

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS)  
Advisory Council Meeting  
May 16, 2008**

*In attendance:* Anna Holloway (Mariners’ Museum), Scott Boyd (Citizen-At-Large), James Bunch (Recreational Diving), Dave Krop (The Mariners’ Museum), Susan Langley (Archaeological Research), Richard Lawrence (NC Department of Cultural Resources), Joseph Schwarzer (Maritime Museum), Wayne Smith (Conservation), Joann Wilson ( VA Department of Historic Resources), Mark Wilde-Ramsing (NC Department of Cultural Resources-Alternate), Dave Alberg (Sanctuary Superintendent), Shannon Ricles (Council Coordinator), Dan Basta (Director, NMS), June Craddock (Program Analyst, ONMS), Ed Lindelof (Team Lead for Management Plan Reviews, ONMS), Karen Brubeck (National Advisory Council Coordinators, ONMS), Anne Walton (International MPA Capacity Building Coordinator), Jeff Johnson (Monitor NMS Historian), John Broadwater (National Maritime Heritage), Joe Hoyt (*Monitor* NMS), Tim Runyon (Maritime Heritage Program), Sara Block (Special Agent, National Marine Fisheries Service)

*Public Guests in Attendance:* Vince Cook and Alex Varouxis

*Korean Guests:* Dr. Inkweon Bang (Korean Marine Environment Management Corporation), Dr. Byoung-seol Koh (National Fisheries Research and Development Institute), and Mr. Lee Kiyung (Suncheon Bay Conservation Section, Suncheon City Hall)

*Absent:* Mitch Bowman (Heritage Tourism), Dave Conlin (National Park Service-Alternate), Roger Kirchen (VA Department of Historic Resources-Alternate), Larry Murphy (National Park Service), and Robert Neyland (U.S. Navy).

**Table of Contents**

**Welcome.....2**  
**SAC Chairperson’s Report.....2**  
**NMS Director’s Opening Comments.....2**  
**MNMS Superintendent’s Report.....3**  
**Welcoming of New SAC Members and Swearing In.....5**  
**Introduction to Management Plan Review and Timeline.....5**  
**Overview of Condition Report.....6**  
**Public Comment Period.....6**  
**Exercise 1: Values of MNMS.....6**  
**Exercise 2: Identifying Threats to the Values of MNMS.....6**  
**Exercise 3: Ranking of Threats.....6**  
**Meeting Adjournment.....6**

## **Welcome**

Joe Schwarzer, *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order. After Mr. Schwarzer's welcoming remarks, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) members introduced themselves. Mr. Schwarzer recognized the newest council members: Scott Boyd (Citizen-at-Large), James Bunch (Recreational Diving), and Mark Wilde-Ramsing (NC Department of Cultural Resources-Alternate).

## **SAC Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Schwarzer continued with a discussion on the current state of the *Monitor* and the important role that the council will play in planning the management of the MNMS as summarized:

- Mr. Schwarzer suggested that with the upcoming management plan review there would be a need to meet at least four times a year.
- Dave Alberg, MNMS Superintendent, added to the discussion suggesting that alternate members could attend meetings if the frequency of meetings was a concern.
- Mr. Schwarzer moved that the charter be revised to indicate four meetings a year and requested that dates be set for those meetings. Susan Langley seconded the motion and all were in favor of the motion.
- Ed Lindelof explained that to better determine appropriate meeting dates, that it would be necessary to periodically review the plan as the Council progresses through the management review process. He also indicated that it would be beneficial to determine progress made from each meeting so as to ensure that SAC members were ready to progress to the next meeting before setting a meeting date.
- Mr. Schwarzer agreed and tabled the idea of setting the next four dates for SAC meetings.
- Mr. Alberg clarified that the next meeting would need to be held before October 1, 2008 and suggested that they alternate the meeting site between the *Monitor* NMS office and Cape Hatteras. Discussion ensued and all agreed to determine sites for future *Monitor* NMS meetings in alternate locations and that a meeting would be held prior to October 1, 2008.

**ACTION:** Dave Alberg will set a meeting date and determine the location for the next SAC meeting.

## **NMS Director's Opening Comments**

Dan Basta, Director—Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), welcomed guests and elucidated that now is the time to take the *Monitor* NMS to the next level in the evolution of the program as summarized:

- Mr. Basta told how integral maritime heritage is in helping the public to understand the importance of preserving and conserving the USS *Monitor*. He discussed how the human interest stories of our heritage excite and motivate people to learn more and to become stewards for conservation.
- Mr. Basta explained that this SAC was not created to tell us [*Monitor* NMS] how to care for the *Monitor* NMS, but instead to deliver a management plan that

embraces maritime heritage. And by so doing, this would encourage the public to understand the mission and goals of the sanctuary program, thus fostering a desire to conserve our heritage.

