

The comments below were recorded at public scoping meetings held for the Monitor Management Plan Review. Recorded comments were confirmed with each individual for correctness. Any comments expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA.

**Scoping Meeting**  
**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary**  
**NC Aquarium**  
**Roanoke Island, NC**  
**December 1, 2008**

**Table “A”**

**Facilitator:** Jim Sullivan

**Recorder:** June Cradick

**In Attendance:** Ben Birindell, Sara Block, Cliff Ogburn, Nancy Birindel, and Paul Corsino

Nancy—How do you enforce the site? Concerned that there is looting on the site. .

Ben—Wasn't there a fishing net on the wreck?

Cliff—Is this about recovering other items?

Ben—Are there plans to go back out and bring up other artifacts? He promotes the *Monitor* at the Mariners' Museum and perhaps we could do more to make people aware of the opportunity to see it in Newport News.

Nancy—Will the Graveyard of the Atlantic be a partner like The Mariners' Museum is?

Sara—Great working relationship and if you have any issues there is a hotline number that can be called. We have a partnership with Coast Guard to respond.

Cliff— How much of your funding is determined by this plan?

Cliff—No concerns, but he is interested in learning more about the *Monitor*. What role can a local government have in the process?

Nancy—Is there any thought of bringing more artifacts back to NC? He would like to see more involvement here locally to increase awareness of the *Monitor*.

Ben—Concerned that the entire story of the *Monitor* is not the mission of the NC Aquarium, and it has been difficult to do a program. He wants something to engage and turn kids on to history. He is looking for educational outreach video or other resources that will help teach kids, and he does not want to go through The Mariners' Museum. He wants it to not have copyright issues and to be free.

Cliff—Just approved a permit for aquarium to build a concrete pier to replace Jeanette's pier in Nags head. Is there a place for Nags Head to partner with NOAA on a *Monitor/Graveyard* of the Atlantic exhibit? Could they get in at the ground floor?

Nancy—Do you work with other school districts in NC?

Paul—What do you want to bring to the people about the *Monitor*? What is the purpose of the sanctuary? The environment should be taken into consideration with more of a biological focus and not so much of a conservation of cultural resources. Take into account global warming. Getting kids involved is important.

**Table "B"**

**Facilitator:** Tom Culliton

**Recorder:** Shannon Ricles

**In Attendance:** John Figuera, James Derrickson, Gene Berry, Pam Landrum, Matt Landrum, Pat Murphy

John – The current management of the *Monitor* is good. It has been productive so far with good results. Problems recently – damage done to the wrecks by divers and that needs to be stopped. Expand the sanctuary to protect additional wrecks that are being damaged by illegal salvage. Concerned about human gravesites at wrecks. Wrecks are part of the cultural heritage of the community and must be protected. Need to make more people aware of the sanctuary.

Gene –Need to determine what is an environmental impact vs. human caused impact. Concerned about damage from grappling on the wrecks. Need moorings, perhaps seasonal, at other wrecks. Artifacts should be brought up for people to see.

Matt – Additional salvage on the *Monitor* may be needed because recreational divers can't see what is there. Understands and agrees with the current rules. Agrees with current sanctuary management. Updates on website needed to let people know what artifacts have been moved to NC. The best way to preserve artifacts is to bring them up and put them in museums for future generations. Additional regulations are not necessarily needed for any of the wrecks in this area. If additional regulations are established, they should be for near-shore wrecks. Suggests a bottom fishing study at the sanctuary and any proposed additional sites.

Pam – Wants to make sure she knows how to access information about the management plan process. Interested in the education and outreach program for the sanctuary. Recommends a blog on the website to enable direct feedback. Interested in other marine heritage education programs near-shore. Interested in volunteer opportunities.

Pat - Need to monitor the natural resources of the sanctuary. The state and other organizations – academic, interested parties, scientific diving community - could be involved in this. Environmental factors need to be assessed at the site. Species need to be inventoried. Need to determine what environmental factors (for example physical, chemical and biological) are impacting the wreck. Corrosion analyses are needed. Two Coast Guard wrecks off this coast

that are sitting on the bottom offshore need to be looked at to assist with preserving the wrecks, including expansion of the sanctuary. Determine what can be done to protect wrecks under the cultural heritage acts. Need to explore options to document the current condition of the wrecks. The opinions expressed at this meeting reflect the dive community interests north of Cape Hatteras.

**Scoping Meeting**  
***Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary**  
**NC Museum of History**  
**Raleigh, NC**  
**December 2, 2008**

**Facilitator:** Tom Culliton

**Recorders:** June Cradick and Shannon Ricles

**In Attendance:** Michael Schlink, Jack Thigpen, Michael Moore, Eric Ray, John Wagner, John Bright

Michael—Concerned the budget limitations will hamper conservation of artifacts. More money is needed to allow for conservation. Concerned that people will take artifacts from the site. Not everyone has the passion for the site that he does. The site needs to be monitored. The wreck is fragile. If the artifacts can't be conserved, they need to be protected. NOAA should consider having traveling exhibits about the sanctuary and artifacts.

Diving a shipwreck is either black or white...you can't stop the people from taking the port hole. It is important enough to him to want to help on his own time. Many of the U-boats are being destroyed and picked over. People are taking parts and pieces. How do you draw a line with people taking pieces of the wreck?

Wrecks will be gone in 100 years, so there may not be a future generation to see them. He has observed that in his opinion NC divers are more likely to take things from wrecks.

Expansion of the sanctuary might help protect the wrecks.

When people dive they want to see super structures or mass and the *Monitor* is not all that cool to most people. A wreck can degrade and some divers will be disappointed when they get to the *Monitor*.

