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Sanctuary News

NATIONAL MARINE
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New National Marine Sanctuary Designated in Great Lakes

The new Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated on October 7, 2000 in Alpena, Michigan. This new sanctuary is the first marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes, the first one in freshwater, and only the second designated to protect underwater cultural resources!

[Learn more about our newest sanctuary](#)

[Stories from 2001](#)

[Stories from 2000](#)

[Stories from 1999](#)

Agreement reached on Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

[Designation planned for Great Lakes sanctuary](#)

Snapshot day Volunteers Test Monterey Bay Sanctuary Waters

On Earth Day 2000, local citizens celebrated the event along California's Central Coast by participating in the first annual Monterey

Bay National Marine Sanctuary "Snapshot Day," a sanctuary-wide watershed monitoring event designed to increase public awareness of water quality issues affecting sanctuary watersheds.

[Volunteers help to protect Monterey Bay waters](#)

Students join scientists in Gray's Reef Sanctuary Research

Braving howling wind and high seas four high school students-at-sea from Gray's Reef's Student Ocean Council assisted scientists Dr. Jeff Hyland, Cindy Cooksey and Len Balthis from NOAA's ORCA Lab in Charleston, South Carolina in a mission to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

[Learn more about their discoveries.](#)

Joining Forces on Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Programs

NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently embarked on a joint effort to promote public awareness and support for conserving threatened salmon and steelhead in the California Central Coast area.

[Read more about the partnership.](#)

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Announces Diving Photo Contest

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary announces a new diving photo contest for coastal and underwater enthusiasts starting on May 2 and ending on September 1, 2000. Contest winners will have their work prominently featured in a new brochure being developed by the Sanctuary and members of its Diver Partnership Program.

[Learn more about it.](#)

NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries Celebrate Earth Day

From the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, the national marine sanctuaries will be celebrating Earth Day, reminding us of the important connections between land and sea.

[Join the fun.](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions in Hawaii

Over 400 students in Hawaii were fortunate to get a closer look at the Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) during its two week visit to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback National Marine Sanctuary.

[Learn more about their ocean adventures.](#)

Sanctuary Assists in Alaska Airlines Flight 261

On January 31, 2000 Alaska Airlines Flight 261 went down about three miles from Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. More about the recovery efforts within the sanctuary is available at <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/news/flt261/flight261.html>

Sanctuaries Join to Aid Samoan Coral Reef

Coral reefs threatened by the removal of grounded vessels in Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa are now a little bit safer through the efforts of the Florida Keys and Fagatale Bay National Marine Sanctuaries and NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration.

[More about the coral recovery](#)

DOC Silver Medal awarded to Sanctuary Staff

Managers of National Marine Sanctuaries are no strangers to putting out fires. NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Manager Lieutenant Commander Ed Cassano quickly moved from fighting metaphorical fires to actual firefighting when he joined sanctuary staff and others in the Santa Barbara community to fight an intense fire engulfing a historic seaside wharf.

[More about the award](#)

Sustainable Seas Expedition 2000

After a successful year conducting more than 150 submersible dives in nine of NOAA's national marine sanctuaries, Sustainable Seas Expedition explorers are looking to 2000 with renewed energy and enthusiasm in their quest to learn more about these unique protected areas.

[Learn more about SSE 2000](#)

New *Monitor* Exhibit Opens

A nearly full-scale replica of the *Monitor's* famous revolving turret is the centerpiece of a dramatic new exhibition on the USS *Monitor* and the *Monitor* Sanctuary that opened at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, on September 25.

[More about the *Monitor*](#)

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September 17, 2001

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Feature Stories



Safety is Job One at Our National Marine Sanctuaries

By Gail Krueger and David Hall

The cry "Man overboard!" was heard at a number of NOAA's national marine sanctuaries last month. There was also a wave of fires, hurricanes, and even earthquakes. In each case the response was quick and no lives were lost.



These were only mock disasters, staged during the sanctuary program's first annual "Safety Week." But should such events actually occur sanctuary staff will be well prepared, thanks to an intense week of hands-on safety programs and drills.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Karen Grimmer (left) and Deirdre Hall practice a "man overboard" drill aboard the sanctuary vessel SHARK CAT. Photo: Brad Damitz/MBNMS

At sanctuaries throughout the 14-site National Marine Sanctuary System, staff learned how to handle everything from heart attacks to hazardous waste spills.

Because many sanctuary staffers spend time on or under the water, boat and diver safety drills were an important part of the safety stand-down.

At several sanctuaries, staff members simulated boat evacuations by donning bright orange immersion, or "Gumby," suits and jumping into the water. Each orange-clad staffer then drifted toward a life raft or

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Monitor
Cheesebox

sanctuary vessel and practiced climbing aboard.

