

MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2015
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Meeting Location: UNC CSI Research Campus
Wanchese, NC 27981

Meeting Objectives: (1) Updates; (2) finalize 2015 Council Work Plan; (3) update on *Monitor* Sanctuary Boundary Expansion.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)
8 community seats present (of 11 filled seats)
4 government seats present (of 13 filled seats)
3 sanctuary staff members present (of 11 staff)
1 additional Navy official attended
3 public members attended the meeting

Discussion Highlights:

- ★ Overview of summer field work, including diving *Monitor*
- ★ ANCHOR Program highlights
- ★ Update to SAC FY 2016 Work Plan
- ★ Brief update on Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
- ★ Update on potential sanctuary boundary expansion and council member discussion

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Bunch welcomed everyone to the meeting and on the phone call. He began with remarking about the abundance of cultural resources off North Carolina, both written about and others unknown. But they all tie in together in that each has a story that should be told. It is a job to tell this story, but no one can do it alone. The MNMS facility and staff have an ability to promote these stories and a great willingness and desire to do so, but cannot do it

alone. We can all work together to help publicize these wrecks and their stories by working together.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from Conference Call Meeting on August 19, 2015

Joe Poe states that the minutes from March 5, 2015 meeting have not been made available and the approval and acceptance of those minutes will be made at the next meeting. Dave Alberg states that the notes from the August 19, 2015 status phone call are available and that those can be approved and put on the website. 12 SAC members are in attendance, allowing for a quorum. Joe Poe moves to accept the minutes of the working meeting from August 19, 2015. Seconded. Minutes are voted on and approved. Dave Alberg states that acceptance of the minutes from March 5, 2015 will be part of the agenda for next SAC meeting. The meeting then moves on to Dave Alberg and the Superintendent's Update.

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg begins report by summarizing field season highlights, with research completed back at *Monitor*, the Diamond Shoals Light Ship (LV-71), and office support of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) project that took place in Ocean City, Maryland. Budget process for the site will be under a continuing resolution again this year, with similar spending limits to be expected, but still early in the budgeting process. Biggest concern in budget has been providing support to the conservation of *Monitor* and for the first time ever, a 5 year contract has been established between the Mariners Museum and NOAA to provide federal funding while the Mariners Museum begins to ramp up fundraising efforts. Since early May, they have raised over \$500,000 for conservation efforts.

Dave Alberg has also been part of many public outreach meetings throughout the Outer Banks communities, discussing the role of the MNMS. A meeting with BOEM was completed regarding MNMS roles and possible expansion efforts and what it might look like to them. Positive feedback was experienced at every level, as engagement was appreciated. The ANCHOR project was a terrific success and a good first step in the public and community engagement process. Pilot project was completed with Roanoke Island Outfitters, from Manteo, NC, and materials from this project should be coming out shortly.

Dave continues by stating in the materials handed out, there is a copy of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary management plan that outlines and mirrors our vision for what a potential expanded sanctuary might look like. Offer from Superintendent of TBNMS, Jeff Gray, to come speak to the SAC about their expansion and would welcome any questions from the SAC to

Tane Casserley began with a report of the 2015 archaeological field season following a brief explanation of his history with MNMS. In 2015, archaeologists, Joe Hoyt and Tane Casserley, completed closed-circuit rebreather training to a depth of 250 feet, allowing them to access *Monitor* with this system. In a build up to diving *Monitor*, the "Mystery Wreck" was explored as well as the Diamond Shoals Light Ship (LV-71). Diving then took place on *Monitor*, which had some of the best visibility ever experienced while there. Partnerships,

including one with UNC-CSI, helped to process a new form of recording the sites called photogrammetry. Tane explained the process of utilizing hundreds of photos that could be stitched together, much like a mosaic, but allowed for 3D model to be produced for interpretation. The integrity of each of the wreck sites was well documented, and a 3D model of *Monitor* was created, allowing for an extremely accurate site representation.

Dave Alberg added that of the 2 permits to dive *Monitor* this year, one has been issued to the New York Aquarium. Also, in an effort to expand and utilize the information gathered from our research, an additional 6 dive slates are in process, to add to the 5 already completed. These new dive slates will provide free information to divers and history enthusiasts alike.

