

A Look Ahead

In the coming year, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will continue surveying and assessing significant cultural resources in the waters off the coast of North Carolina as first steps towards exploring expansion of the Monitor Sanctuary. The waters surrounding the Sanctuary, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic, contain thousands of other shipwrecks that serve as important economic resources for the State of North Carolina and hold great National significance as well. The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is making this effort to determine what measures should be undertaken to better protect these resources and to better educate the public about the value of submerged cultural resources. The Sanctuary program will continue to work with local communities, universities, the State of North Carolina, and our advisory council to explore expansion in a way that supports local economies, protects historic shipwrecks, and provides access to the public.

Supporting Jobs, Communities and Culture

The public can visit the USS *Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va. The center (a \$30 million, 63,500-square-foot facility) currently houses large *Monitor* artifacts including the gun turret, cannons, and steam engine and a full size reconstruction of the USS *Monitor*. Other sanctuary partners include the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, North Carolina Aquarium, Nauticus, Hampton Roads Naval Museum and North Carolina Maritime Museum who all display exhibits and/or information about the cultural and natural resources of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Wayne Smith

Vice Chair: Susan Langley

Non-Governmental Members

Recreational Diving: James W. Bunch

Recreational/Commercial Fishing: Jay Kavanagh

Archaeological Research: Susan Langley

The Mariners' Museum: Anna Holloway
Alternate: Dave Krop

Conservation: Wayne Smith

Education: Terri Kirby-Hathaway

Citizen-at-Large: vacant

Youth (non-voting): c/o Shannon Ricles

Economic Development: vacant

Recreational/Commercial Fishing: vacant

Heritage Tourism: vacant

Recreational Diving: vacant

Governmental Members

State Government

NC Department of Cultural Resources:

Mark Wilde-Ramsing

Alternate: Steve Claggett

Virginia Department of Historic Resources:

Joanna Wilson

Alternate: vacant

NC Department of Environment and Natural

Resources: vacant

Federal Government

US Navy: Robert Neyland

Alternate: vacant

National Park Service: Dave Conlin

Alternate: Doug Stover

US Coast Guard: Lt. Kevin Saunders

NOAA Monitor NMS (non-voting):

David Alberg

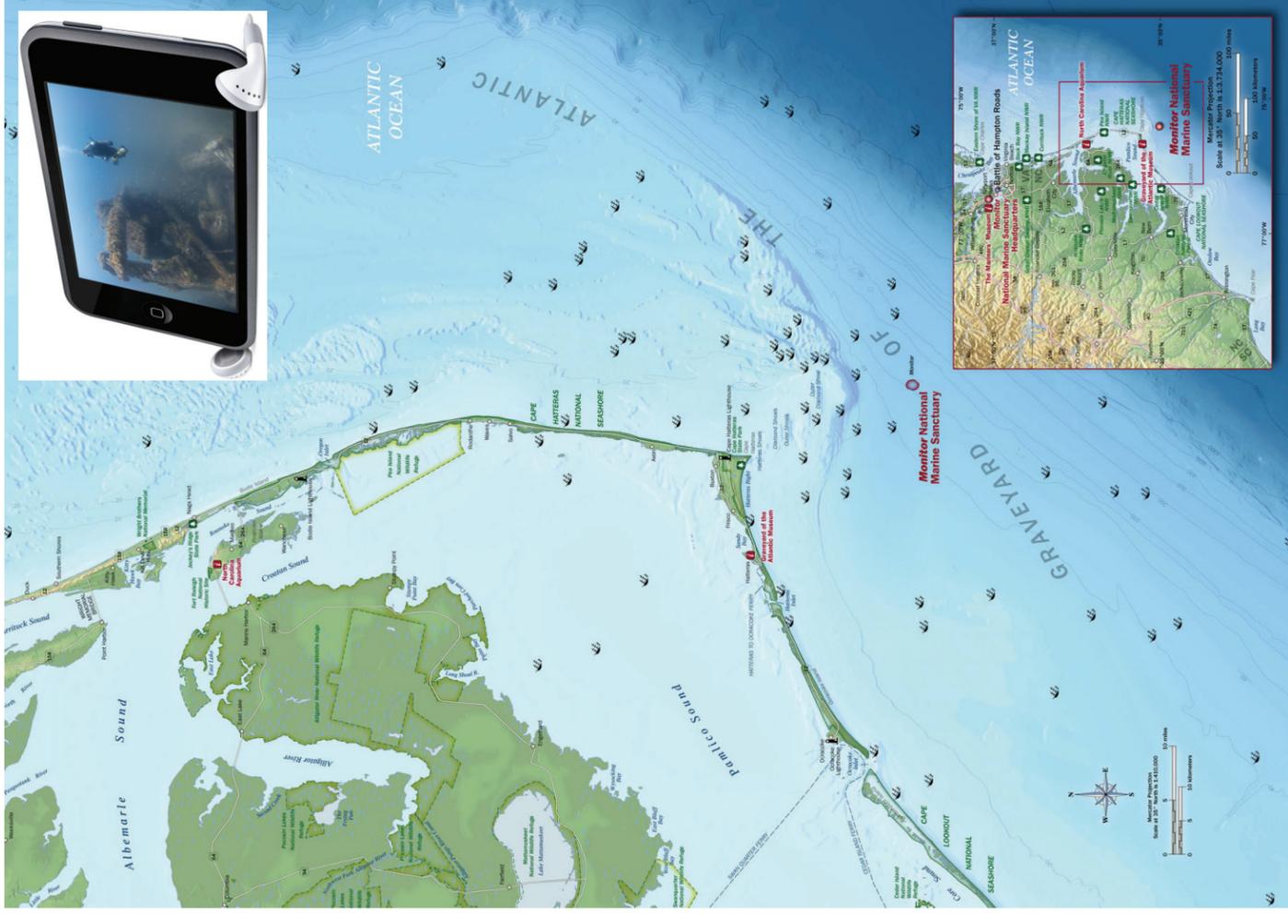
Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator

Shannon Ricles

National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary in 1975. The site protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* off Cape Hatteras, N.C., best known for its battle in 1862 with the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* at Hampton Roads. In partnership with The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va., the sanctuary unveiled the \$30 million USS *Monitor* Center in 2007, further enhancing efforts to preserve, study and educate the public about this iconic piece of our nation's maritime past. Established Jan. 30, 1975.

<http://monitor.noaa.gov>



2010 Battle of the Atlantic Expedition

The 2010 Battle of the Atlantic Expedition was a successful coordination of science and partnerships. Collaborating with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, East Carolina University, University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, and University of North Carolina at Wilmington brought together recognized experts in the field of marine archaeology and technical scientific diving. This solid group of partners, along with representatives from Monitor, Thunder Bay, and Gray's Reef national marine sanctuaries, conducted surveys of over 10 World War II merchant vessels lost during the Battle of the Atlantic. These surveys are a part of an ongoing study evaluating the physical remains of this battle and evaluating the significance of the collection as a heritage resource. The data collected during 2010 will be used for these assessments as well as planning follow-up fieldwork in FY11.



Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck

To date, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary has provided in excess of \$2.6 million in support of projects in North Carolina, including the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum (GOAM). In FY10, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries provided an additional \$250,000 to the state. This support included staff time, artifacts, archaeological fieldwork for a high-profile North Carolina shipwreck, and funding for the permanent exhibit design plan for the museum's galleries. In 2010, the sanctuary worked with the state to install temporary galleries that highlight the story of piracy in North Carolina waters and contain a selection of artifacts from the wreck near Beaufort, North Carolina believed to be *Queen Anne's Revenge*. The temporary galleries also feature a USS *Monitor* exhibit including 14 artifacts from NOAA's *Monitor* collection and a kiosk telling the story of the tragic loss of America's most famous warship. The permanent gallery exhibition plan is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Hatteras Day and Outer Banks Forum

On April 22, 2010, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, along with the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, hosted an event, "Celebrating the Outer Banks: A Forum on Culture, Heritage, and Environment". This event featured key players in the local community as speakers that represented the local and state government as well as the research and fishing community. The purpose of this event was to focus on coastal North Carolina and the Outer Banks as a place of national significance, a crossroads of marine conservation, cultural resources, economic growth, and recreation and tourism. Not only did participants and attendees celebrate the culture, heritage, and the unique character of the Outer Banks, but the government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, museums and aquariums, local businesses, and the public engaged in stimulating discussion concerning its future.