Jack (NC Sea Grant Program)—Interested in developing K-12 education programs about the shipwreck. Need to create an awareness of how important the site is for our history. Programs should be close to the coast. Need grassroots support for programs. With commercial and recreational fishing there are misperceptions about the marine sanctuary program. Fishers need to know that they won't be limited by the site. Misinformation at the docks is a problem. Consider establishing a shipwreck trail to attract tourists for the Graveyard of the Atlantic. There

is a lack of knowledge about the site and a lack of accessibility. Add a *Monitor* or Civil War experience to eco-tourism activities for divers and non-divers.

Not sure if the reason why some divers don't take things is fear of legal enforcement.

Michael—Likes the idea of historic shipwreck trail. Would like to put together a dive trip to the *Monitor*. Accessibility is needed but not for “Joe Sixpack”. People don't understand the challenges of diving here.

Eric—A land-based *Monitor* trail should be considered to help educate people who are non-divers. It could be a south east coast shipwreck trail with dive slates that could be available to the interested public. NOAA's involvement with shipwrecks off the North Carolina coast should be considered. Don't stop people from diving the sites, but protect the resources.

The *Monitor* Center at the Mariners' Museum needs to be better advertised. There is a lack of awareness of the site beyond the region.

In terms of human remains, there are ways to humanize the wreck to inform people about those who died when the vessel sank. It has been shown that exhibits such as this are very popular.

Cultural resources are limited and as they are destroyed they cannot be replaced. We need to be responsible stewards and protect them in whatever way we can. We don't want to shut them off to protect them, but the resource just like a forest is important to us, so we can't allow people to do whatever they want to do. It's a small percentage of people destroying wrecks, but we need to protect them.

We need some kind of ranger program. If someone puts “trophy” up doesn't mean anything to anyone other than the person who took it.

John W.--While there is talk about making the site more accessible, most people don't realize that they can't dive there because of the depth. There are a lot of people who will never be able to see the site, thus they should be able to learn about it at museums and through interpretation. Artifacts need to be conserved by other organizations if appropriate.

John B.—Need educational materials. Divers are taking artifacts, degrading the site. Need to protect the wrecks off the North Carolina coast to preserve their historical value. Dive operators need materials to educate their divers.

NOAA should enforce laws in place to protect military wrecks off the coast. The military vessels are being damaged by divers to the point where the sites are being degraded to the extent that there is very little left.

Irresponsible anchoring is a problem at the wrecks. A non-invasive mooring system would help dive charters. A sub-surface buoy system that would not impact fishers should be considered.

Military Craft Act is very clear that you can't take things from military crafts, and as a dive boat operator, you should educate divers to the law. Education is important and partnering with others such as PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and adding this to the curriculum as divers are taught would be beneficial.

**Scoping Meeting**  
**MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary**  
**NC Aquarium**  
**Pine Knoll Shores, NC**  
**December 03, 2008**

**Table "A"**

**Facilitator:** Jim Sullivan

**Recorder:** Shannon Ricles

**In Attendance:** Jay Styron, Jim Craig, Lauren Hermley, Anthony Elliott, Julep Gillman-Bryan, Roger Mays, Chris Southerly

Jay: Public access is an issue with local dive community. It should be freer to dive the wreck of the *Monitor*. Divers want to know if the sanctuary will be expanded to include more wrecks off the NC coast. The *Monitor* is too restrictive. If expansion occurs will the permitting process occur on other wrecks? Personally, if the wreck is historical significant, then understand that the wreck should be preserved, but does not want to see a broad brush on all wrecks that might be less significant. Wording in the permitting process is misleading and feels that the communication of the actual intent of the regulations is not clear.

Criteria for determining the significance of wrecks need to be very clear. He is annoyed when private entities find a ship and then the government takes 75% of the bounty after the private entity spent millions to recover it. Doesn't want to see the government just come in and take over. The bar for cultural significance need to be set very high.

Jim: Anchoring can damage wreck sites, and he is concerned that it can do significant damage. Salvage of ship wrecks of great historic shipwrecks should not be allowed to remove materials from the site. There is less of a concern with less historically significant ships. *Monitor* is very significant and we should not lose it any more quickly than the sea takes it. Artifacts are still on the site.

Would like to see some *Monitor* artifacts here in the local community. Maritime Museum is expanding and there might be a possibility to display some of the current artifacts. Doesn't want to see materials picked cleaned.

Lauren: There is a lack of interpretive information on wreck sites. There is little collective marketing power. Would like to see NOAA come in and build an awareness of the cultural resources that are off the coast through kiosk, museums, and other venues. There is nothing

comparable to the *Monitor* Center. Not for restrictive access. There is no way for the dive community to do what NOAA has done to bring in tourists and awareness.

Concerned that NOAA might come in and take over the community.

Anthony: *Monitor* dive is too deep for most divers. Permitting process—doesn't want to have it leach down the coast. *Monitor* is much too restrictive for diver access. Do not want to see other sanctuaries expand to also be as restrictive as the *Monitor*. He wants unrestricted access. No need for protection for wrecks.

Mooring balls can restrict access.

Julep: Concerned about how to anchor on the *Monitor* and other wrecks. Concerned about how much damage is being done to the wrecks when boats drag anchors across wreck site. Would like to see mooring balls.

Roger: Having artifacts recovered and put in someone's house is not going to allow people to learn about the resource. If there is any wreck out there that we think is historically significant, we should investigate it through research. U-boats are good examples of how history is being lost.

#### **Table "B"**

**Facilitator:** Tom Culliton

**Recorder:** June Cradick

**In Attendance:** Fred McCall, Bobby Edwards, Renate Eichinger, Paul Payne, JoAnne Powell, Patricia Hay, Connie Kot, Bob Danehy

Fred—The dive industry has been on the forefront of finding and protecting the wrecks. The industry has a feeling for the boats and they portray that. They have communicated that to the public. NOAA has not refuted the bad press that has come out which is critical of the dive industry. The news industry has been unfair to the dive community. PADI's Project Aware could be useful at the *Monitor* to incorporate divers at the archaeological level. Project Aware can impact more divers than a more detailed training. Recognition and respect of the dive industry by NOAA is needed. The dive community is willing to work with NOAA to protect the wrecks.

