

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS)  
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
Newport News, Virginia  
June 7, 2012**

*In Attendance:* Dave Alberg (MNMS Sanctuary Superintendent), Sara Block (NOAA OLE), Debby Boyce (Discovery Diving), Jim Bunch (Recreational Diving), Alexis Catsambis (Alternate-U.S. Navy), David Conlin (NPS), Lauren Heesemann (MNMS Research Coordinator), Laura Hermley (Heritage Tourism), Anna Holloway (The Mariners’ Museum), Terri Kirby-Hathaway (Education), Dave Krop (Alternate-The Mariners’ Museum), Joe Poe (Citizen-at-Large), Shannon Ricles (Council Coordinator), LCDR Kevin Saunders (U.S. Coast Guard), Wayne Smith (Conservation), Doug Stover (Alternate-National Park Service), Paul Ticco (Headquarters), Katherine Van Dam (Legal Intern), and John Wagner (Maritime Archaeologist). On the phone for PM: Roger Kirchen (Virginia DHR).

*Absent:* Steve Claggett (Alternate-NC Dept. of Cultural Resources), Braxton Davis (NC DENR), Kenneth Fex, Jr. (Recreational/Commercial Fishing), Joe Hoyt (MNMS Maritime Archaeologist), Jay Kavanagh (Recreational/Commercial Fishing), Susan Langley (Archaeological Research), Robert Neyland (US Navy), Will Serratelli (Youth Seat), and Joanna Wilson (Alternate-VA Dept of Cultural Resources).

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## Welcome

Wayne Smith, *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order. After Mr. Smith's welcoming remarks, he called roll. Dave Alberg, Superintendent of Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, thanked everyone for coming.

## Approval of Minutes

Shannon Ricles asked if there was any discussion on the minutes from the last meeting. There was no discussion. Wayne Smith motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Anna Holloway seconded the motion and all were in favor.

## Monitor NMS Superintendent's Report

Dave Alberg, *Monitor* NMS Superintendent, welcomed the SAC and provided an update to the council on a variety of topics, summarized below:

- **Budget:** The budget is sufficient to get us through the remainder of the FY12 cycle. We were able to get \$150K back into our budget for The Mariners' Museum. We also had funds to purchase a rebreather. Having a rebreather will put us in line with other agencies and therefore, we can offer reciprocity with dive operations. We are in the process of purchasing ARC GIS software for about \$15K, and we will put some funds into the GPO account for printing needs. Most of our budget covers labor.
- **Staffing:** Our office, Florida Keys, and Flower Garden Banks cost-share Dave Dodsworth's salary for IT. He should become an FTE in about a year. John Wagner is currently working on potentially polluting wrecks for headquarters, but will transfer to the Maritime Heritage Program as an FTE in a few months. He will work out of the *Monitor* office, while working on cultural landscapes of North Carolina. The purpose of looking at cultural landscapes is to see how land, people, etc are all connected and to engage communities, while understanding what issues are important to the local community. Doug Stover said that NPS has done several landscape studies and has just ordered a cultural landscape of Hatteras. Headquarters reassigned Paul Ticco to our office, but he remains the Northeast and Great Lakes Regional Coordinator and works for Reed Bohne. Catherine Van Dam is also working out of the *Monitor* offices until September for Ole Varmer as a legal intern.
- **SRVx, R-8501:** The SRVx has been busy. Currently, it is down in Beaufort for Duke University retrieving buoys. Duke also used the SRVx for a pilot whale study. Duke paid for both expeditions. Our office will use the boat for about 6-7 weeks this summer for the Battle of the Atlantic project. It will also go up to New York for about two weeks. When others lease the boat, we do not make any money, but we do recover costs and it is good for the boat to have it operating and not sitting at the dock.
- **Next Year:** With the election year, we will most likely be under a continuing resolution (CR). We expect to see a 30% reduction in travel budgets and about a 10% reduction in the overall budget. It is yet to be determined how NOAA will distribute its budget to the line offices. We may not know until next spring or summer. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) provided a \$100K for us to work on the Battle of the Atlantic this summer. Without their support, summer fieldwork would be difficult as NOAA's budget is not supporting the expedition. However, we do have \$5K to support the ECU field school in the fall.
- **Anniversary Year**

