

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS)
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
Beaufort, North Carolina
February 10, 2011**

In Attendance: Dave Alberg (MNMS Sanctuary Superintendent), Debby Boyce (Discovery Diving), Scott Boyd (Citizen-At-Large), Jim Bunch (Recreational Diving, Lauren Heesemann (MNMS Research Coordinator), Anna Holloway (The Mariners’ Museum), Joe Hoyt (MNMS Maritime Archaeologist), Jeff Johnston (MNMS Historian), Jay Kavanagh (Recreational/Commercial Fishing), Terri Kirby-Hathaway (Education), Susan Langley (Archaeological Research), Robert Neyland (US Navy), Shannon Ricles (Council Coordinator), Joe Schwarzer (Maritime Museum), Will Serratelli (Youth Seat), Wayne Smith (Conservation), Doug Stover (Alternate-National Park Service), Paul Ticco (Headquarters), and Mark Wilde-Ramsing (NC Dept of Cultural Resources)

Absent: David Conlin (National Park Service), Dave Krop (Alternate-The Mariners’ Museum), Lt. Kevin Saunders (U.S. Coast Guard), and Joanna Wilson (Alternate-VA Dept of Cultural Resources).

Table of Contents

Welcome.....	2
MNMS Superintendent’s Report.....	2
Conservation.....	3
Youth Working Group and Youth Seat Update	3
Public Comment Period.....	3
Monitor NMS Staff Updates	5
New and Other Business.....	8
Meeting Adjournment.....	9

Welcome

Wayne Smith, *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order. After Mr. Smith's welcoming remarks, roll was called. Shannon Ricles called for changes to the November 8, 2010 meeting minutes. There were no changes. Susan Langley motioned to approve the minutes and Terri Kirby-Hathaway seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Monitor NMS Superintendent's Report

Dave Alberg, *Monitor* NMS Superintendent, welcomed the SAC and provided an update to the council on a variety of topics, summarized below:

- **SRVx: R-8501:** The boat is receiving a major upgrade to its electronic suite. The boat is considered a test platform. In March, the boat will go into the yard for certification and installation of additional equipment. On May 1, the instrumentation system will be phased in. In June, the boat will be back for the fourth summer doing survey work for the Battle of the Atlantic expedition. In the fall, the boat will go back to the yards for the final installation of equipment, which will make the boat more attractive for other agencies to use.
- **Titanic:** The MNMS is taking the lead on the development of an advisory council for the RMS *Titanic*.
- **Budget:** Government is under a continuing resolution (CR) until at least March 4 and maybe until the end of the year. The forecast for FY11 and FY12 is bleak. Current expectations are that our office will receive 95% of our former budget, but more cuts are possible before all is finished. After all labor and operating expenses, we might be in a shortfall. Solutions are being considered, such as sharing IT contractor with other sites to help cover expenses.
- **Management Plan Review (MPR):** Finishing the final draft and hope to have it ready for review in the next few months. Paul Ticco explained that because SAC meetings are public venues, the first draft is usually not shared with the SAC until it is ready for public viewing. It should be ready by July 1 and then it will go through a public commenting period. Paul said that they hope to have the final draft published by December 2011. Paul also explained that when the MP goes through a review, it goes through a parallel review with general council, environmental, education, etc. Wayne Smith asked if the MP would include any mention of possible expansion. Paul said that the MP would incorporate language that would include possible expansion, but this MP is for the *Monitor*. Wayne asked how the plan will be distributed. Paul said that a few weeks before the scoping meetings, a Federal Register Notice will be published notifying the public of its release for viewing.
- **SAC Seats:** Several seats are in limbo due to lack of applications (fishing seat, economic development, heritage tourism, and citizen-at-large). However, Steve Claggett will be the new alternate for North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. We are still waiting on the Navy and Virginia to name their alternate seats. The North Carolina Maritime Museum seat is being dissolved because Joe Schwarzer is now a state employee and the state's maritime interests are represented through the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. However, to more broadly represent North Carolina, we are going to replace that seat with a seat from the NC Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR). Dave also encouraged the council to have people to apply for the open seats by April 29. A question was asked about how we notify the public that SAC seats are open. Dave explained that we do so in several ways, such as a Federal Register Notice, press release, one-on-one talks, Facebook, etc. Jay Kavanagh suggested looking at the South Atlantic Marine Fisheries for applicants. Dave encouraged Jay to send Lauren Heesemann some names of those that have shown interest.