- Mr. Basta further explained that although 17% of the U.S. population is African American, not one of NOAA's 14 SACs have an African American filling a seat at their council. He gave a brief description of a dive program that is working towards involving more African Americans in the National Marine Sanctuaries.
- Mr. Basta also said that the draft on the USS *Monitor*'s story should be out in a year.
- He ended his comments by saying that Americans live in the present, but without a past, they have no future. Lastly, he encouraged everyone to work toward creating a plan that would tell the story of our past in a compelling way, so as to entice the public to learn more and to become stewards of conservation.

### **MNMS Superintendent's Report**

Dave Alberg made introductions of late arriving guests and Council members. He gave a special welcome to the Korean guests of Dr. Inkweon Bang (Korean Marine Environment Management Corporation), Dr. Byoung-seol Koh (National Fisheries Research and Development Institute), and Mr. Lee Kiyung (Suncheon Bay Conservation Section, Suncheon City Hall). Mr. Alberg provided an update to the council on a variety of topics, summarized below:

- **Budget:** Mr. Alberg highlighted several expenses including 1) \$250K given to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum to help develop exhibits; 2) \$25K to the National Park Service for signage that will tell NOAA's story and the many stories of shipwrecks including the USS *Monitor*; and 3) \$15K to the North Carolina Aquarium for a new HD monitor and software to play a *Monitor* NMS video. He also explained that the funding for the North Carolina Aquarium is an important collaboration in the *Monitor* NMS's efforts to identify biologicals on the wreck site.
- ***Monitor* Condition Report Media Coverage:** The *Monitor* NMS recently published the report of the condition of the sanctuary and over 50 articles have run in various newspapers across the United States informing the public of the report.
- **Summer Field Project:** The upcoming summer field project in July is to be conducted by Joe Hoyt and others yet to be determined. There is a need for the *Monitor* NMS to have a research vessel and there are various types of vessels being constructed for other sanctuaries. The RVX Manta will visit the *Monitor* NMS for two weeks in July before heading to Galveston, Texas where it would be christened at Texas A&M Galveston. During the boat's time here at the *Monitor* NMS it will be utilized for research during the summer field project and for public relation efforts. He further elaborated that the project would entail surveying and documenting three U-Boat sites: U701, U52, and U85.
- **Mariners' Museum Library Update:** Currently, the entire library except for the *Monitor* NMS's collection has been moved to Christopher Newport University (CNU) to a state-of-the-art facility that will better preserve the library contents. The collection of books and other papers continue to be owned by the Mariner's

Museum (MM) and MM's staff will manage the collection. However, the *Monitor* NMS's collection will remain at the MM for the next year until an agreement can be obtained for CNU to be a designated site for federal papers and books.

- **Mariners' Museum Update:** Mr. Alberg asked Anna Holloway, Curator Mariner's Museum, to brief the council on events of the Mariner's Museum. Ms. Holloway said that this was the museum's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that there is a push to do more virtual exhibits online. She also said that the museum's Interactive Video Conference (IVC) program was growing and that by the end of this school year, they will have completed approximately 100 programs for students from kindergarten to life-long learners. She also said that the museum had won the American Museums Award for Excellence for the *Monitor* exhibit.
- ***Monitor* Conservation Efforts:** Mr. Alberg asked Dave Krop to brief the council on the status of the conservation efforts for the USS *Monitor*. Mr. Krop's report is summarized as:
  - There is currently nine full-time staff and they have completed the excavation of the gun turret.
  - Various maintenance work has been completed—an x-ray facility is up and running, a walk-in fridge is now working along with a freeze dryer being used for cloth, rope, leather, and other soft materials.
  - The tank farm structure is complete and the outside tank is being coated making transfer of artifacts to the tank farm possible in the near future. The condenser tank door is working.
  - As for the artifacts from the USS *Monitor*, the Dahlgren guns are doing exceptionally well and the inscriptions on the guns can now be read. Several of the smaller artifacts will be released in groups throughout the year, which include a brass valve, an oil can, clock gear box, gun components, gun plate, tin bucket, leather boot, leather chest, and five fragments of glass.
  - Mr. Krop detailed how five pieces of glass once conserved fit together to make the head of the Phoenix rising and that the Latin words for "Shall Rise Again" were clearly visible making a very powerful story.
  - The conservation group has created a "Chemistry of Conservation" class aimed at middle and high school students.
  - There will be a new internship through the Christopher Newport University fellowship program.
- **Capital Hill Ocean Week:** Capital Hill Ocean Week in Washington, DC will be held June 3-5. An awards dinner will be held on June 3 and that the *Monitor* NMS's nominee is Al Mitchell. Mr. Basta reiterated the importance of attending events during the week to sustain high visibility for the NMS program.
- Encouragement was given for members to go and see the Thunderbay Exhibit opening June 14.
- An explanation was given on an ongoing 15-minute film project focused on the establishment of the *Monitor* NMS. End product will be a DVD that can be used for public relation events. Mr. Basta suggested that efforts be coordinated to avoid issues.

