

March 16, 2016

NOAA - Monitor National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Museum Dr.  
Newport News, VA 23606

I have had the privilege of attending several MONITOR related events – including the burial at Arlington National Cemetery, the marking of the MONITOR trail in Brooklyn, and others. At each point, I have been impressed by the educational power of involving students at every level – from elementary school age through doctoral students – in direct engagement with the research this important part of our national maritime heritage allows. These encounters – real work with the real thing – can be life-changing, inspiring young people both to consider related career paths as appealing and achievable for them, and also encouraging them to be more active advocates for our maritime heritage. Creating an expanded MONITOR Sanctuary will make many more such opportunities available, and have a multiplier effect as each beneficiary will go on to have a positive impact on many others. This will also protect a broader range of historically valuable artefacts on the sea floor – now vulnerable to plundering for profit, and can be done with no obstruction of reasonable fishing practices. Count me as a strong supporter of expanding the MONITOR Sanctuary on the Atlantic Coast.

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