

February 26, 2016

David Alberg

Sanctuary Superintendent

100 Museum Drive

Newport News, VA 23606

Dear David:

I recommend the expansion of the Monitor Marine Sanctuary in the form of Model C. This area covers the most wrecks of historical significance. It is contiguous and coherent, as opposed to other models; this will allow for better management, supervision, and surveillance.

I have additional, more personal reasons for the selection of Model C. My former geophysics professor at Columbia University conducted for the Navy the development of submarine photography in the area C in 1944. He and his group actually photographed for the first time many of the identified wrecks in area C, including many torpedoed tankers and two German submarines sunk by the US Navy.

Also, on a personal level, the Model C includes the first wreck we photographed in our Monitor discovery cruise in 1973. While on board the Research Vessel *Eastward*, these first photographs revealed to us that it was a 20<sup>th</sup> century trawler. It turned out to be the trawler *Cohasset*, which was converted to YP 783 by the US Navy in 1942, and sunk by the German submarine U 701 in that same year. This wreck is well preserved and very representative of the WW II battle of the Atlantic and must be included in the expanded Monitor Marine Sanctuary.

I hope these few remarks will influence the decision to expand the Monitor Marine Sanctuary in the form of Model C.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Sheridan

Professor Emeritus