

NORTHEAST AND GREAT LAKES REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Northeast and Great Lakes Regional “Seamless Network” Efforts

The Northeast and Great Lakes Region continued its “seamless network” efforts by participating in the planning and realization of a joint NOAA/Department of the Interior “Ocean Literacy and Stewardship Messages Workshop” in Burlington, Vt. The meeting recommendations underscored the importance of developing common broad interagency messages to inform the public about ocean, coastal and marine issues, and the roles individual citizens can play. An ocean stewardship messaging booklet is being produced.

Regional staff, in cooperation with the Northeast regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service and Minerals Management Service, will also co-sponsor a workshop titled “Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic” March 23-25 in Cambridge, Md. The goal of the workshop is to provide cultural and natural resource managers with an array of climate change management tools and techniques. Topics will include climate modeling and local adaptation, in-depth resource risk assessments, case studies for scenario planning, and human dimensions in climate change.

Northeast Ocean Acidification Regional Plan

The Northeast and Great Lakes Region, in collaboration with NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and other partners, began developing a “Northeast Coast Ocean Acidification Research Plan” in 2009. The goal of the effort is to assess the impact of ocean acidification on marine life in the northeast U.S. continental shelf ecosystem for the first time through a combination of research and monitoring programs. Key objectives of the plan include determining the extent of ocean acidification in the region, tracking changes in ocean chemistry, and measuring ocean acidification’s effects on individual species as well as overall ecosystem productivity.

MONITOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

Conservation: Wayne Smith (*Chair*)

Archaeological Research:
Susan Langley (*Vice Chair*)

Citizen At-Large: Scott Boyd (*Secretary*)