Conservation: Anna Holloway

Anna described the current conservation efforts:

- Gun carriages were disassembled in front of the public and are now going through treatment. They are in good condition.
- In November and December, the conservation staff worked on deconcretion of the steam engine. In the first week, two tons of concretion was removed. Over all, they have removed nearly four tons. About 80% of the original surface has been revealed. The engine was underwent electrolytic reduction processes, so everything came off easily. Wayne asked if they will be able to cast and/or replicate what is missing and Anna said yes. Anna also told how the web cams are helping to bring the public to view the process. She said that the conservators are posting regular blogs to update the public. There has also been good news coverage, even at the national level.
- Wayne asked if there were education modules to go with the conservation and Anna described the *Chemistry in Conservation* program, as well as the career path program. She told of the museum's Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) capabilities.
- A new exhibit, "Up Pops the *Monitor*—The Battle of Hampton Roads in Pop Culture" will open in March.
- As the weather warms, the conservation team will begin the deconcretion and partial disassembly of the engine and condenser. The turret will have work done during July through August.
- Dave also added that NOAA and TMM are exploring the Dirty Jobs show.
- Scott Boyd asked if there was a timeline on the pump and Anna said not at this time.

Youth Working Group and Youth Seat Update—Will Serratelli

Will reported on various youth working group activities:

- Youth working group has doubled in size since last year.
- He and other members of the group have started a campaign against Styrofoam® and to promote reusable ware instead.
- The YWG also implemented a recycle bag campaign. Will wants the group to duplicate a campaign that Surfrider Foundation promoted where a 5-cent bag tax was charged. The campaign had a phenomenal outcome. Will and other group members are looking into starting the same in Virginia Beach.

Public Commenting Period

- John Burke (biologist, NOAA) said that this summer he had the opportunity to work with the education and outreach folks at NOAA's Aquarius. He said it was a great experience to talk with the kids. He said his research work is great, but no one reads it, so it was good to share what he does with students. He also explained that sometimes scientists have trouble talking with students, so by partnering with ONMS's education team, it was

great. He said that they realized what a great opportunity it was to participate in the programming. He said that NCCOS has research facilities across the US and can tell the “whole” story. He hopes that they can partner more in the future, as he feels that we must make people understand the research and it is critical for scientists to engage the public. The two main things he took away from the experience was a greater conviction in his career and to become more active in education and outreach.