NOAA's Support for East Carolina University Field School

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary hosted and participated in a field school in underwater archaeology with East Carolina University. The university's Program in Maritime Studies, one of the few graduate level programs focusing on maritime archaeology, runs an annual field expedition wherein students learn field methodology principles as they apply to shipwreck sites. As a result, East Carolina University professors and students documented nine shipwreck sites off the coast of North Carolina in the area known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic. The vessels surveyed ranged from the remains of an unidentified wooden ship, which may be the oldest known in the state, to WWII era landing craft. This project was a huge success and added a large number of documented sites to the growing catalog. In addition to financial support, the sanctuary coordinated the education and outreach component for this research.



Interactive Multimedia Heritage Tour

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, in collaboration with the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, launched an ambitious education outreach program to interpret the heritage resources off the coast of North Carolina. The sanctuary contracted with Emergent Pictures LLC, a small North Carolina-based production company, to produce a series of video and audio podcasts relating to historic terrestrial sites and shipwrecks along Highway 12 in the Outer Banks. Visitors will checkout or download content onto a portable device, such as a smartphone to view content. This content is coordinated with a series of scenic overlooks and historic sites along Highway 12 between Pea Island and Hatteras, N.C. In all, the product contains 13 mini documentaries illuminating a wide range of maritime history in North Carolina. The final product will be an outdoor museum component for the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and will carry the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' message of heritage preservation and stewardship.



RV-8501

In May 2010, the RV-8501 (SRVx) came to the east coast to serve as a regional vessel for the Florida Keys, Gray's Reef, Monitor, and Stellwagen Bank national marine sanctuaries. During the month of June, the RV-8501 supported the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary 2010 Battle of the Atlantic Expedition. It served as a technical and conventional dive platform, while researchers surveyed WWII vessels off the coast of North Carolina, staying offshore for up to three days at a time with 12 people onboard. In September, the RV-8501 was employed in a seven-day synthetic aperture sonar survey in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary to locate archaeological resources, assess derelict fishing gear concentrations, and characterize seafloor habitats. The RV-8501 also made multiple education and outreach appearances highlighting its educational and research capabilities. Ocracoke, N.C.; Scituate, Mass.; University of Rhode Island; Mystic Seaport, Conn.; and New York Harbor School on Governor's Island, N.Y. are just a few of the places it has visited.



NOAA Day at Busch Gardens

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries collaborated to bring together a plethora of NOAA offices for an outreach event at Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA. "NOAA: World of Wonder and Water" featured the sanctuaries program and the work of NOAA. During the two-day event, over 2,000 Girl and Boy Scouts and over 2,000 park visitors interacted with over 140 NOAA employees, volunteers, and partner organizations through hands-on activities. Each themed table told the NOAA story and provided information on personal actions visitors can take to help protect and improve our ocean planet, stay safe while enjoying the outdoors, and explore NOAA careers in science and technology. More than 2,500 participants also received a souvenir passport highlighting information from the activities and providing resource links to learn more about our ocean planet.



2010 Volunteer of the Year Award

James (Jim) Bunch, recreational diver, author, and a member of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council serving as the Recreational Dive Seat, was honored at Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW), as the Monitor's Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Bunch has devoted hundreds of hours to the sanctuary advisory council, the preservation of the USS *Monitor* and other shipwrecks, and the sanctuary's overall mission. He gave tirelessly of his time and energy in helping with the sanctuary's Management Plan. He not only worked aggressively to make the public aware of the management plan, but he helped to build key relationships throughout the process. During the week of CHOW, Mr. Bunch attended meetings on alternative energy and met with North Carolina Congressman Walter B. Jones and Virginia Congressman Rob Wittman.



Battle of the Atlantic Biological Surveys

During the 2010 Battle of the Atlantic, a group of researchers from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science conducted biological surveys of WWII shipwrecks off the coast of North Carolina. Fish abundance and identification surveys were performed to better understand the fish populations on the wreck sites, while photoquadrats and video transects will be used to characterize the benthic habitat. Temperature loggers were placed at five sites and will continuously collect temperature data until they are retrieved in 2011. A CTD (conductivity, temperature, and depth) was also used to collect physical oceanographic data. The biological and physical data collected during the expedition will be included in the Battle of the Atlantic project reports and used for future monitoring of these sites.