

**MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2016
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Meeting Location: UNC-CSI Research Campus
Wanchese, NC 27981

Meeting Objectives: (1) Updates; (2) update on *Monitor* Sanctuary Boundary Expansion; (3) Communication and Role of SAC Members during Public Scoping Process; (4) Update on New and Expiring SAC Member Seats.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)
5 community seats present (of 12 filled seats)
8 government seats present (of 13 filled seats)
8 sanctuary staff members present (of 8 staff)
1 additional Navy official attended
8 public members attended the meeting

Discussion Highlights:

- ★ Update on potential sanctuary boundary expansion and role of SAC members during process
- ★ Public Scoping information update
- ★ Upcoming summer field work for 2016
- ★ *Monitor* conservation and funding update
- ★ New and Expiring SAC seats

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Bunch welcomed everyone to the meeting and on the phone call.

Will Sassorossi took roll call (see attached list).

- ★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meetings (3/5/2015 and 10/1/2015)

Jim Bunch explains there were two sets of minutes needed to be approved and if there were any questions regarding them. Drew Pearson motions to accept both, John Quarstein seconded the motion. All were in favor.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Dave Alberg introduced the two new Mariner's Museum representatives, John Quarstein and Will Hoffman. Dave Hallac, Patricia Bennett, Bobby Outten and Drew Pearson were also introduced to the council as being able to make it for the first time face to face.

Other council business brought up included reaction to upcoming public scoping meetings regarding expansion and concerns from fishing community. This will be addressed later in the meeting.

Bobby Outten had a question about the current regulations protecting shipwrecks and artifacts. Dave Alberg and Joe Hoyt explained the Sunken Military Craft Act regulations and their application to military wrecks, but that merchant vessels do not fall under the same protection, even if used during military service. There is a gap in protection for the majority of the Battle of the Atlantic wreck sites, the ones that fall outside of state waters and are merchant vessels. Dave Alberg continued in that the expansion of the current sanctuary boundary would provide protection to the wreck sites that are included in the expanded territory, regardless if the Sunken Military Craft Act currently applied to those vessels.

Bobby Outten questioned whether the Sunken Military Craft Act could be amended to incorporate language that would protect these vessels. Dave Alberg stated that it could be possible, however, the path in doing so could be difficult in having to go through congress as well as delegating the NHHHC to manage these sites. Ernie Foster pointed out that some of these concerns from his waterman man seem like small issues, but the overall question of clear and consistent language that everyone can adhere to, might be what Bobby Outten is ultimately trying to get answers for, without altering current boundaries.

Dave Hallac questioned who owns the submerged lands in the current models. Dave Alberg answers that the models are more like an approach, but ultimately it can be a combination of state and federal lands, or just federal. Joe Hoyt explains that after the 3 mile state limit, it is determined by which agency uses the lands, and what activities take place. No one actually manages the bottom, rather just what use is taking place there.

Jim Bunch states that things are off schedule a bit and to come back to this a different point in the meeting.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg reports that the budget for FY2016 has been allocated, remaining about the same as last year, including \$250,000.00 to go to the funding of conservation of *Monitor*

artifacts at the Mariners Museum. Also, NOAA and MNMS signed an agreement with Great Britain to co-manage the site of HMT *Bedfordshire*. Dave Alberg gave update to the number of National Register Nominations, bringing total to 11. Joe Hoyt adds that in addition to the individual sites that were nominated and accepted to the register, there is also a multiple property designation accepted by the National Register for World War II Battle of the Atlantic shipwrecks off of the east coast and Gulf of Mexico, making the nominating process for the sites associated with this a little bit easier.

Billy Ray Morris had a question for Joe Hoyt regarding a sovereign nation claiming a merchant vessel because they were leasing that vessel and insuring the cargo in state waters, and has this occurred in federal waters yet. Joe responds by stating, no, not in the vessels that we have been dealing with.

Robert Neyland asks Billy Ray Morris to clarify the states involvement in the nomination process of vessels to the National Register. Billy Ray responds that the vessels, although all outside state waters, were reviewed by the SHPO and said they looked good and met the historic criteria for nomination. No state authority was extended over these vessels.