Sanctuary staff also practiced various forms of “man overboard” drills. In each case, lessons were learned.

Monterey Bay

“We now know which sanctuary boat we have to use to get people out of the water and transport them to safety,” said Steve Baumgartner, operation manager for the lower region of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. “One particular boat worked out very well. We would definitely turn to that one first [in that situation].”

Olympic Coast
e-news

Gerry E. Studds
Stellwagen Bank
Soundings

“The entire program made me feel that I, too, could help in a dive or other emergency on either of the sanctuary’s boats,” said Becky Shortland, policy coordinator for Gray’s Reef Sanctuary. Shortland and other non-diving members of the Gray’s Reef staff often go out with researchers as assistants and observers on both research dives and routine patrols.

Thunder Bay
Beneath the Waves

Safety Week was not confined to boating safety drills, however. Staff throughout the sanctuary system, including its Silver Spring headquarters, reviewed emergency procedures, supplies and equipment.

“Our safety stand-down is about more than just safe boating,” said NOAA Capt. Ted Lillestolen, NMSP’s deputy director for facilities, vessels, aircraft and safety. “It’s a host of carefully-planned, comprehensive training exercises for all sanctuary program staff, regardless of where they work. We want to be sure that when people come to sanctuaries, they are in an environment that is as safe as we can make it.”

“This was a very important learning experience,” said Sarah Fangman, the Safety Week coordinator for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. “I was really pleased to see how seriously my colleagues took this day of training. They were fully engaged, asked really important questions and offered fantastic ideas on how we could better prepare ourselves for emergency situations.”

“This has been a valuable opportunity for team-building as well as an important commitment to safety,” said Gray’s Reef Sanctuary Manager Reed Bohne.

While the sanctuary program plans to make Safety Week an annual event, Lillestolen and NMSP Director Daniel J. Basta say the sanctuary program won’t wait a year before updating emergency procedures and providing additional safety training to staff. “It will be an ongoing activity,” said Lillestolen.

“We value the health and well-being of our employees, those who volunteer in our sanctuaries, those who visit them, and those who conduct research in them. That’s what’s driving this effort.” said Basta. “Like our other NOAA colleagues, we know that safety is our first responsibility.” -- [[Click here](#) for field site reports]

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Press Releases



[Jan. 7, 2005](#) --Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is seeking applicants for four Sanctuary Advisory Council seats.

[Jan. 3, 2005](#) --The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) is seeking applicants to fill sanctuary advisory council seats representing research, conservation, maritime activity, education and community-at-large interests. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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January 2005

Natural Events

Gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) migrate south through the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. From December through February, the whales swim along the coastline and may be visible from shore as they head for the warm waters of Mexico's west coast lagoons for calving and mating.

January is the peak month for Northern elephant seal pup births in the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. Females give birth to a single pup within a week of hauling out on the beach. Pups will be nursed for three to four weeks before weaning.

In Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, rockfish spawning peaks this month.

Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga augustirostris*) pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island in Channel Islands continues through February. On Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) begin nesting through the month of February. The seals also breed on Southeast Farallon Islands and at nearby Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Hammerhead sharks and spotted rays school around the East and West Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary, through early April.

In mid January, North Atlantic right whale return to Cape Cod Bay and the southern end of the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary to feed on early bloom of copepods.

Winter gull migration begins.

Female northern right whales calve off the coast of Georgia and North Florida, Gray's Reef Sanctuary.

Alcids, such as razorbills and dovebies, overwinter at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.



A portion of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale population returns to Cape Cod Bay and Stellwagen Bank region to feed on patches of copepods.

Legions of seabirds feast on the abundant food resources present at Cordell Bank.

The winter months are excellent for tidepooling in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary because afternoon low tides expose marine algae and invertebrates. The low tides which began in November continue though February.

Minus tides in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary permit intensive intertidal algae and invertebrate surveys at S.E. Farallon Island.

Sanctuary Events

Jan. 11 • Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
"FROM SHORE TO SEA" Speaker Series

Speaker to be announced

This speaker series is free and open to the public.

7pm at Chase Palm Park Center

236 E Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA.

**Jan. 12 • Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
FROM SHORE TO SEA Speaker Series
Speaker to be announced**

This speaker series is free and open to the public.
7pm @ the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center
1901 Spinnaker Drive in the Ventura Harbor.

**Jan. 14 • Monterey Bay Sanctuary Research Activity Panel (RAP)
Meeting, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., USGS office, Santa Cruz. For more
information contact Andrew Devogelaere at (831) 647-4213. [Click here](#)
for more information.**

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SANCTUARY WATCH



Four times a year, the National Marine Sanctuary Program publishes a national newsletter in print and electronic format to keep our colleagues, collaborators and constituents informed about the many program activities and accomplishments that take place within our 13 national marine sanctuaries.