Bobby—No comments

Renate--Management and expansion of the sanctuary could provide job security for staff. The useful life of the site could come to an end. How does the sanctuary continue to be of value to the tax payers? Focus more effort on public education beyond the immediate community. How did the summer's expedition impact the submarines? Justify how the government isn't here to restrict the activities of divers. What is the point of the government's involvement in the wrecks

off the North Carolina coast? NOAA needs to publicly acknowledge that the local dive community has already established this as a global destination.

Paul--He has not been to the *Monitor*. Why is there a big effort to develop a program when so few divers visit the site? The old special use permit seemed to work. Why can't it be continued?

JoAnne—How much effort does NOAA put into protecting the site? Clarify the permit process, that you can obtain a permit for an otherwise prohibited activity. Are there grants available for education programs for the *Monitor*? If so, the info about available funding needs to be made readily available to interested parties both within the sanctuary office and the national marine sanctuary office.

Patricia—No Comments

Connie—The impact of fishing at the *Monitor* should be assessed.

Bob—Build a structure to protect the wreck and study what is there. Focus more on preserving the wreck and de-emphasize the war aspect of it. Find out what is happening to the natural resources at the site. Info about the sanctuary needs to be made available on the internet so more people can learn about it. Could NOAA work closely with the dive industry to have them help document the state of the wrecks? The good dive companies want the wrecks protected for the safety of their customers and to protect their businesses.

### **Table “C”**

**Facilitator:** Paul Ticco

**Recorder:** Terri Kirby Hathaway

**In Attendance:** Steve Broadhurst, Jon Belisario, Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Debby Boyce, Joe Hoyt, Ethan Simmons, Terry Leonard, Amanda Swierczek, Nema Triplett, Robert Purifoy

Steve (NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores)—*Monitor* is great, learned about it when he was a kid, but it's a long way from this area – what will all this do for us here? Different types of sanctuaries, maybe?

Have you approved any permits that have come from university researchers? More like “recreational” research.

Not sure there is anything at the site that would make it important to do biological sampling. Have lionfish been confirmed on the wreck?

Regarding expansion, what is the process that would happen if expansion is decided for future? What about dive operators giving a collective opinion about expansion? That's probably the biggest fear of locals – what is “big brother” going to do? Interested to find out process.

Jon (Olympus Dive Center)--People in the area feel a much closer link to the Papoose, other wrecks in this area. He thought much more about the *Monitor* when he lived in New York. The local diving here has captured his interest.

The dive itself isn't holding people back, it's getting there and getting access to the wreck.

Grew up in New York – and *Monitor* is taught in schools there.

Might be interesting to compare lionfish population growth at *Monitor* and at other shallower wrecks. Good research.

Mark (NC Underwater Archaeology)—What about the research permits, which allow for recreational divers to dive on the *Monitor*? Would there be a consideration to cover the wreck to protect it from further deterioration? Asked about full excavation – is that an option? Would the recreational diving technology advance enough to allow more recreational divers to dive the site?

Need to keep monitoring the site – if deterioration continues, then NMS should keep public away. Can you encourage recreational expeditions? Then maybe it would be more feasible to get groups together to dive the site.

Use education aspects of *Monitor* to bring the message of preservation of all shipwrecks.

Debby (Discovery Diving)—How strongly are you pursuing expanding the sanctuary boundaries?

If people ask about the *Monitor* dive in local shops, it's because they don't understand where it is and what the depth is. Once you explain that to them, they say "OK, never mind." Local dive shops focus on local dive sites only. Somewhat regional – people in California may not know anything about the *Monitor*.

Wants to know what NOAA/NMS wants to do or change about the management plan.

Ethan (NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores)—Are there programs in schools about shipwrecks? What is out there?

Terry (Discover Diving)—If there is going to be no permitting, no oversight, then why are you issuing permits? Not a dive that people will walk in off the street and want to do.

NMS doing a great job with managing the *Monitor* at this time.

Exhibits and TV/video programs are a way to get more information out about the *Monitor*. Lots of people don't realize how close the war got to the coast.



Robert (Olympus Dive Center)—Can't say whether he supports pursuing boundary expansion or not – without knowing what would happen if boundaries were expanded. If no one monitors, no one knows who goes in or out, what's the purpose of having another sanctuary?

Since only one person can take divers, that's what is limiting. Geographical access is limiting. Permit process is there, and more people are taking advantage of that. No local divers even ask about diving on the *Monitor*.

What is the going rate for a recreational diver to go on an expedition to the *Monitor*?

Providing more information and education about the importance of shipwrecks would be more beneficial (in this area) than expanding the sanctuary or creating a new sanctuary.

### TOP THREE DISCUSSION TOPICS

Preservation of site

Would there be a consideration to cover the wreck to protect it from further deterioration?

Asked about full excavation – is that an option?

Public access to site (including permitting process)

Would the recreational diving technology advance enough to allow more recreational divers to dive the site?

Curiosity about the point of sanctuary expansion or additional sanctuary here (Carteret Co.)

Regarding expansion, what is the process that would happen if expansion is decided for future?

What about dive operators giving a collective opinion about expansion? That's probably the biggest fear of locals – what is "big brother" going to do? Interested to find out process.