Other Non-Governmental Members

Education: Terri Kirby-Hathaway

Heritage Tourism: Mitch Bowman

Maritime Museum: Joseph Schwarzer

Recreational Diving: Jim Bunch

Recreational/Commercial Fishing:
Jay Kavanaugh

The Mariners’ Museum: Anna Holloway
Alternate: Dave Krop

Governmental Members

State Government

NC Dept of Cultural Resources:
Richard Lawrence

Alternate: Mark Wilde-Ramsing

Virginia Dept of Historic Resources:
Ron Grayson

Alternate: Joanna Wilson

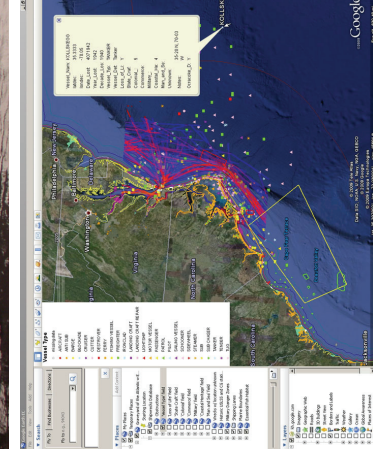
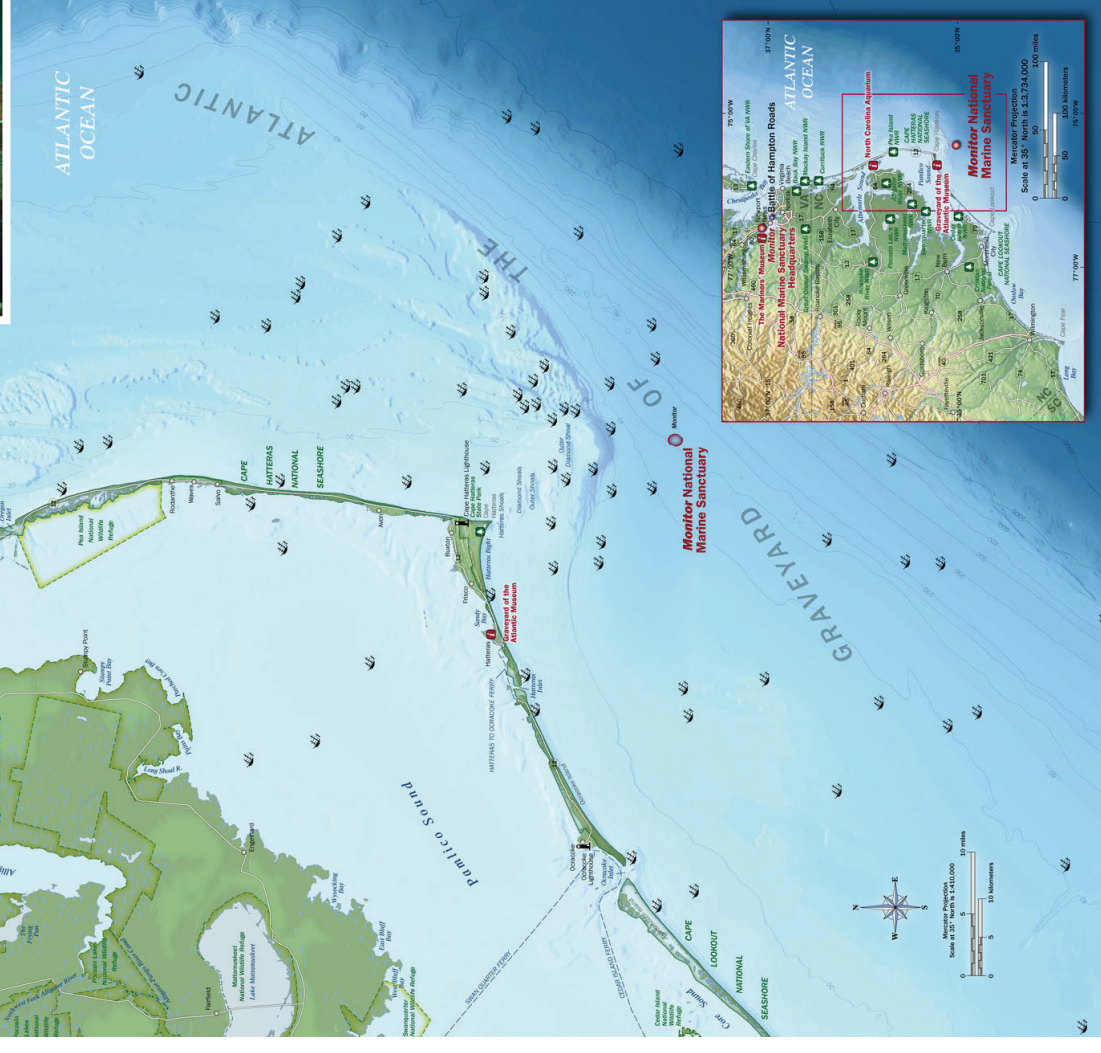
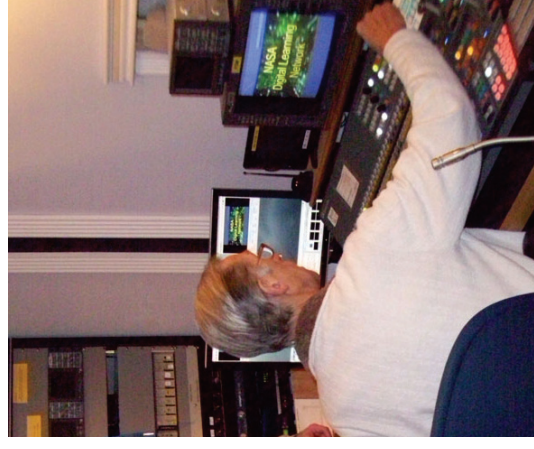
Federal Government

National Park Service: Dave Conlin
Alternate: Doug Stover

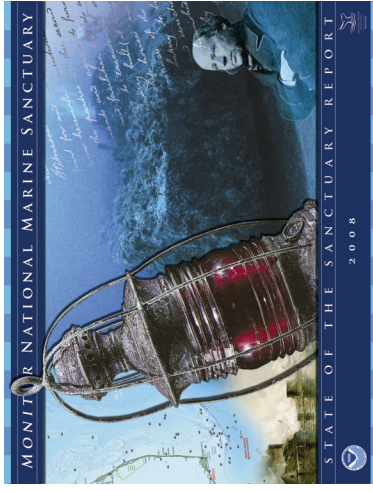
US Coast Guard: LCDR Tim Brown

US Navy: Robert Neyland
Alternate: vacant

2009 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.



State of the Sanctuary and Management Plan Review

As an important first step in developing a new management plan, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary published its State of the Sanctuary Report, providing the public with an overview of the history and current status of the sanctuary. The report highlights the management activities and accomplishments since the sanctuary's designation in January 1975. The information within the report assists the general public and sanctuary stakeholders in assessing how the sanctuary has served the community. It also offers the public an opportunity to contribute in charting the sanctuary's future course. In December 2008, the management plan review process began with four public scoping meetings held throughout North Carolina and a fifth meeting held in Virginia. Sanctuary staff collected more than 100 comments during the public commenting period. Using the public input as a starting point, the Monitor Sanctuary Advisory Council formed seven working groups to address the comments and concerns of the community stakeholders. With the help of these working groups, a new management plan is currently being developed and should be completed by summer of 2010.



