

## FY17 Accomplishments

### BACKGROUND

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1975 as the first national marine sanctuary to protect the wreck site of the USS *Monitor*. The *Monitor* was the prototype for a class of U.S. Civil War ironclad, turreted warships that significantly altered both naval technology and marine architecture in the nineteenth century. The sanctuary protects the wreck for future generations and works to share this iconic vessel's historical and cultural legacy with the public.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.





Photo: Tane Casserley/NOAA

A new exhibit was installed at the Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum through Preserve America Initiative grant funds.



Photo: John McCord, University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute/NOAA

A 3D image was created for the German U-boat, U-576 that sank off North Carolina's coast in July 1942.



Photo: Tane Casserley/NOAA

Sanctuary staff attended a wreath laying ceremony at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC.

### New exhibits enhance tourism in local area

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary partnered with artist Wayne White and the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in Virginia Beach, Virginia, to create *MONITORIUM*. The exhibit explores the 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads. Monumental-sized puppets, props, and sound carve out White's unique perspective, featuring individuals who helped shape the *Monitor's* history. Additionally, the sanctuary developed new wayside signs depicting the *Monitor* and several new museum exhibits detailing the sanctuary's work in documenting World War II shipwrecks.

### New technology documents shipwrecks

Advances in technology, such as photogrammetry, have enabled Monitor National Marine Sanctuary to develop realistic 3D models of wreck sites and artifacts. The scaled models allow measurements to be taken and referenced in a real-world coordinate system. Applying this technology allows to more effectively monitor sites for changes over time, enabling better management of resources. 3D models also offer historians, maritime enthusiasts, recreational divers, fishermen, beachgoers, and outdoor adventure seekers the ability to experience this unique region's resources and celebrate our nation's maritime heritage.

### National World War II Memorial partnership

Through Monitor National Marine Sanctuary's efforts in documenting over 50 World War II shipwrecks off North Carolina's coast, the sanctuary was invited to represent NOAA at events hosted by the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, to commemorate the beginning of the 75th anniversary of WWII. Sanctuary staff participated in the reading of names of those lost at Pearl Harbor and led a wreath laying ceremony honoring the United States Merchant Marine and America's entry into the Battle of the Atlantic.

### Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY18

- To promote tourism and stewardship of our resources, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will engage constituents, students, and teachers through public presentations, events, and new educational curricula.
- NOAA staff will conduct new state-of-the-art high resolution multibeam sonar surveys of unseen deep-water shipwrecks in the waters near Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.
- To commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will survey two North Carolina shipwrecks sunk in 1918 by German U-boats.