2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FACES OF UNKNOWN SAILORS UNVEILED
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (NMS), in collaboration with Louisiana State University’s FACES Laboratory, unveiled the reconstructed faces of two USS Monitor sailors who died 150 years ago when the vessel sank in a storm off the North Carolina coast. The sailors’ remains were discovered in 2002 inside the turret as it was recovered from the Monitor shipwreck. With the unveiling of the sailors’ faces, and through the work of a genealogist, the sanctuary hopes to identify any living descendants. The event garnered national attention with more than 2,000 nationwide stories.

MONUMENT DEDICATED TO USS MONITOR
A beautiful memorial monument was dedicated at Hampton National Cemetery in honor of the USS Monitor and her crew, commemorating the 150th anniversary of its sinking on December 31, 1862. Nearly 200 guests attended the event, along with representatives from US Navy, US Coast Guard, Department of Veterans Affairs, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, NOAA Corps, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, USS Monitor descendants and the family of John Newton, leader of the successful search for the Monitor. The monument will attract Civil War enthusiasts and tourists from around the country and beyond, benefiting the local economy.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED
A comprehensive draft management plan and environmental assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was released for public review and comment. The plan, based on several years of scientific assessment and public input, serves as a roadmap for addressing issues facing the sanctuary over the next five years. The draft plan includes proposals to enhance education and outreach, continue restoration and conservation of artifacts, consider possible expansion of the sanctuary’s boundaries, and work with the state of North Carolina to strengthen coastal economies through maritime history and Civil War tourism.

MARINE SCIENCE: BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC
In 2012, Monitor NMS conducted a series of complex maritime archaeological surveys off North Carolina searching for and documenting sites associated with the Battle of the Atlantic in WWII. This project began a systematic survey of 47 potential targets of interest identified in 2011, which may represent new finds. As part of the Battle of the Atlantic survey, Monitor NMS completed high resolution, 3-D multibeam surveys of two WWII wreck sites off Cape Lookout, N.C. In addition to remote sensing, divers conducted in-water assessments documenting eight known wreck sites.

http://monitor.noaa.gov/
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 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 is working to conserve over 1,500 artifacts recovered from the famous shipwreck and works to preserve, study and educate the public about this iconic piece of our nation’s maritime past. Established January 30, 1975.

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