- Over January 29-31, 2012, New York celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of the *Monitor*. Greenpoint *Monitor* Museum hosted the various events. Currently, the museum is in name only and consists of school programs. It does not have a permanent home. They have land to build a museum, but need funds. We are working with Janice and George Weinmann to help them promote it. There is a push by the city to take the land by eminent domain and turn it into a park.
- The *Monitor* sailors' faces were unveiled on March 6, at the Navy Memorial Museum in DC. Thanks to Wayne Smith connecting us to LSU's FACES lab, the sailors were able to come to life. The media coverage was phenomenal and went viral. The purpose of the unveiling was to get the story out to make people aware and to get relatives to come forward with DNA samples. It was successful. It also helped to pave the way for burial at Arlington. Also, UPS devoted many resources to the transporting of the faces. Without their help, it might not have happened.
- Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend was one of the largest BoHR celebrations the museum has had since they first began. Our office had two booths, made hundreds of buttons, and rolled thousands of posters.
- *Titanic* Anniversary—Dave did an NPR interview with the Diane Rehm Show. Senator Kerry introduced bill to amend the Act of 1986, to provide further protection of the *Titanic*. Our site would issue permits for *Titanic*.
  - Conlin said that NPS pulled their session on the *Titanic* at SHA after RMS *Titanic* announced they were putting the collection up for sale.
  - Doug Stover said that NPS found a *Titanic* document hidden in the walls of the Hatteras weather station. It was the distress call from the *Titanic* that the weather station received. It will be going to the Library of Congress for exhibit.
  - The Coast Guard worked to help create a no dumping zone around the *Titanic*. Dave said that there is garbage on the shipwreck and the shipping lanes are 100 miles away. He said that *Titanic* becomes a great place to start conversations on other issues, such as marine debris. Conlin thanked the Coast Guard for spearheading the efforts to create the voluntary marine protected area.
- **Draft Management Plan**—The plan was released on April 17, and public comments can be made through June 22, 2012. Five public hearings were held in Raleigh, Southport, Beaufort, Nags Head, and Newport News. A sixth presentation was given to the Dare County Commissioners. For the public hearings, Dave did a 15-minute presentation and then the public commented. The public can make comments orally, through email, federal portal, or send them via USPS mail. Collection of comments continues. There were not a lot of comments on the management plan. Most were on expansion; however, expansion was not actually in the management plan. Dave clarified that the plan only said a dialog should begin to discuss the possibility of expansion. He wants the process to be honest and transparent, so there were no decisions made on expansion, only to start a conversation with the local communities and constituents.

Paul Ticco said that many times people come to the public hearings to be heard, as they are concerned about their personal freedoms. People do care, but we need to understand

that they feel their personal freedom is more important sometimes than the resource. Conlin asked how to make the hearings more structured.

Bunch said that he talked with many of the folks after the meeting in Nags Head, and the people he spoke to basically have three concerns 1) access, 2) use (full or limited), want unlimited use, and 3) asked 'Protection from what?' They feel like we are trying to protect the shipwrecks from them (the community), and they do not think that it is necessary. They also want to know who makes the final decision on the draft management plan and what is the process? Another comment Bunch heard was about the DMP saying that there were thousands of shipwrecks off the North Carolina coast. The point of the comment was to say if we are going to say that, then we need to document each shipwreck or we are not giving correct information. He said he was asked how we could say we are going to protect them if we do not even know where they are located. Dave explained that if you read the statement, it clearly says that the number of shipwrecks is based on an ECU study that "estimated" 2500-3000 shipwrecks have been lost over the past 400 years and they are in the historical record, which is not to say they even all still exist. The point being that the region has a rich maritime history. This study used last known locations. However, we know that many of the shipwrecks are no longer there and/or will never be found. The statement was trying to convey the point that the coastline of North Carolina is a very special and unique place. It is an interesting place because of our country's history and the land. Jim asked about the database that was shown at a SAC meeting a couple of years ago. Dave explained that the database was created by MNMS based on AWAS data, and last known positions of shipwrecks were used to show WWII shipwrecks through time from 1939-1945. Bunch said that a constituent was concerned about fishing on wrecks, but he misunderstood. Bunch said that it goes to show that there is a lot of misinformation.