**Scoping Meeting**  
**MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary**  
**Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum**  
**Hatteras, NC**  
**December 4, 2008**

**Facilitator:** Tom Culliton

**Recorder:** June Cradick

**In Attendance:** Russell Blackwood, Gregory Davis, William Francis, Jay Kavanagh, Catherine Kozak, Jack Painter, Amy Pieno, John Pieno, Susan West, Joe Wilson, and Steve Wilson

John Pieno—Don't expand the Sanctuary. Likes the status quo. Main concern is being able to access sites. Happy with the permitting process. You have done a great job managing the site. Has heard rumors about expanding the sanctuary. Against limiting access to wrecks in the area. Supports the Thunder Bay Sanctuary. With the exception of the *Monitor* and the U-boats, don't limit access or include any other sites in the Sanctuary. To do so would impact fishers and divers to the detriment of the local economy. Has not been out to the U-boats in the past

18 months. Concerned about anchoring limitations. Mooring buoys are not maintained in a timely fashion, which could impact his business. Buoys are lost in storms. NOAA has done a spectacular job managing the *Monitor*. Concerned about data buoy being installed. Some pirate dive charters are taking people out to the wrecks and they are taking artifacts. They are unlicensed and uninsured. Can't thank NOAA enough for doing a spectacular job.

Steve Wilson—The maintenance of buoys has been a problem. Concerned about the access issue related to shipwrecks. Concerned that there are no guarantees that expanding the sanctuary won't have consequences that are unforeseen and would be detrimental to the economy of the villages. If NOAA wants to have any other plans, they should be preserving the government vessels, and the U-boats.

Russell Blackwood—Wants to know if it is legal to spearfish at the Monitor.

Amy Pieno—There is no reason or need to expand the sanctuary. The site is deteriorating.

Jay Kavanagh—No impact except not being able to bottom fish. Otherwise, commercial and recreational fishing at the *Monitor* is working lovely. Concerned that future regulations would be too restrictive. The Park Service has expanded regulations and there is a fear that NOAA might do the same. Any expansion could include future fishing restrictions.

Bill Francis—Concerned about restrictions on wrecks and the potential of them being in the sanctuary.

**Scoping Meeting**  
**MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary**  
**The Mariners' Museum**  
**Newport News, VA**  
**December 6, 2008**

**Facilitator:** Dave Alberg

**Recorder:** Shannon Ricles

**In Attendance:** Bill Cogar, Anna Holloway, Andrew Larkin, and Scott Boyd

Bill—Questioned liability issues on permits to dive the *Monitor*. How many applications have been requested since the turret was recovered? Who applies for permits?

Does bringing up more artifacts really benefit the public in terms of education? Expansion of the partnership between *Monitor* NMS and Mariners' can be strengthened. There are people in the interior of our country that might want to know more about the *Monitor* but cannot get here, so there should be better outreach. Videoconferencing might be a solution.

Any institution that works with the *Monitor* artifacts needs to be one that can do the job well.

Relationship between the Mariners' and NOAA has been good and there has been a good flow of information on other sites, but there could always be room for improvement. Public must benefit from joint efforts.

Commonwealth of VA is probably not in a position to create programs for shipwrecks in state waters, but it would be good to start a dialog on the topic.

With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up, there is going to be an increased awareness of the *Monitor*. Would like to invite himself/Mariners' to be included in the discussion to identify places within Va. that might be significant.

Contact has been made with various organizations to try to find out what activities are being planned for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Naval History and Heritage Command. A command has a headquarters and can focus on the 11 Navy museums out in the field. Scholarship program is moving in a different direction that will be more open for all to apply for. More electronic access is being considered.

IVC is a great way for teachers to access programs without bus costs and other costs in time without leaving the classroom.

Students in junior and seniors in high school are looking for universities that offer courses through IVC.

Anna—Refresh imagery of the *Monitor* shipwreck. Public continuously asks if the *Monitor* is still being visited. Should have something that helps visitors know the status of the *Monitor*...are they still diving the wreck site, is the Navy still diving the site, are they going to bring up more stuff, is there anything else down there, are they going to recover more artifacts? There is so much stuff still down there that we would like to see more items recovered.

The Cumberland is a Va. story as well as a national story. The museum has already planned on having some items from the Cumberland.

City of Newport News and Hampton are just beginning to convene commissions for anniversary events.

Product development committee has considered creating a DVD for student use. Also, the Battle Theater could also be used to tell the story to visitors.

Ideas are being canvassed for the War of 1812 and other battles. With our outreach capabilities and new studio, the museum will be better able to link other sanctuaries and do a richer educational outreach program.

New studio expansion will have the ability to give students a much richer experience. Projected growth for next year is 174% which this year's growth was 180%.

Kids and teachers will have better access through IVC than if they were here. IVC programs do have a small cost associated with them. IVC is also expanding into senior citizens, ESL in Spain, and more. There is a lot of interest around the world in IVC programs. If teachers are interested, they can go on the Mariners' web site to learn more.

Would like to do more with NOAA with the IVC programs. They have the ability to do mobile programs so the students can see the tanks and conservation, etc.

Would like to send comment form to the rest of the employees at the museum and the docents.

Andrew—Are there other things that Nauticus can do for *Monitor* NMS? How can we support your joint efforts between MNMS and Mariners' Museum? Has the state ever approached you about preserving wrecks in state waters? Is there a change in view on creating new sanctuaries? Are there laws in place to prohibit new sanctuaries?

There would have to be a consensus among the community to add areas to the sanctuary.

Does the state have the authority to designate certain ships for protection?

Scott—The *Monitor* is a treasure, both the stuff that has been recovered and the stuff that is still down there. The *Monitor* Center is wonderful, but people are wondering that since the wreck is still out there, what is going to happen to it? Maybe NOAA could explain in the management plan what they are going to do with the wreck.

Park Service has plans to do something for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Taught the story of the *Monitor* to a history class and asked about the CSS *Virginia*. Students wondered what would have happened if it had gone further up the river to Richmond. Survey has been done and it identifies some of the ironclads and other ships on the James River. There might be some iron still in the river and it could be of interest to try to recover some of it. If the State of Va. had the money there are probably people interested in doing something about the Civil War wrecks that have not been examined. We could maybe do a site survey assessment and to start recovering things if cost is not too prohibitive.

