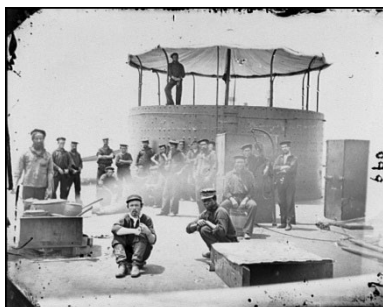


USS *Monitor* Launching, Harpers Weekly



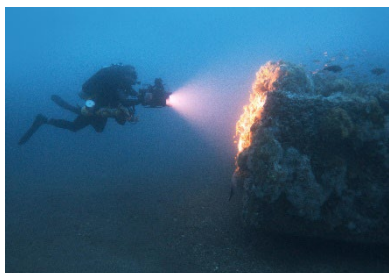
Battle of the Ironclads, J.O. Davidson



USS *Monitor*, Library of Congress



USS *Monitor* Sinking, Tom Freeman



USS *Monitor's* Bow, NOAA

Sanctuary Advisory Council

The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary established its Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC or council) in the fall of 2005. Since its establishment, the council has proven to be a key mechanism for identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving sanctuary use and resources. The council is also vital to having an informed constituency, serving as a liaison between constituents and/or communities and the sanctuary, thereby increasing stewardship of the sanctuary. In addition, the SAC's quarterly meetings provide a public forum for consultation, service to the community, and heritage resource management.

One of the council's most important strengths is its diversity of membership. The Sanctuary Advisory Council consists of 10 voting seats with 10 primary community members and 10 alternates; nine non-voting members and alternates, including a youth seat, The Mariners' Museum and Park, and seven related government members.

The community seats represent a variety of regional interests and stakeholders. Government seats are related to the sanctuary's mission and include agencies within the federal government, departments of the North Carolina and Virginia state governments, and local North Carolina and Virginia government entities.

It is the expertise and experience of all these individuals, particularly related to sanctuary resources and values, which combine to form a highly valuable collective body that is an effective resource for informed and timely sanctuary management.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Seats

Community Seats (Voting)

- Maritime Heritage & Archaeological Science
- Heritage Tourism (VA)
- Heritage Tourism (NC)
- Education (K-12)
- Education (Higher)
- Recreational Diving
- Recreation/Commercial Fishing
- Ecological Sciences
- Military Community
- Cultural Engagement

Non-Voting Seats

- The National Park Service
- NC Dept. of Cultural Resources
- NC Dept. of Historic Resources
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Navy
- Local Government (NC)
- Local Government (VA)
- Youth Seat (14-18)
- The Mariners' Museum and Park



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes 15 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments.

It's Your Sanctuary – Get Involved!

The advisory council process helps to vest ownership and responsibility for shaping the future management and protection of the sanctuary in the communities that are most interested in and dependent upon sanctuary resources. In this way, a sense of community-based stewardship is fostered.

The sanctuary meets quarterly in a transparent and publicly accessible process, which allows for participation of all stakeholders. All council meetings are open to the public and each member helps to link the sanctuary to a broader network of constituencies.

Community involvement is further enhanced through working groups and subcommittees established from time-to-time to address specific issues. Working groups not only include council members but members of the public are also often asked to join a group.

We hope you will consider being a part of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. If you have any questions, email the advisory council coordinator at info@monitor.noaa.gov.

How to Get Involved

Without the help and support of people like you, we would not be able to accomplish all we do. We invite you to visit our website at <https://monitor.noaa.gov> and click on the “Get Involved” tab. There you will learn how to become a volunteer for the sanctuary and more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Interested in Joining the Sanctuary Advisory Council?

Check out the Advisory Council home page on our website, and then click “Council News” to learn about council vacancies, read the council charter, and download an application kit. Also, click on the membership list to see who you might know and how to better connect to your sanctuary!

From December 1, 2023 until January 30, 2024, we will be recruiting for all community and youth seats on the council. If there is a seat of interest to you, please send your completed application by fax to 757-591-7353 or by mail to:

SAC Coordinator
NOAA
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606