★ Regional Report

Paul Ticco, the NOAA Northeast Regional Coordinator, spoke about his position and involvement with MNMS. His work includes the Great Lakes as well as the North East and he has been involved with not only the expansion process with MNMS, but also the proposed designation of new sanctuary sites. NOAA has developed a community based nomination plan for the development of new sanctuary sites, with public involvement at the forefront in the nomination process. Two sites have been put in the NOAA inventory for possible designation, one in Wisconsin and one in Maryland, with the need to develop a management plan as the next step in the process. Both sites have similar backgrounds as cultural heritage based, which is encouraging for any possible expansion efforts in North Carolina. There are also efforts to extend protection into off shore areas, such as deep water canyons, that have also been discussed.

★ Brief Council Members Announcements

Jim Bunch allows for extra time for Council Members to discuss any important announcements. Jim Bunch begins this session by remarking on the recreational diving season he has had, stating that business was good and that there was an increased desire from the clientele for training, shipwreck conservation and preservation. Jim asked Matt and Pam Landrum to remark on their season, and they echoed his sentiments. Their customers were increasingly aware of the shipwrecks cultural value and the ANCHOR program MNSM did early that summer, helped their staff and in turn, helped to promote their business. Locals seem to be their biggest return customers and the drivers of their business. Increased awareness to these wreck sites has been great for them and they are excited to pass along the ethics of the ANCHOR program. Dave Alberg remarked that the goal of working with local economies is a major part of the sanctuary program at large and also excited to see that the ANCHOR program was a success both ethically and economically.

Stuart Katz wants to increase the public's awareness of sanctuary activities. There are many places in which *Monitor* could be promoted, including some parks that are important to the history of the ironclads. He has identified publications that would enjoy promoting MNMS and the work that is being done. He has talked with Shannon Ricles and Tane Casserley about these opportunities and believes they fall in line with the constituent building aspect of the SAC work plan. Dave Alberg agreed and stated that in addition to the one proposed sign

in Newport News, VA for *Monitor*, there are at least 3 others in discussion for different locations, to include Syracuse and Manhattan, NY. The price, Dave mentions, is not expensive, but the exposure is worth so much more.

Marc Corbett wanted to comment on the abundance of fish life that he has seen this summer. The increased temperature seen in the waters seemed to bring in an abundance of bait fish to the wreck sites, which in turn created a large amount of bio diversity at these locations, something that he had not seen before. Secondly, younger divers are also starting to grow in numbers, and education should start to focus on the younger people. The feeling is a lot are coming from aquarium based information groups or those interested in spear fishing. This is a growing audience and a great way to get the public interested. Dave Alberg appreciated the thoughts and wants to promote fishing access to these sites, and possibly offer a fishing classic, something that is offered sanctuary wide, and bring it to MNMS and that is something to look at down the road. All in an effort to get more people interested in these resources.

In connection with the warmer waters and increased fish populations, Matt Landrum provided reasoning, connecting it to the BP oil spill. Marc Corbett talked of increasing shark sightings as well.

Ernie Foster spoke about sanctuary expansion talks in relation to access to fishing. Constituents want to have the correct information and Ernie wants to provide the correct information rather than feeding into misinformation when it comes to discussing fishing access. Dave Alberg mentions a meeting that was held with Mr. Daniels of Marine Fisheries of NC and what was being heard by them, from their constituents, was different than what was being proposed by MNMS, and the advice from them was to get out ahead of misinformation and provide the correct information, and promote access to fishing, as best as possible. What is currently in place for regulations over *Monitor* are not necessarily what is being considered or advocated for, if expansion goes forward. Ernie responds that having the correct information moving forward would alleviate some of those fears. He also relays information about when fishing, it is meaningful to describe the stories of the wrecks themselves, as each one is different but has a great impact and resonates with folks. To that point, Dave Alberg updates the Council on the involvement with the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, stating money has been spent on updating the facility and exhibits to promote these stories. At MNMS, the website is being developed to share detailed history of BOTA wrecks with individual shipwreck pages. These pages will provide detailed information about location, historical background, and current features identified, for divers and historical enthusiasts alike. Other outreach tools, such as brochures, are being developed as well.

2015 Council Work Plan

★ Management update on Final Management Plan

Following council updates, Jim Bunch moves to the Council Work Plan for FY 2016. Dave Alberg gives an overview of the role of the work plan, a requirement of the Council. SAC

should look at this and approve it or amend it as needed. Jim states that this is the document that can be followed following the Notice of Intent going out and Public Scoping meetings beginning. Dave Alberg walks through a few areas of the Work Plan, and the activities mentioned by each section. The idea of the work plan is to utilize the SAC members for their strengths to help promote the Sanctuary. Paul Ticco mentioned to also take note of the Priority Listing of each activity.

