



Federal Foreign Office, 11013 Berlin

Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20230

Subject: **Proposed Expansion of the Monitor National Marine
Sanctuary
NOAA visit to the German Embassy in Washington on
February 25, 2016**

REF: 503-454.46 USA/CAN

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October 6, 2016

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

Representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) came to the German Embassy in Washington and presented proposals for the expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of North Carolina. Since this sanctuary would then also include an area of shipwrecked German World War II submarines, NOAA representatives asked for German approval and potential support for this project.

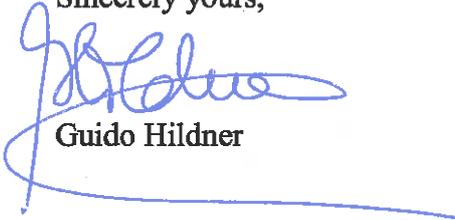
Germany finds itself confronted with a legacy of sunken navy vessels and submarines practically all around the globe. These remain German property. If they still contain the mortal remains of crew members who went down with their ship, international custom regards these wrecks as war graves at sea and awards them a special protective status. It is German policy to leave the wrecks untouched as historical testaments and as the final resting place of the dead seamen, if necessities of environmental protection or safety of navigation, for example, do not require their removal. At the same time, Germany cannot be held financially or legally responsible for any unnecessary endeavors to salvage sunken vessels.

The area which is the focus of the said proposal, commonly known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic", is also historically significant to Germany. The German submarines U-85, U-352 and U-701 can be found in the vicinity of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of North Carolina, and the wreck of the U-576 was discovered there only recently. Currently, underwater wreck sites are vulnerable to disturbances from unauthorized persons. The step proposed by the NOAA could provide relief in this matter since it would afford the vessels in question a higher level of protection while also

contributing to the setting of global standards for the preservation of such historical artefacts.

Germany therefore very much appreciates the NOAA's initiative to further the protection of these sites.

Sincerely yours,



Guido Hildner