

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS)  
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
UNC Coastal Studies Institute Campus, Manteo, NC  
April 29, 2013**

***In Attendance:*** David Alberg (MNMS Sanctuary Superintendent), Reed Bohne (ONMS NE Regional Director), Deborah Boyce (Recreational Diving), Jim Bunch (Recreational Diving), Braxton Davis (N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources), Terri Kirby-Hathaway (Education), Lauran Heesemann (MNMS Research Coordinator), Stuart Katz (Economic Development), Jay Kavanagh (Recreational/Commercial Fishing), Susan Langley (SAC Chair, Archaeological Research), Brad McDonald (Va. Dept. of Historic Resources), Billy Ray Morris (N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources), Joe Poe (Citizen-at-Large), Shannon Ricles (MNMS Council Coordinator), LCDR Kevin Saunders (U.S. Coast Guard), Doug Stover (Alternate - National Park Service), Paul Ticco (ONMS NE Regional Coordinator), and Tyler Zminkowski (Youth Seat)

***On the Phone:*** Alexia Catsambis (Alternate – U.S. Navy)

***Absent:*** Steve Claggett (Alternate – NC Dept. of Cultural Resources), David Conlin (NPS), Lauren Hermley (Heritage Tourism), Anna Holloway (The Mariners’ Museum), Joe Hoyt (MNMS Maritime Archaeologist), David Krop (Alternate – Mariners’ Museum), Robert Neyland (U.S. Navy), Wayne Smith (Conservation), and Joanna Wilson (Alternate – VA Dept. of Cultural Resources)

***Guests in Attendance:*** Bill McDermott, Malcolm Perry

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## **WELCOME**

Susan Langley, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) Advisory Chair called the meeting to order. After her opening remarks the roll was called and David Alberg, Superintendent of the Monitor Marine Sanctuary, thanked everyone for coming.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

### **MNMS STAFF UPDATES**

A. Lauren Heesemann, Research Coordinator for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary reported on the following:

1) Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum:

A committee meeting was held in May at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum to discuss and review various design drawings of exhibit wings as well as temporary exhibit space, and the issues concerning the *Monitor* Exhibit. There was also discussion about the Corolla wreck (the oldest North Carolina wreck currently known) and its exhibit space.

2) NOAA Interactive Kiosk:

Four kiosk units are planned to be established during the coming year. At a cost of \$6,000.00 each they will be on exhibit at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort, the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and Jeanette's Pier, as well as one of the other N.C. Aquarium sites. At the kiosk one can log onto various sites including those for MNMS, partnership organizations, Kid's Corner, weather, etc. There was discussion by Stuart Katz and Dave Alberg about other venues for the kiosks, such as Bass Pro Shops.

3) Blue Star Diving:

This is a volunteer certification program in Florida for boat operators. The operators help to orient divers to the Keys, and pledge to encourage the public to practice responsible diving and snorkeling so as to relieve local stress on the reef, while still enjoying its beauty. MNMS is exploring the idea for adoption and implementation in the Outer Banks. Dave Alberg indicated it might help in promoting activities other than scuba diving, thus providing additional tourism dollars to the area.

4) CSI and MNMS MOU:

There is an ongoing discussion between MNMS and the Coastal Studies Institute to promote a cooperative effort to use equipment and space. CSI has boats that could be made available for short periods of time for the use of MNMS personnel, and storage space for equipment. Currently, CIS and MNMS are working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) concerning the efficient sharing of space and equipment.

B. Shannon Ricles, Education Coordinator, MNMS reported on the following:

1) Hampton Monitor Monument:

On December 29, 2012, there was a dedication of a *Monitor* monument at Hampton Roads National Cemetery. Various speakers gave remarks including David Alberg, Superintendent, NOAA's Monitor NMS; Daniel J. Basta, Director, NOAA's ONMS; Rear Admiral David M. Thomas, Jr., Commanding Officer SURFLANT, USN; David K. Schettler, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration; Dr. John E. Byrd, Director, Central Identification Lab Hawaii; Dr. Anna Holloway, USS *Monitor* Center, The Mariners' Museum; and Capt. Donald P. Troast, Chaplain, USN. A reception at The Mariners' Museum followed the event.