Dave said that we have not started the dialog yet, but when we do, we will make every effort to get information out to the public, but they will need to read it. Joe Poe read a comment on Facebook from a diver. Lauren felt that the expansion action item was too abstract and many people do not understand. Dave explained that the expansion action item did not need to go into the DMP, but we did so to be transparent. There were many comments about protecting other shipwrecks when we did the 2008 scoping meetings for the management plan, and we wanted to address all comments. We just want to start a conversation with those that have more knowledge of the wrecks than we do. We are not insinuating that we know what is best, and one of the options will be to do nothing. Paul Ticco said that there were many discussions at the headquarters level as to whether or not to include the expansion action item. It was determined best to do so to be transparent. Dave said that there is no foregone conclusion or outcome for the expansion action item. He reiterated that public hearings are not required, but done because we value the input.

Conlin said that SAC members needed to be supportive and to stand up and speak out at the public hearings. Hermley said that sometimes, when a person stands to comment, you know that person well, since he/she is in your community. Therefore, you may not feel it is important to speak because you know there is no way you are going to change their mind. Conlin said that by speaking out, you let people hear both sides. You may not

change the opinion of the person speaking, but you might change someone else's opinion in the room. Dave said it is imperative that each SAC member talks with the community he/she represents. Dave also said that SAC members could comment as citizens. He said that the council could also make a resolution to Dan Basta on the DMP. Wayne Smith said that he felt that the SAC should do that and would take the lead on writing a resolution.

Alberg said that in the meetings, he was disappointed not to see more young divers. It is the younger divers that will be the most affected by any changes. Dave felt that perhaps we have not done a good job connecting them to the resources. NPS connects their visitors to the parks through backpacking, hiking, camping, etc. It seems that divers should be the ones to care the most about the ocean. The diving and fishing communities have a lot to give that we can learn. Jim said that we needed to approach them in the right way. Wayne said that the SAC needed to be more involved by engaging and speaking up. Jim said it is also important to know the right people to speak to, who can help get the correct information out to the community. Hermley said that we also needed to use the correct language better to explain things, like NPS. Work with the customer to understand what we can give back.

Alberg said that the reality is that dive shops are limited in their resources. We may have resources that dive shops do not have. For example, we could get 3-D images of a dive site to help excite divers to come and dive on it. Hermley said that we should use a business approach. Boyce said that the general perception is that all we are doing is taking things away from the dive community. There is not any specific language yet, so everyone is afraid. The only way to get support is to have it revocable like Thunder Bay did when they first started (sunset clause). Poe said that there are residual feelings left over from the early *Monitor* days when no one was allowed on wreck site. Alberg said that change necessitates different approaches. Therefore, it is better to encourage the community to be a part of the process. Bunch said that he often asks folks to think of Pea Island Refuge and if they are glad it was created.

Alberg reminded everyone that there are two more weeks left to comment, so encourage your constituents to comment. All issues will be addressed. We will bin them into categories. Next, we will formulate a response to each category and that will go into our management plan. We will then make any changes and release the plan hopefully next January (2013). Ticco said that due to the Sanctuary Act, management plan approval stops at the sanctuary superintendent level. However, it is sent to up to NOS and NOAA and complimentary copies will be sent to NPS, Navy, etc. Alberg said that Thunder Bay is going through scoping meetings for expansion. Ticco said that the Thunder Bay's comments could not be shared until after the commenting period closes.

Boyce said that her dive shop is doing a trip to Thunder Bay. She said that the Atlantis Rangers in Maryland called to rant about the sanctuary program. She would like names and numbers of folks in Thunder Bay to get the comments so she can share them with those so opposed to the sanctuary program. Poe asked if we had the Thunder Bay video that was shown a couple of years ago at the Hatteras meeting. Dave said no, but had a

different one. Saunders said that a unique aspect of Thunder Bay is that it has a museum where kids and people can go. They can see artifacts and get the information first hand. We have that in the OBX at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and will be doing more with them as the facility is expanded.