Education—produce a DVD with information about the battles in our area, but has the project is moving along there will be then and now pictures, have descendants go to the battlefield, etc. He wondered if the Mariners' museum could put something together for a reasonable cost that would have the story of the *Monitor* and other battles.

IVC is good for schools in his areas.

End of scoping comments recorded at public meetings.

**Subject:** USS Monitor NMS Expansion Public Comment

**From:** Alan Pitt \_ \_

**Date:** Fri, 19 Dec 2008 10:39:59 -0500

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

Shannon,

My name is Alan Pitt. I am a Frisco NC property owner and a PADI Certified DiveMaster who has logged hundreds of offshore wreck dives in the area around the Monitor NMS.

I am submitting this written comment in opposition to including any other nearby wreck sites in the NMS, or any expansion of said NMS.

The additional wreck sites this proposal seeks to "protect" are in such a state of advanced deterioration that even the youngest of these will likely cease to exist beyond larger engine components in most of our lifetimes. If the NMS folks were willing to go to the same lengths to conserve these wrecks as they did with the Monitor, then this proposal might have merit.

Wrecks are the backbone of Mid-Atlantic diving, as there is basically nothing else out there to dive, since we are too far north to support reef growth. These wrecks also offer great commercial and recreational fishing opportunities, as all open ocean species flock to any cover on bottom. Any diving or fishing damage on these sites pale in comparison to what time, tide and salt has done.

The wreck of the Monitor lies beyond the depth capabilities of recreational divers, and will never be seen by most people other than in documentaries. The rest of the wrecks in question are largely lost to history, only known in diver's books and graveyard maps. To the non-diver, these spots are merely a GPS dot location on a vast open ocean far from shore.

Recreational and commercial fishing interests will be compromised if this goes through, as each wreck would have "exclusion zones" where no anchoring or fishing will be allowed. I feel this is would be totally unnecessary, hard to understand for the average boater, and nearly impossible for an already financially strapped US Gov't. to manage.

The economic impact on the OBX diving businesses would be catastrophic, as most will cease to exist if wreck diving is compromised.

Please take all this into consideration during the decision making process.

Thank you for your time.

David Alan Pitt

Richmond, VA \_ \_

**Subject:** Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

**From:** Jim and Ginny

**Date:** Sun, 28 Dec 2008 19:34:02 -0500

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

I am against the expansion of any Marine Sanctuaries, especially in the proximity of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. We are already under assault from land. Limit our off shore fishing and what's next. Why not just shut everything down and wait for people to leave so you can turn the whole coast into a ghost town.

Virginia Luizer  
Buxton, NC

**Subject:** Comments on Monitor National Maritime Sanctuary Management

**From:** William Chadwell

**Date:** Wed, 31 Dec 2008 12:46:24 -0500

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

**CC:** Joseph.Hoyt@noaa.gov

Thank you for inviting public comments on the management of the Monitor National Maritime Sanctuary.

I think you are on the right track with regard to conserving and preserving this important piece of our nation's maritime heritage. In those cases where it is possible, I also agree with the extraction and preservation of artifacts for display in public museums so everyone can appreciate and learn from them, such as was done with the Monitor's turret.

One of the pressures on the Sanctuary noted in the 2008 Monitor Condition Report is scuba diving and artifact recovery. I am aware of the survey you conducted earlier this year of the three German U-Boats off the coast of North Carolina. These three wrecks (U-85, U-352, and U-701) are likewise an important, if dark, part of our nation's maritime heritage when they brought World War II to the U.S. East Coast.

I would strongly urge you to give careful consideration to the establishment of a Battle of the Atlantic Maritime Sanctuary for these and the other U-Boat wrecks off the U.S. East Coast: U-85, U-352, U-701, U-869, U-853, U-215, U-1105, and U-2513 (U-215 may be in Canadian waters, though). As it currently stands, U-85 and U-352, the locations of both of which have been well known for many years, have been stripped of many artifacts by divers. Although some of these artifacts now reside in museums such as the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, many have been lost to the American public, possibly forever. I am of the understanding that similar activities are now occurring to the U-701, the location of which has been publicly known for only 10 years or so.

While I would not agree with any measures restricting access to these sites by legitimate scuba divers who want to visit and appreciate these historic wrecks in their current locations, I also believe greater emphasis needs to be placed on conserving and preserving them to the greatest extent possible so that future generations can learn from and appreciate them.

Thank you once again for inviting public comments on this issue.

William R. Chadwell  
Springfield, VA

I have been living in Eastern North Carolina and diving the Grave Yard of the Atlantic for over twenty years; in that time I have dove dozens of shipwrecks and natural hard bottom areas off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia. I have had the opportunity to dive protected wreck sites such as the Civil War Iron Clad Monitor, deep WWII victims of the Battle of the Atlantic not readily accessible to the general diving community, as well as sites popular with the recreational diving community. This cross section of experience over time has allowed me to see the natural degradation of these manmade structures, as well as the human impact on sites by souvenir hunters.

While it is true that these sites will eventually degrade to nothing, I cannot buy into the idea of this being a valid argument against protecting these cultural resources. In my experience, diving on a German U-boat that has been stripped of major elements pales next to diving a similar vessel with deck guns and other elements intact and in place. A wreck with in situ portholes and other artifacts adds to the experience of visiting these sites and enriches the experience.

I am in support of the concept of expanding the Monitor Sanctuary to encompass other cultural resources in the Grave Yard of the Atlantic. I am not in support of restricting access to these resources. I do believe you can do both. We live in a finite world with finite resources, and I would much rather be able to take my children and grandchildren to see these special places, rather than just having to say "you should have seen it when..."

**Steven H.  
Sellers**

Steven H. Sellers

Director of Diving & Water Safety



**Subject:** Monitor

**From:**

**Date:** Thu, 15 Jan 2009 00:30:13 +0000 (GMT)

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

The wreck of the Monitor, if not, should be open to the diving public.