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to receive an html formatted e-mail version of the Sanctuary Watch newsletter.

Please e-mail the [editor](#) if you would like to be added to the mailing list or to receive a hard copy of the newsletter.

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [please download](#) the free program.

Links to additional Sanctuary Newsletters

[Florida Keys Sounding Line](#)

[Gray's Reef Shades of Gray](#)

[Humpback Whale Ke Leo O Ke Kohola](#)

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 3 Fall 2004 - Special Issue: Diving into Education

- Sanctuary Education Programs for Teachers and Students
- Critter Files: Black-footed Albatross
- Newsplash
- Star of the Sea: Kim Rusk
- Sanctuary Voices: Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 3 -- pdf document, 2.2 MB\]](#)

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Sanctuary Watch Fall 2004

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 2
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- Olympic Coast Sanctuary Celebrates 10 Years of Stewardship
- Critter Files: Sea Otter
- Studying Humpback Whales Across North America
- Star of the Sea: Stephanie Harlan
- Sanctuary Voices: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

[Download [Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 2](#) -- pdf document, 2.9 MB]



Sanctuary Watch Summer 2004

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- Spotlight on Exploration
- Sound Science
- Hunt for the *Alligator*
- James Christley: Star of the Sea
- Warty Sea Slug
- Sanctuary Voices: Reaching Out to Boaters

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 1 -- pdf document, 2.5 MB\]](#)

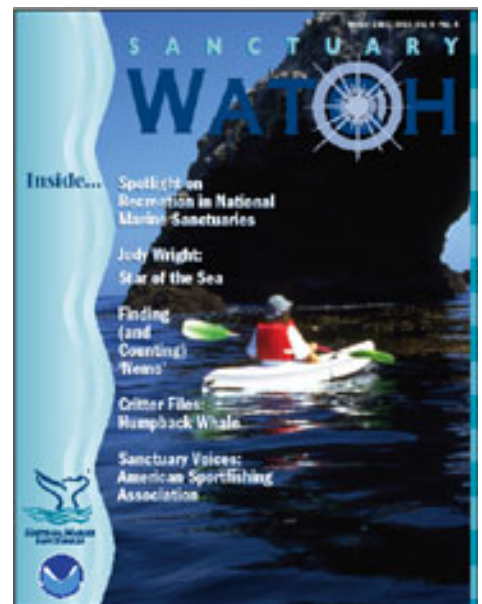


Sanctuary Watch Spring 2004

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 4 Winter 2003

- Sanctuaries: Something for Everyone
- Paddling Through Paradise
- Sanctuaries are for the Birds
- Finding (and Counting) 'Nemo'
- Critter Files: Whale Watching/
Humpback Whale
- Sanctuary Voices: American
Sportfishing Association

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 4 -- pdf document, 10.7 MB\]](#)



Sanctuary Watch Winter 2003

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 3 Fall 2003

- Seabirds Find a Home at Gray's Reef Sanctuary
- Revisiting the *USS Monitor*
- Critter Files: White Shark
- Gordon Bennett and Al Brooks: Stars of the Sea
- The 'Canaries' of Fagatele Bay Sing the Blues
- New Sanctuaries Managers

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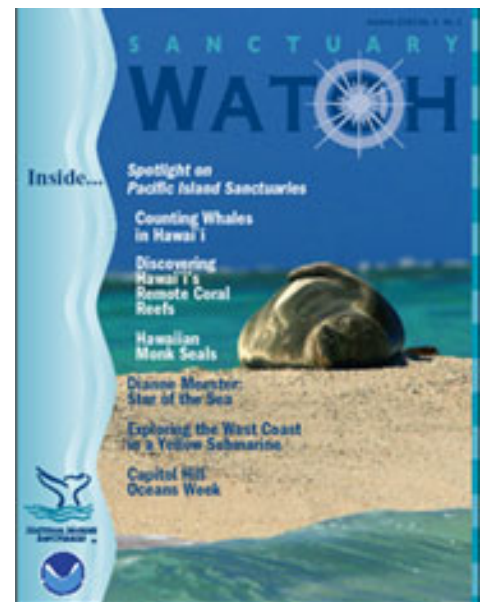


Sanctuary Watch Fall 2003

***Sanctuary Watch* Vol. 4 No. 2 Summer 2003**

- Spotlight on Pacific Island Sanctuaries
- Counting Whales in Hawai'i
- Discovering Hawai'i's Remote Coral Reefs
- Hawaiian Monk Seals
- Dianne Meester: Star of the Sea
- Exploring the West Coast in a Yellow Submarine
- Capitol Hill Oceans Week