★ Council discussion and suggestions for tasks/issues/groups

Jim Bunch states that, currently, at this meeting, the actions on the list will not be completed at this meeting, however, it provides a frame work to help get started. Joe Poe states that we should adopt the plan as a “working plan” as not completed, and then for sub-committees to fill it out and discuss at the next meeting. Dave Alberg states that this is more of what is the SAC going to take on and accomplish over the next year.

★ Council Action: Vote to amend work plan or approve draft plan

Discussion to vote on it as a draft plan with other sub-committees and ideas framing and completing the plan down the road. Joe Poe moves to, “adopt the Sanctuary Advisory Council draft Work Plan as a “Work in Progress,” at this time, and make it available to the members of the council and the public for further work.” Jim Bunch seconds. Voted on, Ayes win, motion passes.

Monitor Boundary Expansion Update

★ Review of SAC Working Group Expansion Models

Dave Alberg provided background information on the SAC Expansion Working Group recommendations from June 2014, which included four models or approaches describing what Sanctuary expansion might look like. Other recommendations were included with the models, such as potential names for the sanctuary as well as other issues to consider. Alberg explained that although the Advisory Council voted on June 5, 2014 to accept the work of the working group, the SAC never voted to formally submit it to NOAA as a formal SAC recommendation. This was a simple administrative oversight on the SAC and Dave wants to make sure that all work done by the SAC is as transparent as possible. To that end the SAC should take a vote to whether to accept and forward to NOAA for consideration those models as a recommendation from the full Monitor Sanctuary Advisory Council.

★ Vote to formally Submit Models to NOAA for Consideration

Joe Poe moves to submit the four models, recommended by the Expansion Working Group to be accepted by the Sanctuary Advisory Council and forwarded to NOAA for consideration. Susan Langley seconds. Voted on, Ayes win, motion passes unanimously.

★ Council Questions and discussion on Expansion Process

Following vote to accept the Working Group models, Dave Alberg reviews the process for expansion, highlighting the action items from the management plan passed in 2013 to begin looking at expansion, to then making a notice of intent, set up public scoping meetings, and then to a review of the comments and internal infrastructure by NOAA. The vote, just passed, now sends to NOAA from the SAC a formal consideration of possible expansion models. These models can be used for public comment, with no preferences given by the Advisory Council, but as a way of showing possible ideas for an expanded sanctuary.

Jim Bunch now opens up the floor for questions. One question came up about timing for the process and Dave Alberg answered it being a multiyear process with many opportunities for public interaction. Paul Ticco clarifies that there has been no selection of change of boundary, only that there is intent to explore the option of expanding the sanctuary. Among these 4 models, there is also a 5th model, one of being no action, with no change in current boundary. As required by NEPA, there is always an option to do nothing. Also, there are many opportunities for local communities to get involved if they desire to do so, and the process will be heavily influenced by public comment. Dave Alberg states that it is difficult to begin a discussion about expansion without having ideas about where to expand to, and the Working Group models that were recommended and voted on, allow for multiple considerations to that end. Joe Poe reiterates that there had been many discussions about these models. Dave Alberg states that it will be very important to have SAC member involvement at Public Scoping meetings, when they can be set. Ideas for certain Public Scoping meeting locations were offered, but actual designation of those locations has been delayed by NOAA. Jim Bunch mentions that having a meeting in Hatteras would make sense.

Dave Alberg gave a clarification of some of the \$2.7 million dollars utilized by the state for the Graveyard of the Atlantic museum. \$2 million went to build the current museum building, \$600,000 went to exhibit design and another \$100,000 went to help the QAR project.

Public Comment Period

Matt Landrum, following an opening of the floor by Jim Bunch, asks if there is need for outside input, referring to the Draft Work Plan, and in particular constituent building. Also he is surprised by the lack of public awareness to World War II wrecks, which would be a true key to getting public interest in the sanctuary program. Dave Alberg responds by agreeing and stating that in as much as it is about the need to protect the sites, it is as important to promote them and make the stories well known. Dave presents the Maritime Cultural Landscape document, to show the sense of place and history of the region, and to tell the story of these wrecks. Pam Landrum adds to this point that there should be an outreach person, designated to go to the stores, restaurants, and businesses, rather than just promoting at museums, that is engaged in the community and at community events, detailing the history and stories of these wrecks. Tane Casserley responds to this that in his time at Thunder Bay, they have created a lot of this type of material and successfully use it in the community and would do so here as well.

Dave Alberg states increased involvement from our office is happening, and acknowledged lapses in the past, but with the larger staff moving forward, the ability to take on some more outreach events is greatly possible.