It is deteriorating rapidly and my not be around much longer. No doubt, digging up the turret and bring it to Hampton Roads didn't help the site either.

T C Keiningham

Va. Beach, Va.



# PUBLIC COMMENT FORM



## Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

Management Plan Review Public Scoping  
December 1 – February 1, 2009

Help Shape the Future of Your Sanctuary! We welcome your comments and suggestions on future management priorities. We will accept written comments postmarked by February 1, 2009.

Name: Nathan Richards

Representing (if appropriate): Program in Maritime Studies, East Carolina University

Provide contact information if you want to be added to our Management Plan Review contact lists:

**Mailing List (occasional updates, etc)**

Mailing address:

**Listserv (for email notices)**

Email address:

Program in Maritime Studies

Greenville, NC.

### Here's how to submit written comments:

At the Hearings: Turn in this completed form at the registration station.

Email: [Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov)

Mail: *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

Fax: (757) 591-7353

\*\*\*\*\***COMMENTS**\*\*\*\*\*

COMMENTS: It is clear from the public scoping meeting I attended that the public is either ill-informed or paranoid about a Federal presence in NC waters. Some of this, it could be argued, comes from a lack of communication from agencies by NOAA, and part of this is just what one would expect whenever the public and government interact. I feel that it doesn't matter where or why this is happening, but that effort should be put into fixing this perception. One of the most important ways to deal with this is by making it clearer (dare I say, "open up") the way that the public can dive on USS *Monitor*. or that there is a need for another (better?) campaign (or approach) at educating divers regarding how they might be able to dive the site (i.e. the current permitting arrangements). Having said this it is clear that many of the people complaining about access to the site don't have the necessary

diving qualifications anyway – nevertheless, the *perception* of a lack of access will seriously hamper any future activities.

SUGGESTIONS: I think once the above has been achieved that it is very important to consider EXPANSION of the *Monitor* sanctuary to cover a larger array of historic vessels off the North Carolina coast. I think the themes of the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” or the “Battle of the Atlantic” are good thematic approaches for doing this. Many, many submerged cultural resources are under continual threat to adverse impacts partly because of the continued perception of a “finders keepers” mentality amongst some components of the dive community. Rumors of rampant souvenir hunting (sometimes with the permission of dive tourism operators) of shipwrecks in Federal waters, and even new or isolated incidents of scrap metal procurement need to be investigated. Again, an education campaign of some sort is needed. I also feel that a commitment to the production of products from the submerged shipwrecks (and other sites) off the coast is CRUCIAL in fixing the perception that some aspects of the community have about Federal maritime archaeological activities. While scholarly pursuits and publications could always have more support (how about a report series?), I think it is particularly important that products such as pamphlets, maritime heritage trails (signage, iPod tours, other innovative etc...), as well as diver cards and popular books (including waterproof books and “coastal atlases”) should feature prominently in the mission of the *Monitor* sanctuary (whether expanded or not). All too often maritime archaeologists do not get the word of their very good work out to the community. I think that the stories embodied in the thousands of shipwrecks off the NC coast are some of the best that could be told about maritime history and archaeology to the citizens of North Carolina and the rest of the country, as well as the rest of the world, and could have significant positive economic benefits for the coastal communities of North Carolina through the development of sustainable and heritage-sensitive (i.e. preservation-focused) dive tourism. Boiled down to one crude formula, if done properly, ***the support of maritime archaeological and historical research off NC = \$\$\$ for coastal Carolina.***

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**Subject:** Hatteras Island Comment viz Monitor Sanctuary

**From:** Jack or Leslie Painter

**Date:** Thu, 29 Jan 2009 12:09:40 -0500 (EST)

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

I emphatically oppose any enlargement of the Monitor Sanctuary. It seems to me that since the present Management Plan has been used most successfully for the past 20+ years, that it appears not to be broken.

I can but wonder if, and why...it needs fixing. We have experienced much **\*Management Assistance\*** here on our little...and very special...island in the past several years. (beach access, ORV use, and junk science come immediately to mind.)

Where I grew up, my grand-daddy always said..."If it ain't broke, son...don't fix it"

Jack Painter  
Retired Coach, Realtor, and Soldier  
Avon, NC

**Subject:** Monitor MPR Public Comment Form v2  
**From:** Bill McDermott <macd1@obxdive.com>  
**Date:** Thu, 29 Jan 2009 23:07:44 -0500  
**To:** Shannon Ricles <Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov>



# PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

## Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

### Management Plan Review Public Scoping

December 1 – February 1, 2009



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**Help Shape the Future of Your Sanctuary! We welcome your comments and suggestions on future management priorities. We will accept written comments postmarked by February 1, 2009.**

**Name:**

Bill McDermott

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**Representing (if appropriate):**

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### Here's how to submit written comments:

At the Hearings: Turn in this completed form to a sanctuary staff member.

Mail: *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Musuem Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

Fax: 757.591.7353

\*\*\*\*\***COMMENT**\*\*\*\*\*  
**S\*\*\*\*\***

In the last 10 years greatly accelerated damage has been done to the historical and protected wrecks off of North Carolina. This has been perpetuated by only a very few of the dive community, including (sadly to say); some dive operators, authors and their minions. This has to stop so that the vast majority of divers now, and in the future, can enjoy and experience these wrecks as the historic treasures these underwater resources are. Before they are gone forever.

I believe that NOAA Sanctuary has the ability to be good stewards of these wrecks if:: 1) Divers are allowed open access to these sites as they are the conservation monitors., 2) Education of the dive

community and public is vigorously continued and promoted., 3) Mooring apparatus is installed and maintained at needed sites such as the important warcraft sites.

