

## **Resource Protection**

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Natural deterioration combined with impacts from hurricanes and human activities have taken their toll on the wreck of the *Monitor*. Marine debris including derelict fishing gear (i.e. long line monofilament, trawl netting, and recreational fishing tackle) and trash can pose a serious threat to divers and submersibles working on the site and potentially damage the *Monitor*.

NOAA's *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary strives to create a balance between protecting the natural and historical resources in the Sanctuary while allowing people to use and enjoy the site in a sustainable way.

## **Regulations & Permits**

Access to the *Monitor* sanctuary is generally limited to scientific research conducted under a permit issued by NOAA. Special-use permits are issued for non-research activities. Contact the sanctuary office for a complete listing of the rules and regulations and additional program information.

The wreck of the *Monitor* is protected under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and other laws. The US Coast Guard and NOAA patrol the Sanctuary and enforce regulations.

Unless a permit has been issued by the *Monitor* sanctuary, the following activities are prohibited:

- anchoring, stopping or drifting without power at any time
- conducting salvage or recovery
- diving
- using dredging or wrecking devices
- underwater detonation
- drilling in the seabed
- laying cable
- trawling



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