Marc Corbett stated World War II actions along the East Coast had been censored for ages and because of this, information is not wide spread. An idea he had was to write the newspaper reports of attacks as if the reports were happening today. Dave acknowledges this and mentions the meeting with the tourism board and their desire to take the story off of the beach and out into the water, further than ever before. There is a desire by the state to send out joint press releases and have the Sanctuary involved in much more newspaper articles. There is a great desire to be more involved. Dave also told story of finding of *YP-389* as a relatable story to both local and national interests.

Ernie Foster brought up the original designation of the *Monitor* Sanctuary and the deliberate misplacing of the coordinates of *Monitor* on the charts, stating, “fisherman looked at this and thought there is something nefarious here.” By not displaying coordinates correctly it creates an air of distrust rather than trust. Dave Alberg responds by stating, that no speaking for all of NOAA, but that at his time with the Sanctuary, there has been a release of the numbers, and we have not held anything back. If you ask for a number/location, we will give you the location. Agreed, that there may have been some truth to Ernie’s thought that the numbers back in the early years of the Sanctuary might have been off a bit, but that is not how things are done now. The shipwreck info on our website will include locations and he wants people to access them. Ernie responds that the atmosphere from the fisherman can change if there are acknowledgements made with more accurate information, rather than general ideas of where a shipwreck might be. Matt Landrum states that there is a perpetuation of this activity from the past at least in the first 25 years or so, but the last decade or more, this has changed for the positive. Older divers might still hold on to this notion rather than younger divers. Dave Alberg responded that when discussing expansion, people naturally will ask if NOAA is going to shut off access to these wrecks, or if a permitting process will be put in place, and that is not the idea, but until the notice of intent and public scoping process goes through, NOAA cannot take a position. It is essential the models came from the Working Group so as to show it is a community driven proposal and that the Thunder Bay MS is closest to the model in management MNMS would be looking to mirror.

No further comments from the public on the phone or in the room.

Council Member Comments and/or Questions

Dave Alberg suggests that there be a meeting at the beginning of 2016 and will send out proposed dates following this meeting.

Gabriella Biava introduces herself and gives brief background and her interests in marine biology and maritime related events.

Jim Bunch mentioned the possibility of having a Surfing Seat on the Council many times before, but wanted to acknowledge Marc Corbett for coming to the meeting as a surfing advocate.

Dave Alberg brought up that there are two fishing seats on the Council, with only one being occupied. There has not been much interest in filling that seat and wanted to know whether the seat was needed (as a second fishing seat) or could be filled by some other entity. Ernie Foster remarks that the fishing spot is necessary and has seen a lot of growth, but not necessarily sure there is a need for this seat. Jim Bunch asks Matt Landrum if the seat is necessary. Matt responds that the commercial fishing crowd needs to be made aware but not sure if the seat is necessary. Dave Alberg states that not everyone on the Council has to agree with everything at a meeting too. Jim Bunch states that having a commercial fishing person sitting on that seat. Dave Alberg will make every effort to fill that seat with a commercial fisherman.

Jim thanked everyone for the call and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

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.
- ✓ Fill the commercial fishing Council seat vacancy

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Joe Poe	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Wayne Smith	Conservation	Absent
Stuart Katz	Economic Development	Present
David Sybert	Education	Present
Jim Tobin	Heritage Tourism	Absent
Susan Langley	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Jim Bunch	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Recreational Diving	Present
Jay Moore	The Mariners' Museum	Absent
Gabriella Biava	Youth Seat (Non-Voting)	Present
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Absent
Anna Holloway	NPS (Alternate)	Present
Billy Ray Morris	NC DCR (Primary)	Absent
Steve Claggett	NC DCR (Alternate)	Absent

Charlie Burgess	NC Local Gov't – Beaufort	Absent
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County (P)	Absent
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (A)	Absent
LCDR Patricia Bennett	US Coast Guard (Primary)	Absent
LCDR Elizabeth Buendia	US Coast Guard (Alternate)	Absent
Robert Neyland	US Navy (Primary)	Absent
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alternate)	Present
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR (Primary)	Present
Mike Clem	VA DHR (Alternate)	Absent
Wynn Carney	NOAA	Present
Katie Moore	US Coast Guard	Present
Abigail Tessament	US Navy	Present
Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Tane Casserley	Research Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	Sanctuary IT	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Present
Others		
Matt Landrum	Recreational Diving	Present
Pam Landrum	Recreational Diving	Present
Marc Corbett	Recreational Diving	Present