Thank you for allowing this input,

Bill McDermott – Nags Head, NC

Diver for over 40 years

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# PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

## Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

Management Plan Review Public Scoping  
December 1 - February 1, 2009



Help Shape the Future of Your Sanctuary! We welcome your comments and suggestions on future management priorities. We will accept written comments postmarked by February 1, 2009.

Name: Mark Keusenkothen

Representing (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

Provide contact information if you want to be added to our Management Plan Review contact lists:

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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Washington NC

### Here's how to submit written comments:

At the Hearings: Turn in this completed form at the registration station.

Email: [Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov)

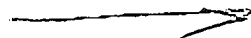
Mail: Monitor National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

Fax: (757) 591-7353

### \*\*\*\*\*COMMENTS\*\*\*\*\*

I note in the 2008 Monitor Condition report that "NOAA scientists are devoting increased attention to... the marine environment at the Wreck site." I am wondering if this increased attention will focus at all on Sand Tiger sharks - which may use the monitor as an aggregation site. Sand tigers <sup>balatrons</sup> are considered "vulnerable" by the IUCN. Additionally the sand tiger is a popular draw for recreational divers in NC, it is therefore ~~more~~ important economically.

(continue on reverse)



Having some sort of Sand Tiger Monitoring program could be a valuable addition to the mission of the National Marine Sanctuaries to "conserve, protect, & enhance the biodiversity ~~and~~... of these special underwater places."



**Subject:** Monitor MPR Public Comment Form v2  
**From:** Alex Varouxis  
**Date:** Fri, 30 Jan 2009 14:07:59 -0500  
**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov  
**CC:** "David W. Alberg" <David.Alberg@noaa.gov>, 'jeff johnston' <Jeff.Johnston@noaa.gov>



# PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

## *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary

Management Plan Review Public Scoping

~~December 1 – February 1, 2009~~

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**Help Shape the Future of Your Sanctuary! We welcome your comments and suggestions on future management priorities. We will accept written comments postmarked by February 1, 2009.**

**Name:** Alex Varouxis

**Representing (if appropriate):** Self

### **Here's how to submit written comments:**

At the Hearings: Turn in this completed form to a sanctuary staff member.

Mail: *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Musuem Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

Fax: 757.591.7353

### \*\*\*\*\*COMMENT\*\*\*\*\* S\*\*\*\*\*

As a scuba diver I support the mission of NOAA to protect and preserve the historical ship wreck US Monitor. The Monitor is part of the United States Cultural Heritage that we are obligated to preserve. Diver access of this site supports the effort document the condition of the US Monitor. I would also like to express my support of NOAA in their efforts to protect significant Military War

Sites most of which are War Graves. There are many historically significant wreck sites of the coast of North Carolina and else where in US costal waters that are also in need of protection. There has been some discussion whether the Government should interfere with the rights of divers to explore these sites. While I do not support restricted access to most of these sites, I do support site protection and **enforcement** of the current laws. A few vocal divers will argue that these historical ship wrecks will crumble with time so it is their responsibility or duty to remove artifacts and preserve them in their personal collections. By removing artifacts we only hasten the damage of these sites. In most cases once an artifact is removed new bare metal is exposed and begins to rapidly decay. We have seen many sites destroyed by the efforts of a hand full of divers. These divers do not represent the majority of law abiding divers. When sites are destroyed not only do divers miss the opportunity to see and explore these sites, local dive business and dive charters suffer as do hotels, restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations and other support services that are needed when traveling

V/R

Alex Varouxis

Falls Church VA / Nags Head NC

Diver for over 39 years

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**Subject:** comments on the Monitor Marine Sanctuary Management Plan

**From:**

**Date:** Thu, 29 Jan 2009 16:01:26 -0500 (EST)

**To:** Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

Shannon,

As one of the discoverers of the Monitor wreck, and as one of the co-investigators of the environmental and site charting studies of the wreck site, and as the author of the book "Iron from The Deep: The Discovery and Recovery of the USS Monitor", I offer a few comments on the future activities at the site:

**MAGNETIC SURVEY:** Since the first magnetometer survey of the Monitor wreck site in 1976, there has been hundreds of tons of iron removed from the site. This decrease in iron at the site should decrease the peak magnetic anomaly by a predictable amount, depending on the effective magnetic susceptibility of the iron. By measuring this decrease in anomaly amplitude, a calculation of the iron's effective susceptibility can be made and this new value can be compared to the previously published values. Also, this magnetometer survey should document the current magnetic anomaly at the site which might be useful in distinguishing the Monitor wreck from other nearby iron wrecks.

**BATHYMETRIC AND SEISMIC REFLECTION SURVEY:** The previous bathymetric and seismic surveys at the site in 1976, combined with coring of the sediments at the site in 1977, document that the wreck site is an erosional environment. A repeat of these surveys would document the amount of erosion over the last three decades. This should allow prediction of future erosion at the site.

**CURRENT AND TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS:** The Monitor wreck fortuitously lies under the boundary between the Gulf Stream and Labrador currents. Current measurements at the site indicate that this boundary frequently moves back and forth over the site. Monitoring these currents should reveal the effects of climate change on the currents. Also, monitoring the temperature of the bottom waters at the site should reveal evidence for climate change. Continuous measurements with bottom instruments that are remotely recorded offer a great opportunity for these type of studies.

I hope these suggestions might be helpful additions to a future Monitor Marine Sanctuary management plan.

Bob Sheridan

**Subject:** Public comment on Monitor Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review

**From:**

**Date:** Sun, 01 Feb 2009 04:18:26 +0000

**To:** Monitor@noaa.gov, Monitor@noaa.gov

**CC:** jeff johnston <Jeff.Johnston@noaa.gov>

January 31, 2009

Dear Sirs:

In the Summary and Findings (page 2) of the Monitor Marine Sanctuary Condition Report 2008 it says that "In an effort to preserve one of the most famous shipwrecks in U.S. history, the wreck of the *USS Monitor* was designated our first national marine sanctuary on Jan. 30, 1975." On page six, under Site History and Resources, the report more accurately says that "The mission of the *Monitor* sanctuary is to preserve, protect and manage the remains of the *USS Monitor*." Clearly the sanctuary cannot " . . . . preserve one of the most famous shipwrecks in U.S. history", because, as the report states under Natural Deterioration (page 20), "The *Monitor* will continue to deteriorate due to the natural process of corrosion." The *Monitor* Marine Sanctuary can clearly "protect and manage" the remains of this historic ship, but preservation can only take place after recovery.

