

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of NOAA's proposal to expand the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, which currently protects the wreck of the USS Monitor. The expansion would help safeguard other wrecks in the area, including wrecks from the Battle of the Atlantic. These wrecks are part of our shared heritage as Americans and should be preserved and protected.

I've spent over a decade diving and exploring wrecks and underwater sites around the world. I've been lucky enough to dive in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Truk, Sweden, Portugal, Italy, New Zealand, Bonaire, Egypt, Croatia, and more. I have seen first-hand the profound positive effect protection can have on preserving both historic sites and wildlife. The difference between protected and exposed sites is dramatic.

I am told that letters of public support are helpful when making policy decisions. Therefore, I am writing to urge you to support the expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Kees Beemster Leverenz