### **Conservation: Dave Krop**

Dave described the current conservation efforts:

- The conservation team lost two staff members, Gary Paden and Elsa Sangouard. Eric Nordgren is only on staff 50% of the time as he finishes his Ph.D. With a reduction from 7 staff to only 4.5 full-time staff, duties are being consolidated. Student interns and volunteers are on staff for the summer. There will be additional training for the Conservation Technician position and the museum hopes to hire two full-time positions by end of 2013—marine organic conservator and marine metals conservator. By 2017, it is hoped that staffing will be up to ten.
- Battle of Hampton Roads Sesquicentennial went well. In celebration of the event, the staff installed the prop shaft in the large artifact gallery of the *Monitor* Center. There were also numerous speakers, interpreters, cavalry, lab tours, cook-off, Virginia Civil War History Mobile, hands-on activities, and more. There was also an amateur ham radio station for people to connect to throughout the weekend. MNMS supplied certificates for everyone who made contact.
- To date 52% of all artifacts have been treated (1600). Some of the large artifacts will go to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum—anchor, lantern, engine.
- The engine recovered in 2001 was deconcreted in 2010 and significant progress is being made. Cleaning and disassembly will continue. Many components have been removed so as they can undergo a specific treatment process. It is about a 15-year process, but many components will be ready sooner. There is a new support and an anode system for the engine.
- Worthington Pump—staff is using historical methods to build a replica of the pump. The casting was done at Buff State. Curtis Wright donated \$40K to the project. NASA Langley Research Center also supports the project and provided help with plastic molds. The pump will be used to create a traveling exhibit showing a working steam engine.
- During the week (Monday to Friday), the turret will be drained starting on June 25 until about July 27. It will be drained during the July 4 weekend also. Conservation is working with Newport News Shipyard to redo the support structure under the turret. A mobile pedestal is being built to support key areas, while allowing work to continue. There are also ongoing documentation and corrosion check-ups. Letters are being sent to Senator Warner and Dr. Jane Lubchenko inviting them to the museum to see the turret. It is hopefully that their visit would help to move funding along.
- Artifact storage—there was a small hiccup with temperature and humidity. Added shelving to the dry lab and relocated nut guards to the workroom. With a small staff, they are working on smaller artifacts.
- Staff has been out telling the *Monitor* story. They are also working on a paid “Behind the Scenes” tour structure to be implemented in the near future, as well as looking at ideas for what would sell well, such as merchandising. Smith asked if there were volunteers to

help and Krop said yes and explained that ECU and CNU both have volunteers to come to the lab.

- For the short- and mid-term focus, staff will continue treatment of all composite mechanical assemblies in the Wet Lab. This includes the Worthington bilge pumps, ventilation engines, and other smaller components. Conservators will also work on completing structural components/artifacts in the outdoor Tank Farm in order to make space for engine sub-components removed during disassembly.
- Conservators will also complete an organic artifact condition survey by fall 2012, in order to determine the condition of all untreated organic artifacts and to determine the estimated cost of contracting out the treatment of these organics. Contract conservation is under consideration because we no longer have an organics conservator on staff. The extremely high cost of contract conservation will likely show the financial efficiencies and benefits of hiring a new organics conservator.
- Anna Holloway said that an iPad app is being completed by ODU Modeling Center. It is campaigned based.

### **Public Commenting Period**

- There were no public comments.

### **Public Comment Period Closed and Break for Lunch**

### **Monitor NMS Staff Updates:**

- **North Carolina Update—Lauren Heesemann:**
  - Video trail should be completed by next fall. iPads purchased with grant funds, and they will be available for people to borrow. Lauren is working on an app with UNC CSI that will coordinate with the video trail. Alberg explained that the videos will also be uploaded to YouTube once they are put on the government website.
  - BOB (Basic Observation Buoy)—UNC CSI received additional grant funding to grow the program.
  - New *Monitor* and sanctuary related videos are now at the Graveyard of the Atlantic and NC Aquarium in Mateo.
  - Lauren is working with Cape Hatteras Secondary students on archaeological site mapping. It is in preparation for the Live Dive in Thunder Bay on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Lauren applied for a research grant through National Geographic for shark tagging.
  - Lauren will be helping with the ECU fall field school. Pat Murphy at the NC Aquarium will work with Lauren to get some of the students in the tank to map the scale model of the *Monitor*.
  - Lauren is also involved in many different education and outreach events in North Carolina working with groups, such as Port Discovery, Jennette's Pier, Graveyard of the Atlantic, NC Aquarium, schools, and others.
- **Education and Outreach Update—Shannon Ricles:**