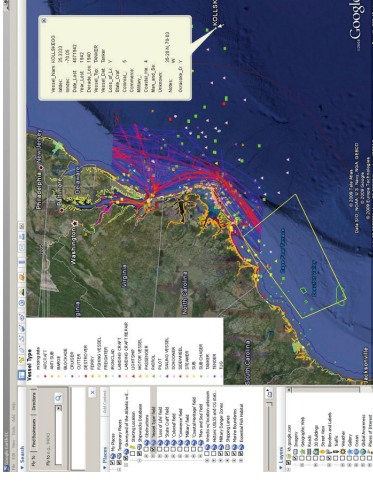
Maritime Archaeology Team Locates WWII-Era Vessel

During the 2009 Battle of the Atlantic research expedition, NOAA archaeologists discovered the remains of a lost U.S. Navy vessel, the YP-389. The shipwreck was found resting on the seabed just four miles from the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. Its discovery was a collaborative effort by a team of maritime archaeologists and other personnel from Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, East Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and North Carolina's Underwater Archaeology Branch. The team spent a week aboard the NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster* searching for the remains of another unidentified shipwreck that had been previously located in 2008 off Cape Hatteras, N.C. Using a remotely operated vehicle, the team of researchers explored the wreck site and, with the aid of archival photographs and historical records, positively identified the ship as the YP-389. This U.S. Navy vessel's final resting place had been unknown since its sinking in 1942 by the German submarine U-701.



Expedition Receives Award from Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior awarded its Partners in Conservation Award to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary's 2008 Battle of the Atlantic Expedition. The expedition was the first phase of a multi-year project to survey and document shipwrecks associated with World War II's Battle of the Atlantic. The purpose of the project was to capture that important time period in our nation's history and to educate the public about the war that once raged within sight of the East Coast. The award was presented on May 7, 2009, by Secretary Ken Salazar in Washington, D.C., calling the expedition "an exceptional collaboration among federal, state, and academic entities to strengthen research efforts and to document historically significant shipwreck sites associated with World War II losses off the North Carolina coast." The expedition was a joint effort between the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Minerals Management Service, East Carolina University, the National Park Service, the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, the North Carolina Aquarium, and NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science.



Sanctuary Staff Create Graveyard of the Atlantic GIS Database

An extensive geographic information systems (GIS) database of the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" was developed in 2009 by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries staff. With over 4,000 entries, the database was developed as part of a cultural resource assessment that includes shipwreck sites located off the coast of North Carolina. This effort was an incredibly important step towards characterizing and quantifying maritime heritage resources off the North Carolina coast. The database entries are categorized in such a way that archaeologists and researchers can extract meaningful information from the dataset. Criteria for historical significance were also established and incorporated into the database. These parameters will be used as the foundation for a future resource assessment.



NOAA and NASA Webcast Collaboration

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and National Ocean Service, in collaboration with the NASA Langley Research Center's Digital Learning Network, hosted a "Tides and Currents" Webcast for formal educators. The Webcast featured staff broadcasting from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, in collaboration with staff hosting the event from NASA's location in Hampton, Va. More than 100 educators from the Hampton Roads, Va. area and North Carolina viewed the 1 1/2-hour Webcast. This multi-agency collaboration was the first of what is scheduled to become a regular series of Webcasts for educators and students focusing on various ocean and climate literacy principles.

Data Buoy Updated and Redeployed

The Diamond Shoals Buoy 41025, located adjacent to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, was installed in March 2005 to support the National Weather Service requirements for marine weather data. In 2009, Buoy 41025 was recovered and fitted with state-of-the-art ocean sensors that record ocean current profiles and directional waves, in addition to meteorological data. The new ocean current profiler measures current speed and direction hourly at 15 water depths from near the surface to the bottom. The upgraded wave sensor allows the public to view real-time wind, wave and swell conditions at the Diamond Shoals site. The new additions to the buoy not only help collect better data for the National Weather Service, but they are also beneficial to local fishermen and dive operators who frequent the sanctuary and surrounding area.



Casper J. Knight Award Presented to Sanctuary Staff

The staff, both past and present, of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA was recognized by the Historic Naval Ships Association with the presentation of the Casper J. Knight Award. The award was given in honor of the staff's efforts in preserving and administering the wreck site of the USS *Monitor* off Cape Hatteras, N.C. and for the safe recovery of major and minor parts of this historic naval ship. The citation reads: "Through the extraordinary commitment of NOAA and its Monitor National Marine Sanctuary staff more than 210 tons of the famous ironclad is now available for research and public exhibition at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va. It is a true honor to recognize the monumental efforts, dedicated labor, and tremendous accomplishments of this staff in historic naval ship preservation and exhibition."