While evidence of the wreck's existence will remain for many years, perhaps even for another century, the wreck itself will not. The statement on page 20 which says "It is believed that with proper management the wreck will remain for centuries, as we have seen on other shipwrecks" cannot be a factual statement. While many other wrecks have been preserved for centuries, these were preserved in different environmental conditions and were not iron shipwrecks. I would surmise that the *USS Monitor* is the first, or one of the very first, iron shipwrecks. So the statistical data on how well an iron shipwreck can be preserved in a relatively warm saltwater environment can be documented from the *Monitor* wreck and not predicted by other older wooden shipwrecks. It has been clearly documented over the past thirty five years that the wreck of the *USS Monitor* is deteriorating, and it appears to be deteriorating more rapidly every year.

Also on page 20 the report states that "Archaeological research will continue to be the main focus of the *Monitor* sanctuary. The majority of the wreck site is still unexcavated. Future expeditions will continue to document the wreck site for deterioration related to natural and human activities. Additional archaeological recoveries will document gaps in the details of the *Monitor*'s construction and provide a better understanding of the social environment aboard the novel 19th-century warship, giving insight into the ship's stores, tools and personal items used by the officers and crew." I strongly agree that this should be the main focus in the near future while research and recovery are still possible.

There are significant areas within the wreck where on-site archaeological research would provide important information on the ship and its officers and crew. These include the Captain's cabin and

stateroom, the paymaster's cabin and various areas along the main deck where the store rooms were located.

Archaeological research would most probably also yield important information on the ocean floor outside the main structure of the wreck. Dr. Robert Sheridan in a private communication has related to me that the sea floor at the wreck site is sand, yet the divers continue to report that many "rocks" (not coal) are at the site. His thought is that these are not rock but encrusted artifacts waiting to be picked up.

While the most important and iconic structure, the turret, has been marvelous recovered from the wreck and other equally significant structures such as the engines, blowers, propeller and anchor, have been recovered and are also being preserved, as the report states "the majority of the wreck" has not. A list of other essential structures that should have priority for recovery should now be compiled. This list would include the pilot house, the anchor windlass, a toilet, the turret donkey engines and gearing, and of structural importance the main bulkhead, including the turret support bracing. Other important structures would include the partial recovery of a piece of the armor belt and wooden support, and a piece of the composition metal ring upon which the turret rested.

Budgeting the funds, or forming strategic alliances as with the US Navy, to recover the artifacts and perform the archaeological research will not be accomplished without this new Monitor Marine Sanctuary Management Report and forming a plan to accomplish these next important steps, while action still can be taken. Each year, as the *USS Monitor* wreck deteriorates farther, the potential to do this work and recover these structures is less, and someday, perhaps in the near future (due to a natural or manmade event), the opportunity will be lost.

A second concern, and perhaps greater one, is the preservation of the artifacts and structures after these have been recovered. Preservation is a long term process, but it begins with recovery. Once something is brought up, even keeping it in fresh water in a protected environment in a secure area, is a step toward preservation and certainly protects the artifact and allows the Monitor Marine Sanctuary to manage it. This is, after all, the stated mission of NOAA for the sanctuary. It may not be possible to begin preservation on everything at once, and there may not be the budget for it, but it is much better to have the artifacts stored in tanks on land than corroding in salt water 16 miles offshore in 230 feet of water.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. Francis J. DuCoin

**Subject:** Monitor Comments

**From:** Vince Cook

**Date:** Mon, 02 Feb 2009 07:02:11 -0500 (GMT-05:00)

**To:** Shannon Ricles <Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov>

Hi Shannon,

Hope this isn't too late.

I am a dive boat operator in Nags Head North North Carolina and I support the mission of NOAA to protect and preserve the historical ship wreck US Monitor. The Monitor is part of the United States Cultural Heritage that we are obligated to preserve. As structured, the management of this site supports the effort to document the condition of the US Monitor. I would also like to express my support of NOAA in their efforts to protect significant Military War Sites most of which are War Graves. My charter runs to three of these significant wrecks off the coast of North Carolina. I feel the protection of these sites and others like them is a just and reasonable mission that should be undertaken. I must state that while I am in favor of the protection of these wrecks I am not in favor of restricting access to them. In order for the stated objective of preserving and teaching our underwater cultural heritage to be successful, it has to include the ability of divers to access these and other sites that will eventually be discovered. I do support site protection and enforcement of the current laws. A small group of vocal divers will argue that these historical ship wrecks will crumble with time justifying their actions to remove artifacts and preserve them in their personal collections. Often these preservation methods are insufficient. No record of location or appropriate methods of recovery were used, so in the preservation of their one artifact they loss / destroy the remaining overall historical context of that artifact and the wreck. By removing artifacts divers only hasten the damage of these sites. In most cases once an artifact is removed new bare metal is exposed and begins to rapidly decay. We have seen many sites destroyed by the efforts of a hand full of divers and these divers do not represent the majority of law abiding divers. When sites are destroyed not only do divers miss the opportunity to see and explore these sites, my dive charter suffers as do dive shops, hotels, restaurants, and even more significantly the public image of divers. If Thunder bay is to serve as the basis for the protection of these vital war wrecks. I believe it is an appropriate and justifiable plan for protecting and teaching our underwater cultural heritage of World War II which lies off the coast of North Carolina.

Vincent Cook

Nags Head, NC