- Debby Boyce (Discovery Diving) said that there are concerns over possible new regulations if the Monitor Sanctuary was expanded that might restrict divers, but she can see the advantage to all the survey work that NOAA is doing. She said that she felt the advantages outweigh the issues, and if there are issues, then we can work through them in a timely manner. She thinks the survey work has great opportunity for everyone in the area. She understands both sides of the fence.
- Jim Bunch (Recreational/Commercial Dive Seat) said that he generally contacts groups of divers around the state, and he always asks them if there is anything they want him to present to the SAC or MNMS. Most divers ask about looking at additional wrecks to be added to the sanctuary. He said that other problems that he hears consistently about expansion are issues of anchorage, permits, artifacts, and paperwork. Jim said that he can't tell them because he doesn't know, but he encourages them to talk with Dave. Jim said that most divers are happy with the current management of the *Monitor*, but are concerned that any changes to the sanctuary might affect their business. Jim also said that changes in diving, such as artifact collection, are very different from the 1980's.
 - Dave commented that the sanctuary's position remains the same—we, NOAA do not have any formal position on expansion of the sanctuary, but we do recognize that there are resources off the coast that are important to the nation and are important economic resources for the state and local economies. Dave said we need to determine what the community wants and how best to protect these resources for everyone. He explained that everyone owns history; there are no special rights to it. Dave said that the sanctuary program recognizes that the stories these shipwrecks tell are important, and we are aware of the numerous interesting things off the coast. Dave also said that he recognizes that the core issue surrounding any possible future expansion is access to the shipwrecks, and the MNMS wants access to remain open. NOAA is sensitive to the needs of the business community.
 - Wayne Smith commented on how expansion was handled in Canada and how the community came to understand that you cannot take the artifacts or there would be nothing to dive on. The dive operators supported the no-take regulations.
 - Dave described the zoning and regulation issues at the Florida Keys NMS. The FKNMS for instance spends most of its efforts on the water to educate people. After 15 years of education, they are starting to see real change.
 - Wayne commented that if we promote better understanding among the dive operators, then they will begin to support no take and that grows into an ethical choice for future generations.
- Jim Bunch commented that we have talked about forming a committee to look at expansion. Dave said that yes, for three years we have been asked about expansion, but we have not been actively pursuing expansion. However, a working group suggested that the SAC look at expansion with open access based on the Thunder Bay NMS model.

- Bobby Purifoy commented that promotion is a great idea. However, he said that there is a tourism board to do that, so not sure why there has to be a sanctuary to do it too. Bobby stated he didn't see the need to do more to promote the area.
 - Dave commented that we do not have to expand the sanctuary to still promote the area. He pointed out that the German U-boats are not in the sanctuary, but we promote their history.
 - Couch (?) asked if there are any reasons for expanding the sanctuary.
 - Dave said that there are many reasons to expand the Sanctuary, but that does not mean it will be done. Any decision to expand will come through a detailed and significant public process.
 - Bobby Purifoy asked what efforts are needed and why MNMS is operating outside of the sanctuary.
 - Dave said that MNMS is operating outside the Sanctuary because it is our charge through the Maritime Heritage Program to capture, promote and preserve the nations rich maritime legacy
 - Carol (?): Fisheries are highly over regulated now. This is how it started in 1976. If you make wrecks part of the sanctuary, then you take away fishing on the wreck. It started out "for" fishermen, but 30 years later it is not for fishermen.
 - Debby Boyce said that it starts out innocent and then three generations later what happens?
 - Carol said that people come up with bigger and better ideas and that some wrecks were good when you started, but now are deteriorated. So worry about regulating wrecks when they are deteriorated.
 - Debby gave the example of taxes and how they continue for 50-60 years, so she asked if you can write into the regulations that they have to be reevaluated every 5-10 years.
 - Dave responded that they could be written as such and that is how it is in the Thunder Bay NMS model.
 - Debby said that reevaluating the regulations every 5-10 years would make people feel better.
 - Dave said that the mechanism or process to use as a safety valve is the management plan. Through the management plan, you can ask how are you doing and then reevaluate and make changes as needed.
 - Carol said that over the last 6-7 years a change has been seen. Develop a plan to monitor the first one to five years to see how it affects the diving community. If you do it, stick to your guns. More people to enjoy and the least restrictions, the better.

Public Comment Period Closed

Monitor NMS Staff Updates:

- **North Carolina Update—Lauren Heesemann:**
 - Lauren said that she relocated to Manteo, NC and is housed at UNC Coastal Studies institute. She said that now that she is in North Carolina, she can work

more closely and establish new relationships in the area. She is also working towards doing more with the schools.

