

DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



J. Patrick Harmon, Commander
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David Alberg, Superintendent
NOAA Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

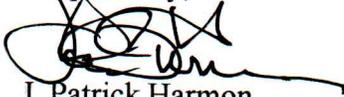
RADM Timothy Gallaudet, USN (Ret)
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Sirs,

We are Division 16, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Fifth District Southern Region with an Area of Responsibility (AOR) covering the Outer and Inner Banks areas of North Carolina. The dedicated men and women of our Division strongly support the expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary encompassing not only the Monitor but numerous other World War II shipwrecks. These wrecks, and the sailors who perished with them, are to be held in honor and protected under a sanctuary designation.

We understand that a draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan are soon to be released and we certainly hope they will receive favorable approval. We applaud the efforts of Ms Shannon Ricles, Education and Outreach Coordinator, NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary for bringing this important project to the public's attention

Respectfully,


J. Patrick Harmon
Commander, Division 16

cc: Shannon S. Ricles
Travis Cullifer, DCAPT, D5SR (email)