- Shannon highlighted MNMS involvement with several 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, such as the events in New York, unveiling of the faces in DC, and the Battle of Hampton Roads weekend.
  - The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary website has received a lot of traffic with spikes in January and March.
  - New educational materials have been created and should go up on website by end of next week.
  - MNMS also participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Girl Scouts Jubilee at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Over 7,000 girls and their families attended the event and the MNMS booth saw about 700 of them.
  - Shannon also coordinated with CO-OPS to host 50 Boy Scouts.
  - Flags over Hatteras—Lauren and Shannon attended and exhibited at the Civil War Conference and the Living History Day at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.
  - Staff will also participate in World Ocean Day at the Virginia Beach Aquarium and OP Sail on June 10 and June 11.
  - MNMS is working with Oceans '12 committee, and we plan to bring the SRVx to Nauticus for tours and possible VIP cruise.
  - Youth Working Group will begin again this summer. Looking for new students to participate, please help spread the word. Also, looking for youth to apply for the Youth Seat.
  - Want to encourage everyone to become a fan of our Facebook page. Spread the word and get your friends to “like” the page.
  - Looking forward to the coming year and beyond, we will focus on three major themes: burial of the sailors at Arlington, anniversary of the discovery of the *Monitor*, and Monitor NMS's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
    - Catsambis asked what is the Navy's role in the burial decision. Alberg said that no one seems to know who has jurisdiction over the sailors. Navy's History and Heritage Command should have a voice in the decision. The Mariners' Museum is currently working with Senator Warner. We are trying to get a better understanding of the process. At one time, there was a joint resolution of Congress. However, after talking with the Navy, Congress put it on hold. It is not controversial; it is just that no one knows what to do. Navy's History and Heritage Command will be one of the entities involved. Catsambis asked what happens to the personal effects if descendants are found. He said that Navy gives preference to family. Alberg said that details have not been worked out yet, but will be in the management plan.
- **2011 Field Schedule—Dave Alberg**
    - This summer's expeditions will follow onto last year's survey work. Expeditions will be sometime around July 15 or later. The top 10 targets will be looked at with an AUV. Most of them are in 500-600 feet of water. They are hoping to find the U-576 and *Bluefields*. We would like to wrap up the Battle of the Atlantic with finding these two shipwrecks.
    - Bunch asked if the U-boats had been nominated to the National Historic Register yet. Alberg explained that they had not, but it is still on the list to do. There are



some questions as to who submits the package. Does the state SHPO sign off on it? Conlin said that MNMS could submit concurrence letter, but someone will need to make the nomination. Conlin suggested that BOEMRE could also submit, as they are most closely associated and are not contentious. The nomination is more symbolic, but it does help communities to apply for grants and other funds. Boyce asked if there were any ramifications if the U-boats were nominated. Conlin said there were none. It helps people to understand their importance and makes the wrecks more desirable to dive on.

- There is a desire to get back on the *Monitor* this summer.
- Next year, the plan is to look at other North Carolina shipwrecks, such as blockade-runners.
- There may be an opportunity for MNMS to participate in the mapping of Normandy in 2013. The expedition would take high-resolution images and then compare them to historical records.
- Another possible opportunity is the Coral Sea in 2015 to find the *Lexington*.
- Alberg attended the *Monitor* sign dedication at Drewry's Bluff. The sign was a collaboration between NOAA and NPS. We are hoping to get the SRVx up on the James River to do some survey work. Several ironclads sunk at Drewry's Bluff. In addition, it would be a great opportunity to work with some Virginia universities, such as The College of William and Mary's terrestrial archaeology program.