- Lauren is working to formalize the relationship with UNC CSI through an MOU. Due to many of UNC CSI's interests being nicely correlated to our own interests, she has begun working with them on more projects. UNC CSI has also expanded their maritime heritage program and hired Dr. Nathan Richards.
- Lauren also described how she and Joe Hoyt met with the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill, NC to discuss a possible program on shipwrecks.
- Lauren said that she and several partners just received a \$25K grant to build buoys with four schools. They will be part of a larger buoy system and students can compare and access the database.
- Lauren talked about the 2010 Battle of the Atlantic expedition, and explained that a team of NOAA scientists came out to collect and analyze data from biological surveys. She said that this is a good starting point, but there is lots of room for growth.
- Lauren also talked about establishing and growing a REEF program off North Carolina's coast. Debby and NOAA scientists have been working on a lionfish program and want to grow it to have certified REEF divers. They can conduct the fish surveys and help collect data. This allows for more data to be collected. Lauren wants to work with NCCOS to create products that can be given to dive shops. REEF products exist, but they are not specific to North Carolina coast. By offering this program, it could help to bring more people to North Carolina to experience the rich diversity of sea life.
- **Education and Outreach Update—Shannon Ricles:**
 - Shannon outlined the MNMS's education strategic plan. She explained the MNMS's alignment with NOAA's and ONMS' mission and vision statements. She discussed partnerships with school districts, museums, and other federal and state agencies.
 - Formal education initiatives include educator workshops, curriculum, supplemental materials/products, training, distance learning, ROV workshops, and support of school events.
 - Shannon also outlined the plans for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the USS *Monitor*. Scheduled are teacher workshops, video vignettes, podcasts, web site, social media, stereographic photos, posters, coins, etc.
 - Shannon then went through the goals and objectives of the strategic plan:
 - Goal: Use Education and outreach programs to promote greater awareness and protection of the sanctuary's natural and cultural resources, and to enhance local, regional, and national knowledge of the surrounding ocean's climatological and ecological significance.
 - Objectives—
 - Build an education and outreach program that complements and promotes sanctuary resource protection and historical, climatological, and ecological research programs
 - Increase awareness among educators, students, and general audiences of the USS *Monitor*'s 150th anniversary and its various milestones from 2011-2013

- Increase ocean and climate literacy among local, regional, and national audiences
 - Target user groups and underrepresented audiences for participation in sanctuary programs
 - Enhance communication and coordination among sanctuary partners
 - Develop strategic partnerships for increased visibility of the Monitor NMS and enhanced programming
 - Increase collaboration with educators, students, and school districts in North Carolina
 - Continue collaborating with Virginia school districts
 - Collaborate with other sanctuary sites and external organizations in support of education and outreach programs
- Anna Holloway moved to mobilize working groups for education, 2012, and expansion. Scott Boyd seconded it. All were in favor.
 - Terri Kirby-Hathaway, Anna Holloway, Doug Stover, Will Serratelli, Robert Neyland, and Scott Boyd volunteered to be on the education working group.
 - Wayne Smith, Anna Holloway, Doug Stover, and Scott Boyd volunteered to be on the 2012 working group.
 - Jim Bunch, Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Jay Kavanagh, Susan Langley, and Wayne Smith volunteered to be on the expansion working group. Dave said that this working group was to explore possibilities as discussed.
- **Graveyard of the Atlantic Exhibit Update—Dave Alberg**
 - The exhibit is moving forward. It is within ten weeks of having construction finished. Funds have been secured to complete the exhibit design. There has been a total of \$640K given to the state for projects with approximately \$85K going to the Queen Anne’s Revenge project to date.
- **2011 Field Schedule—Joe Hoyt**
 - This year is going to be an ambitious year. There has been \$400K given for the expedition from outside resources. There will be four phases. First phase is a wide area survey that will be conducted by the University of Texas through a grant with BOEHMR (formerly known as MMS). This year the expedition will be taking a landscape approach to studying the wreck sites. They will be looking at the wrecks and tying them to the larger picture. The focus will be on the U-576 attack on the *Bluefields*. Aircraft sank the U-576 and the location is unknown. They will focus on trying to find the battlefield. UT’s AUV base is 100-meter swath survey. They tried it in Thunder Bay and it worked well. This phase will be ten days. The images will be low resolution.
 - In the second phase, researchers will go back with a different AUV system to get higher resolution images. The area it is able to survey is not as wide, but better 3-D acoustics with ADUS. In additional phases, the data will be interpreted, but with a different eye for cultural resources. It will give great details of the sites. Woods Hole has a grant to work with Advanced Imaging and Visualization Lab’s 3-D camera system.