2) Monitor Sailors Burial at Arlington:

On March 8, 2013, in a ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery attended by thousands, the remains of two unknown USS *Monitor* sailors were laid to rest. The event was the culminating activity for the *Monitor*'s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and was attended by the Secretary of the Navy. A monument to honor the 16 sailors who died when the *Monitor* sank off Hatteras will be placed at the gravesite within a few months. The site is near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The event was covered by the media around the world with more than 10,000 stories, 733,000,000 impressions at an advertising value of over \$32,000,000. Dave Alberg, accompanied the remains from Hawaii. A descendants' luncheon was held just prior to the burial with approximately 180 in attendance.

3) 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Monitor Discovery:

There will be a celebration later this year. There is discussion concerning a way-side signage program with commemorative signs to be placed at various locations that are significant to the *Monitor*'s history. Possible sites include Beaufort, The Mariner's Museum, Fort Monroe, New York, and Cape Hatteras.

C. Tyler Zminkowski (Youth Seat, MNMS):

Youth Seat member, Tyler Zminkowski reported on the Youth working group's organization of and participation in the One Ocean Student Film Festival on April 12, 2013. The first annual film festival garnered 13 entries, and was hosted by the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The day included table top activities for the public, viewing of the video entries, and guest speakers throughout the day. Over 400 people attended the event. *Raising Awareness* took first place in the 1-5 min category and received a \$300 prize. This was a film about coral reefs, garbage, danger to marine life, pollution damage, and ocean acidification. The primary filmmaker was G. I. Sung Soo from Fairfax, VA. There were also 3 entries from Beaufort, one of which earned second place. Tyler said that the Youth Working Group plans to host the film festival again next year either at Beaufort or Jeanette's Pier.

There was considerable discussion concerning the Youth Group Program and the involvement of Tyler and other students. Billy Ray Morris offered to take several students from the festival out on a boat trip, and Susan Langley discussed possible projects that Dave Alberg hopes will bring in more sponsors. Shannon Ricles asked that people keep the Youth Working Groups in mind for various projects that they may hear

about in the coming months. The Youth Working Group did a great deal of field work in August of last year and plan a beach clean-up project this summer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD**

Bill McDermott of the Outer Banks Dive Center raised an issue about why so much emphasis had been placed by the Sanctuary on Hatteras instead of the area of Manteo/Nag's Head, and why more resources were not being brought into this more populated area. In response, Dave Alberg discussed the history of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, including the insistence of Congressman Jones on artifacts of the *Monitor* being placed in North Carolina. This resulted in the development of a museum which would ultimately be placed at Hatteras and the various reasons for its construction, including serving as a repository for various *Monitor* artifacts. McDermott thought that it would be better to put these resources in areas that were more heavily populated where tourists could more easily access this information. Alberg indicated that a future discussion does need to address issues involving facilities development. Jay Kavanagh stated that the museum was necessary for Dare County, and that Dare County needed it to be developed and, while Hatteras did seem to a remote location, there were over 8 million people who travelled over Highway 12 yearly.

McDermott then stated that he believed the SAC did not appear to consult with local businesses and resources as much as it did with out-of-state or programs in other locales. He pointed out that the Blue Star Program is a Florida program whereas Outer Banks Diving has initiated a conversation program that it supports in North Carolina. He believes that some of the programs are in place, and he felt that the information that could be provided by local businesses is not being properly used. Alberg stated that Blue Star was, in fact, part of another Sanctuary; however, MNMS certainly needed to concentrate on local resources. He said that sometimes these relationships are slow in developing, but they are getting better. And one of the reasons is that Lauren is now located in Manteo to provide relationship support with local individuals and businesses.

Malcolm Perry, a Board Member of the Coastal Studies Institute and also a Board Member of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said that he is very interested in the possible Memorandum of Understanding with CSI. He discussed interest in a representative coming from commercial fisheries, as well as the Heritage Trail. He said that the kiosk should encourage people to also travel elsewhere in the county.

### **SUPERINTENDANT'S REPORT**

#### 1) Budget Update:

Dave Alberg informed the council that two weeks ago Congress came up with plans for FY 2013, and that we would shortly find out what the budget is for the Sanctuary program. However, there are numerous budget cutbacks, and the outlook for FY 2014 does not look any better.

2) The Battle of the Atlantic Project:

The fiscal year budget for this program was funded in large part by \$100,000 matched by \$85,000 from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). These monies will be used to fund trips to the *Malchase*, the *DelFino*, etc. during the first three weeks of August. MNMS has also acquired new equipment including a side-scan sonar and magnetometer.