### **New Business**

- Shannon Ricles reminded everyone that new officers needed to be elected. She requested that anyone interested in serving as Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary to contact her.
- Conlin asked about using the SRVx in September for two weeks. Alberg explained that even though the SRVx is a medium platform, it is also a technology demonstration platform. Therefore, it has the technology of larger boats, which can make it an excellent fit for use by FBI, CIA, NASA, etc. He said that he will resend the SRVx data sheet.
- Catsambis asked if there was a mechanism for people to submit research proposals for the SRVx. Alberg said that there is not a mechanism at this time. To do so, would require the hiring of a full-time vessel operations manager and captain/crew, and there is no funding for it.
- Boyce said that four dive boats were boarded off Beaufort. She said that everyone in the dive community thinks that the boarding was due to NOAA and timed with the Draft Management Plan. Saunders said that the Coast Guard's program "Touch *Monitor*" was created to keep the *Monitor* in the forefront of the Coast Guard. It also helps give the Coast Guardsmen additional training opportunities. There is nothing negative to it, and NOAA did not initiate those boardings. The Coast Guard was doing a fly over in conjunction with Op Sail (CG Cutter *Eagle*), and four boats were spotted. So the decision was made to board the boats to check for licenses, lifejackets, etc. Because the boats had just left a wreck protected by the Sunken Military Craft Act, they also checked the boat for any artifacts. None was found. Saunders said that most boardings are routine for the sailors and this gave them an opportunity for a different type of training.
- Bunch asked a question about p. 103 in the DMP. He read the statement about the Sunken Military Craft Act and asked what that meant. Catsambis explained that the act passed in

2004 to protect U.S. and foreign ships that had sunk around the U.S. Even though they are near the U.S., the shipwrecks continue to be the property of their respective governments. The act says that the wrecks should not be disturbed without a permit. Although all branches of the military in the U.S. have boats, the Navy has the largest collection; therefore, they were put in charge of the act. The Navy is working on a list of regulations that should be published within the next month or so. It has gone through 19 revisions and is now on its way to the office of the Secretary of the Navy. The regulations will go through a public process much like we are going through with the DMP. Currently, the act is enforceable, but once the regulations are approved, then they will be easier to enforce because there will be definite consequences outlined for different offences. And through the permit process, disturbances will be allowed. Fishing and diving are not affected. NCIS would undertake any investigation and then turn it over to proper authority if applicable.

Bunch said that many divers are not sure whom NOAA is trying to protect these wrecks from. Alberg said most divers do respect the shipwrecks and obey the laws but some do not. We use U-boats as an example, because it is black and white and there is no debate. However, other shipwrecks do offer some gray area and that is what we would like to discuss. Bunch said rule is unclear. Catsambis said that rule is clear; it is the enforcement that is difficult until the regulations are put into effect. He said that it is only going to be through education that folks understand. Alberg said that we agree, and we hope that the Navy will launch an educational campaign at the same time the regulations come out.

- Smith asked what SAC members could do to help with the DMP process. Alberg said that everyone could encourage their constituents to write letters. Smith said that he would take the action to write a draft letter from the SAC to send. He will send it out for the SAC's review. He expressed a need to get a collective voice. Smith also said that the *Monitor* group has done a great job, but it is time for the SAC to step up. He said that he appreciated Bunch's outreach to the dive community and that everyone should do the same.
- Alberg said that the dive community holds a special place and divers would dive if no resources. Therefore, there would not be any dive business. Economics and ocean issues go hand-in-hand. We need to find a way to get beyond the disagreements and find a way to work together because we are working for the same thing.
- Ticco said that everyone can send their constituents to the ePortal to make comments, or they can send individual letters via email or USPS.
- Alberg recognized Wayne Smith as the *Monitor's* Volunteer of the Year for all of his efforts to get the sailors' faces revealed through his connections at LSU. Alberg gave Wayne a plaque commemorating the event.

### **Adjournment**

With on additional new business, Anna Holloway moved to adjourn. Dave Krop seconded it, and all were in favor.