- Mr. Alberg explained further details of the summer field work and what is expected to occur this summer while the RVX Manta is on loan to the sanctuary as summarized:
  - A team of divers will visit the U Boat sites from July 6-24 to survey and document the sites for inclusion into the National Registry. Mr. Basta suggested that all divers be coordinated and approved by Mr. Greg McFall.
  - Mr. Hoyt said that they would coordinate and that he would have the report for the dive completed by June 1.
  - As the U boats are the sovereign property of Germany, a discussion was held as to the expected involvement by the German government. Mr. Alberg said that the German government had been invited to dive with the team, but the government had declined the invitation. John Broadwater gave a brief history of previous meetings with the Germans on the removal or remains and said that the German government had made it clear that they do not have any major issues with remains as long as they are treated with respect. Mr. Basta said that the US's position is on a case-by-case basis. Mr. James Bunch noted that it is not likely that the U85 site would be grave site as most, if not all, of the Germans onboard were reported in the water at the time of its sinking. He said that our in-house policy is much stricter than the last known German policy.
  - Mr. Alberg continued the discussion by saying that the main focus of the summer work is to document and to better understand the wreck site to create a base line to work with. He also stated that the idea is to not to keep divers out of the wreck site, but rather to retain its value for possible future inclusion in the sanctuary.

**ACTION:** Joe Hoyt will submit dive report to Dave Alberg by June 1, 2008.

### **Welcoming of New SAC Members and Swearing In**

Scott Boyd (Citizen at Large), James Bunch (Recreational Diving), and Mark Wilder-Ramsing (NC Department of Cultural Resources) were given the oath of office by Dave Alberg.

### **Intro to Management Plan Review and Timeline**

Ed Lindelof (Team Lead for Management Plan Reviews, ONMS) gave an overview of why a management plan is necessary for a sanctuary as summarized:

- Mr. Lindelof discussed the management plan timeline and the responsibilities of meeting the deadlines within the expected time frame. See attachments.
- Discussion ensued as to how to include dive communities in different levels of responsibilities as they are stakeholders.
- Anne Walton clarified sanctuary duties according to the law and reassured members that all public opinions will be taken into consideration.
- Karen Brubeck encouraged members to look at the Thunder Bay management plan as a model to guide the process.

- John Broadwater suggested that we look for opportunities for divers and volunteers to explore. Alex Varouxis and Vince Cook said that they would get help to spread the word and would encourage other divers to participate.
- Mr. Schwarzer made a motion to form a subcommittee to explore boundary expansion. It was seconded by Jim Bunch and Richard Lawrence agreed to staff the meeting.

### **Overview of Condition Report**

Mr. Dave Alberg said that the condition report on the *Monitor* NMS had just been released and that overall the condition of the *Monitor* is good. There are some natural and human issues causing minor problems, but nothing unexpected. Mr. Alberg also reported that the Condition Report is an important first step in better understanding of the marine environment within the sanctuary and that it represents a tremendous opportunity for the MNMS to work with partners, such as the North Carolina Aquarium, to help answer many of the unknowns related to the natural resources found at the site. The Condition report will also serve as an important tool as the site prepares for Management Plan Review.

### **Public Comment Period**

Alex Varouxis commented on the work the Sanctuary program is doing to protect wrecks off of North Carolina and praised the staff for their hard work. He stated that the sanctuary's efforts are important to the dive community and to North Carolina. Mr. Cook reflected Mr. Varouxis's comments. Mr. Cook did raise the question of what impact any future expansion of the site might have on divers in regards to discovering new wrecks. Mr. Alberg responded that any expansion of the site would be done through a public process and through Management Plan Review. He also stated that he could not foresee any reason that any potential expansion would impact divers' ability to discovery new wrecks and, in fact, noted that in many of our sanctuaries, new wreck discoveries are brought to light through the recreational dive community that works with the sanctuary program to promote and protect those wrecks.

### **Exercise 1: Values of MNMS**

Anne Walton discussed how the process to formulate a management plan begins. She discussed a logic model and then had the members divide into two groups. She instructed each group to brainstorm what were considered valuable resources of the *Monitor* NMS site and to determine the level of importance of each asset. Once the assignment was completed, the groups came back together to determine what each group considered important and to come to a consensus on what is considered valuable to the site.

### **Exercise 2: Identifying Threats to the Values of MNMS**

Ms. Walton continued the exercise by having the members return to their groups to identify the threats to the values of Monitor NMS.

### **Exercise 3: Ranking of Threats**

The two groups met as one group and came to a consensus on the ranking of identified threats. Ms. Walton said that the exercise would be continued at the next SAC meeting.

**ACTION:** Dave Alberg, June Craddock, and Shannon Ricles will organize results from this meeting and plan the agenda for the next SAC meeting.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Mr. Schwarzer thanked everyone for their attendance and dedication to the Monitor NMS. The meeting was officially adjourned.