- As part of the grant funds, a flat screen kiosk will be purchased. The kiosk can travel to various locations and will be a useful tool for education and a great outreach tool. It will also be available for loan.
- Dave explained that Moorehead Planetarium's dome may host some of the HD footage from the Battle of the Atlantic. We will also provide an HD screen to the Graveyard of the Atlantic. In addition, the office is producing video podcasts from Pea Island to Hatteras. These 3-minute vignettes can be viewed on a number of different platforms. (Dave showed a couple examples.) He said that he selected a small North Carolina company to produce the videos for \$50K. They need some final tweaking, but they hope to have them ready to go by summer. He also said that he wants to do more videos in the future.
- Debby Boyce expressed interest in knowing more about the videos for their visitor center.
- Dave said that NCCOS is also interested, as they have a new facility and want some programs to help them address their education and outreach goals.

New Business

- Susan Langley said that she hoped that a NOAA letter of support could be sent to the administration to help preserve wrecks in Mallow's Bay, a half-mile wide embayment on the Potomac River. She said that there are about 150 shipwrecks and most are WWI vessels that were sold as scrap in the 1920s. Senator Cardin is very keen to see it protected and has met with NOAA representatives, as well as State and County officials. They would all like it to be a sanctuary. It is hoped that his interest may aid in having the Site Evaluation List (SEL) reauthorized, and his office wrote to Dr. Lubchenco, who responded positively.
 - Paul Ticco explained that Dr. Lubchenco sent a letter and that it was a strong indicator of this administration's desire to create new sanctuaries. He explained that there was a SEL about 10-15 years ago, but they did away with the list until they could prove management of current sanctuaries. ONMS moved ahead with new sites to be ready when reauthorization happens. Lubchenco's letter was very positive. Now Susan and others at the state level can go back to their Senators to push forward.
- Susan also encouraged everyone to submit a proposal for the 2012 conference for the Society for Historical Archaeology. She also indicated that she is looking for items for their silent auction. Contact Susan Langley with questions and donations. Cash is also accepted.
- Robert (Bob) Neyland asked for an update on the USS *Monitor* human remains. Dave said that MNMS is still hoping that National Geographic will do a special in partnership with PBS to do a documentary before we go forward with LSU doing the facial reconstruction. Coordination with the Navy is ongoing, and we are also working to hire a genealogist. Dave indicated that he wanted to set up a call with Bob in the near future to assure Navy and NOAA is working in concert on this effort.
- Mark Wilde-Ramsing said that he appreciated the vital support that the Queen Anne's Revenge project has received from the NOAA MNMS. He said that QAR is on track to finish in the next three years. He said that there is a 12-week session starting in August and that the exhibit will open in Beaufort on June 10, 2011. Mark said students from

ECU's Program in Maritime Studies program will be involved in fall expeditions as part of advanced studies and possibly as part of a field school experience. He also said that in 2018 look for a big hurrah at their 300th year anniversary.

- Wayne Smith commented that we need to develop bigger perspective. There are great opportunities here and throughout region. He encouraged everyone to get active as a group and community. Do nothing and 2012 comes and goes, but with so many great resources, we need to adopt a much bigger perspective. The year of 2012 is a huge milestone, but lots of work to be done. Encourage community and put comments and ideas into action. There are great stories to be told and you have great ideas. We just need to figure out a way to get your input.
- Anna Holloway suggested local, regional, and state sesquicentennial committees. Look for announcements in local papers and attend to comment and get involved. Newport News sesquicentennial has *Monitor* as their number one priority. If there is not a group, then start one.

Adjournment

Mark Wilde-Ramsing moved to adjourn. Susan Langley seconded it, and all were in favor.