3) The NAS Volunteer Program:

Alberg agreed that we do need to address the dive community, and that volunteers are needed to provide information. There are numerous wrecks too deep to dive, Joe Hoyt is not yet certified by NAS, but is planning to work with Bill Chadwell to plan for the summer of 2014 to get several projects going. Chadwell, from Fairfax, Virginia, is focusing on World War II wrecks this summer and NAS training. During the last year, MNMS has given out over 5,000 dive slates for several of the surveyed wrecks and would like to do more if it can obtain the funding to do so.

4) SRVx Update:

The SRVx has partnered with groups in order to be more efficient and to keep earning its upkeep, so that it will remain available for MNMS use. The boat was in New York over the last couple of weeks and has been participating in other events, including whale tagging.

5) The Mariners' Museum Update:

Elliot Gruber is the new CEO of The Mariners' Museum, and one of his talents is that he is a strong fund raiser. The Museum is trying to raise funds from the public to keep the *Monitor* artifact program going. A new conservator has been hired and there have been changes in the program.

6) Sunken Military Craft Act:

SAC member, Alexis Catsambis (US Navy), attending by phone, gave a brief background on the Act, and discussed a brochure that can be handed out by the Coast Guard to explain what the Act means to boaters and divers.

## **MONITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

Dave Alberg gave a history of the five years' worth of work on the *Monitor* Management Plan, which has finally been approved. He gave out a one-page summary of the plan and then proceeded to discuss the plan in more detail. Alberg agreed that the first 47 pages was a good overview of the history leading up to the plan. Pages 48 through 107 discuss the action items which contain the core of the Management Plan. He also stated that "cost" items were best estimates in a perfect world if the Sanctuary could get all that it asked for in order to carry out its proposals. The various sections of the Management Plan include the following:

- a. Resource protection - the keywords here are "encourage access"
- b. Education/Outreach

- c. Archaeological Research: the comment is that there is no plan now for additional research trips to retrieve artifacts from the site for several reasons, including space for artifacts.
- d. Resource monitoring: promotion of *Monitor* as a “sentinel” location
- e. *Monitor* sailors: this has been mostly accomplished
- f. *Monitor* conservation plan: this would include continuing conservation and funding. A great deal depends on other agencies and private donors who provide funds to continue the conservation process.
- g. Expansion action plan: discusses the possible exploration of expansion and the need for an environmental impact statement.
- h. Operation/Administration: this section address staff; facilities, including the current office building; the need for an appropriate boat; etc. There was discussion about the future of the building at The Mariners’ Museum, a question about the need for additional staff, and whether the operations needs to be more a storefront operation. Alberg discussed the possibility of several potential sites in North Carolina.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

Paul Ticco (ONMS NE Regional Coordinator) discussed the environmental assessment plan – what it is and what happens next. The “next step” is the drafting of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS process is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which was passed as a result of several events including various oil spills, river fires, and reactions to Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. An environmental impact statement is a document describing the impact on the environment as a result of proposed federal agency action. NEPA delineates two levels of plans: Environmental Action (EA), which determines if it is significant and Environmental Impact Statement, which is required for a Sanctuary boundary change.

The EIS defines 4 areas including: 1) the purpose and reach of proposed action; 2) description of the environment; 3) alternative actions, including “no action;” and 4) analysis of each alternative. The process involves scoping, initial public involvement, drafting a proposed EIS, public meetings and comments, a final EIS draft plan and proposed action with the chosen alternative, evaluation and possible supplemental EIS, and a record of decision (which may lead to a lawsuit and future actions). Paul indicated that a potential boundary expansion requires both an environmental impact statement and a draft management plan, which are requirements of both the NEPA and NOAA. Also, there is the possibility of National Registry action for some of the shipwrecks.

Alberg indicated that the next steps for the Council to consider are the creation of two working groups. One group would look at expansion and the other would focus on facilities. He encouraged everyone to give some thought as to who should serve on these groups and to be sure to include local business and community leaders as well as interested and concerned citizens.

### **SAC SEAT UPDATES**

Shannon Ricles indicated that a letter is needed if a member wants to continue on a seat presently occupied and there was discussion of the seats which are currently open on the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

### **NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Stuart Katz indicated that the AAA maps mention the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, but do not mention the *Monitor* itself or the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Alberg raised an issue involving the future of the Graveyard Museum and the actions which may be coming in the future with regard to *Monitor* artifacts.

Susan Langley reviewed several matters including the letter of support sent by the council for reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council meeting which had a well-received MNMS presentation.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional new business, Stuart Katz moved to adjourn and Terri Kirby-Hathaway seconded. All were in favor.