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In 1973, the remains of the Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* were found in 240 feet of water just off Cape Hatteras, N.C. The wreck site was designated as the first national marine sanctuary on January 30, 1975. Since the discovery, NOAA has sponsored numerous expeditions to survey and document this historic vessel. More than 1,000 artifacts have been recovered, including the ship's rotating gun turret, cannons, and large pieces of steam machinery. These and many other artifacts are on display in the USS *Monitor* Center located at The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Va.



Bow view of the USS *Monitor* and the five-foot-high armor belt
Photos by Doug Kessler, *Monitor* Collection, NOAA

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