★ Regional Report

Paul Ticco reported on the Mallows Bay and Wisconsin new sanctuary site nominations that have completed their scoping meetings, as well as giving an update on potential new site nominations that are not heritage related. Ernie Foster asked Paul about the potential fishing challenges out there with regards to wrecks and fishing issues. Paul responds that fisherman do not want gear destroyed by running into wreck sites and losing revenue, just as much as there is a drive to protect the wrecks sites. Paul also stated that the newly nominated sites deal with different fishing communities than the Monitor expansion would. Dave Alberg states that there is a perception that there are fishing issues when there might not necessarily be issues with regards to the expansion of the Monitor Sanctuary. Dave notes that the addition of two fishing seats to the council were to deal not necessarily with an existing problem, but how to deal with multiple uses of an area. Ernie states that semantics matter when trying to promote any expansion effort when dealing with the fishing community.

★ MNMS 2016 Proposed Field Season

Joe Hoyt states a few things are locked into the field schedule. A May NAS class in Beaufort, NC is set, proceeding a field project on the wreck of *F.W. Abrams*, out of Ocracoke, NC around Memorial Day weekend and into June, with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG). A grant has been put forward by them to get more funding to possibly map *Atlas*.

Joe continues with describing the second round of the BOEM agreement, 2nd of 5 year term, to do research on outer continental shelf. This year plans to side scan and magnetometer an area off of Currituck, looking for submerged resources. Joe also stated there is a possibility of other projects with use of OER grant, which is currently in review, that would include submersibles. Jim Bunch asked further about submersibles and the intent to release

expedition information quickly, especially images and video, to the public. Joe responded by saying every effort will be made to make it quick and almost live broadcasting. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to be involved as well.

★ Monitor Conservation and Funding Update

John Quarstein states that two conservators were added to the staff. Over \$1,000,000.00 dollars raised through donations. Spoke of the Monitor Boys \$10,000 pledge paid over 5 years for either of the two Hampton Roads vessels. On May 2 and July 15 the turret tank will be drained and a contribution allows you to visit inside.

Dave Alberg adds that the Greenpoint Monitor Museum finally has title to the land and is moving forward with creation of the museum structure. The title in hand, they were able to get environmental cleanup funds of \$600,000.00 to do shoreline stabilization to help with the creation of the museum. An addition of a text panel along the Monitor Trail was added at this location.

★ SAC Summit

Will Sassorossi gave a brief recap of the SAC Summit in Maryland in Susan Langley's absence. Details of the event are included in available powerpoint presentations made available to Will. Overall, theme was on people and partnerships and building lasting relationships.

Monitor Boundary Expansion Update

★ Public Scoping Meeting Update

Dave Alberg gave a review of what has happened so far, beginning with the 2013 management plan construction, development of action items, the expansion working group, development of the expansions models, up through the Notice of Intent (NOI) on going out on January 8, 2016. Following the NOI, the Sanctuary is now collecting public comment until March 18, 2016. This includes comment via email, mail, and through comment at public scoping meetings. All of the comments that are made are available online to the public.

Dave states that there is no endorsement of a model and that the comments will have to be reviewed. On March 19, 2016, the official comment period is over and the review of comments to identify issues and concerns begins. A recommendation will then be made, following a review of the public comments, which will then start another round of public scoping.

Joe Hoyt highlights what is proposed in the regulations includes providing open access to wreck sites, however, the removal or deliberate disturbance of artifacts or material remains of shipwrecks is prohibited. Jim Bunch stated that these models are concepts and not set in stone.

Dave Alberg continues stating that rules currently regulating the Monitor Sanctuary will not necessarily be extended as the same rules going forward to any expanded area, and this is also a time to reevaluate the current regulations. Fishing is encouraged at MNMS. Jim Bunch adds that as a diver he does not want to have anything included about check in or getting approval to dive on the wrecks and would like to see anchorage provided. The only difference that he could see was that artifact removal from these wrecks would not be permitted from any of the wrecks that were included in the Sanctuary.

Pam Landrum stated that this sounded adequate, as long as you did not have to apply for a permit every time. Dave Alberg discusses the success of Thunder Bay Sanctuary and the no diving permits required and the mooring system they have set up for divers to use on certain wrecks. This is the model the expansion process for Monitor is tailored after. George Schwarz states that the Sunken Military Craft Act still requires application to disturb a certain wreck type in the Sanctuary, but does not require one to dive on that site. Billy Ray Morris also stated that if expansion includes state waters, that there is a permitting process similar to the Sunken Military Craft Act that is in place before any disturbance and recovery takes place off a shipwreck.

