be to advise as to the management, educational  
18 research and utilization of the marine mammal and sea turtle protection  
19 area. Provided, however, the utilization of such area shall be consist-  
20 ent with the mission of the department pursuant to section 11-2050 of  
21 this title. In addition to representatives of the department, the advi-  
22 sory committee shall consist of, but not be limited to one represen-  
23 tative each from the department of state, the marine resources advisory  
24 board, the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the  
25 state museum, American museum of natural history, Cornell laboratory of  
26 ornithology, environmental groups, marine education and research groups,  
27 the dean of the marine sciences research center at Stony Brook, the  
28 Suffolk county executive, and the town supervisors of Southold and  
29 Brookhaven. The commissioner may appoint additional members as appropri-  
30 ate, who shall serve at his or her pleasure.

31 § 2. Nothing in this act shall be deemed to impose new fishing  
32 restrictions.

33 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
34 section 11-2052 of the environmental conservation law, as added by  
35 section one of this act, shall expire and be deemed repealed April 1,  
36 2030.