Paul Ticco adds that this is just a first step as part of the NEPA process, and that the creation of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and draft management plan (DMP) are more concrete than this public scoping, and will be more impactful because there will be specific models to discuss. Also, Paul states, there is always an option to do nothing and people are urged to stay included in the process.

Alexis Catsambis asked about at what part of the process is there inter-agency coordination. Paul Ticco responds that there will be at least two or three opportunities for formal consultative actions, the first being during the development of the draft documents. Dave Alberg continued by stating local governments would fall under this as well as groups like Dare County will continue to work together throughout the process.

Patricia Bennet brought up the case of enforceability and that model B would be easiest of the models to enforce. Following this, Dave Hallac wanted to clarify the objectives of expansion, referencing the Virginian Pilot article being mostly about problems, rather than being about opportunities. Dave wondered if there was a better way to articulate this going forward with public scoping. Joe Hoyt points to the cultural landscape piece that will be a focal point of the presentations and discussions as public scoping goes forward, relaying on this data to present thematic events for the cultural significance of this region.

Public Comment Period

Comments on expansion were received by the following members of the public:
J.P. Walsh, Ron Whittiker, Hall Good, and Pam Landrum.

Meeting Close-Out

- ★ [New and Expiring SAC Member Seats](#)

Dave Alberg states that the following SAC seats will have expired by May 1st, when a new round of recruitment will take place:

- Recreational Diving (2 seats)
- Maritime Archaeological Research
- Conservation
- Heritage Tourism
- Recreational/ Commercial Fishing
- Citizen-At-Large

Jim Bunch asked about creating a Surfing seat and Dave responded that it would take an amendment to the charter, but it is something to look into for next time. Billy Ray Morris asks about the possibility of having a NC Fisheries representative fill the open fishing seat. Dave replies that Louie Daniels is looking into giving a new to fill the seat.

★ Communication and Role of SAC Members during Process

Dave Alberg requests SAC member attendance and involvement at public scoping meetings if members are available to attend. Also, it is important for SAC members to get the word out about how to comment to their constituents and to help answer any questions. Paul Ticco adds that the SAC is made up of like interested parties but they do not always have to agree, but to make sure each voice is heard.

★ New Business

None.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

To be determined at a later date, looking into mid-May.

Adjourn

Jim Tobin motions to adjourn, seconded by John Quarstein. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Close-Out

Actions to Take:

- ✓ Continue to work on FY 2016 SAC Work Plan, to include additions or amendments to currently adopted work plan.
- ✓ Send out options for next meeting date and location.
- ✓ Look into creating Surfing seat.
- ✓ Begin the recruitment process for expiring SAC seats.

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Joe Poe	Citizen-at-Large	Absent
Wayne Smith	Conservation	Absent
Stuart Katz	Economic Development	Absent
David Sybert	Education	Absent
Jim Tobin	Heritage Tourism	Present
Susan Langley	Maritime Archaeological Research	Absent
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Jim Bunch	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Recreational Diving	Present
Jim Quarstein	The Mariners' Museum	Present
Will Hoffman	The Mariners' Museum (Alternate)	Present
Gabriella Biava	Youth Seat (Non-Voting)	Absent
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Present
Anna Holloway	NPS (Alternate)	Present
Billy Ray Morris	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
Steve Claggett	NC DCR (Alternate)	Absent
Charlie Burgess	NC Local Gov't – Beaufort	Absent
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County (P)	Present
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (A)	Present
LCDR Patricia Bennett	US Coast Guard (Primary)	Present
LCDR Elizabeth Buendia	US Coast Guard (Alternate)	Absent
Robert Neyland	US Navy (Primary)	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alternate)	Present
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR (Primary)	Absent
Mike Clem	VA DHR (Alternate)	Absent
Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Tane Casserley	Research Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	Sanctuary IT	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Present
Joe Hoyt	Maritime Archaeologist	Present
Will Sassorossi	SAC Coordinator	Present
Shannon Ricles	Outreach Coordinator	Present
Linh Nguyen	NOAA Corp Officer	Present
Others/Public		
George Schwarz	US Navy	Present
Joe Wilson	NOAA	Present
Matt Landrum	Recreational Diving	Present
Pam Landrum	Recreational Diving	Present
Mark Corbett	Recreational Diving	Present

Hal Good	Recreational Diving	Present
Penny Good	Recreational Diving	Present
Ryan Bradley	ECU/CSI	Present
Ron Whittiker	Fishing	Present
J.P. Walsh	ECU/CSI	Present