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Sanctuary Watch Summer 2003

***Sanctuary Watch* Vol. 4 No. 1 Winter 2002/2003**

- Sanctuary Discoveries: *Pacbaroness, Portland, Thunder Bay*
- Sanctuary Watch Star of the Sea: Billy Causy, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- New Vessel Helps Scientists, Students Study the Sea
- Monitor Expedition 2002
- Follow that Fish! Tagging Program Helps Researchers get to the Bottom of a Fishy Mystery
- U.S. Senator Breaux honored for work with Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary
- Channel Islands Sanctuary Explorer Ballard Take Students From 'Shore to Sea'



Sanctuary Watch Feb/April 2003

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 1 -- pdf document, 4.5 MB\]](#)

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 3 No. 6 December 2002/January 2003

- California Creates Marine Reserve in Channel Islands
- Sanctuary Managers Promote Program Around the Globe
- California Mystery Oil Spill Solved
- National Marine Sanctuary Program Joins in Korean MPA Planning Workshop
- Channel Islands Welcomes New Sanctuary Manager Christopher Mobley
- More explorations at the *Portland* site in Gerry. E. Studds



Spiny lobsters scuttling along the ocean floor now have additional protections in the Channel Islands.

Photo: Shane Anderson

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

- Sanctuary Staff John C. Halas and Andrea Hrusovsky Awarded NOAA's Bronze Medal 2002
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Park Manager Jeff Gray Joins Search for WWII Japanese Sub
- Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Field Station for Sensor Tests
- Scenes from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 10th Anniversary
- "Rescuing "Beany," a California Baby Sea Lion
- Safe Havens in Half Moon Bay--the National Marine Sanctuary Program Celebrates its Newest California Field Office
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Student ROV Competes for Florida Prize
- U.S. Reefs Receive International Protection
- National Aquarium Gets Sanctuary Facelift
- Sanctuary Reefs on Coral Reef Task Force Agenda
- December 2002/January 2003 Calendar Highlights

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Sanctuary Watch Archives

[Click here](#) for the Sanctuary Watch newsletter archives covering the years 2000 to 2002.

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Sanctuary Boat Captain Honored for Heroic Rescue

The U.S. Department of Commerce recently awarded its Gold Medal in Heroism to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary NOAA Corp LCDR Mark H. Pickett for "exemplary courage and heroism" in saving the lives of two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) employees after a capsizing of the Channel Islands Sanctuary vessel *R/V Ballena* on November 4, 2000.

[More](#)

Sanctuary Explorer Describes Life Below the Waves

Cathy Sakas, education coordinator for the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and five other aquanauts spent nine days in Aquarius, an undersea laboratory off Key Largo in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

[Read about her adventures](#)

Sanctuary's Researchers Reach Deep Dives

A Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary research team, monitoring the effects of fiber-optic cables on the ocean floor, reaped additional benefits. Using *Delta*, a two-person submersible, scientists conducted 55 dives throughout the mission.

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[Learn more](#)

National Marine Sanctuary System's New Director

On January 10, 2001, Dr. James D. Baker, the NOAA's Administrator and Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, named Daniel J. Basta as Director of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

[More on Dan Basta](#)

Great Lakes Marine Sanctuary Manager Search

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, the nation's newest marine sanctuary, began a search for a sanctuary manager to help in the protection of a nationally significant collection of over 100 shipwrecks, spanning over a century of Great Lakes shipping history.

[For more details](#)

Sanctuary scientists discover shipwreck

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary archaeologists and staff have located the steel hull of the *Temple Bar*, wrecked among the Quillayute Needles in 1939.

[More on the Olympic Coast wreck](#)

'Elye'wun's Historic Channel Crossing

It's been more than 125 years since a Chumash tomol was paddled across the rough waters of the Channel Islands. On September 8, NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) staff members, aboard the NOAA support research vessel *Xantu*, were witness to an historic tomol crossing reports the sanctuary's Cultural Resources Coordinator Robert Schwemmer.

[Learn more](#)

January 8, 2002

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Sanctuaries seek protection of maritime history

Advances in diving gear, navigational electronics, and aquatic robots are bringing historical sunken vessels within the reach of marine archaeologists and recreational divers alike. Concerned recreational divers are now joining with scientists to take an active role in preserving and documenting underwater maritime history and educating others as to the importance of conserving it.

[More about NOAA's role](#)

[Stories from 2001](#)

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Ocean Report offers support to U.S. sanctuaries

On September 2, Vice President Al Gore announced new actions to help preserve and protect our nation's oceans and coasts in a special report given at the New England Aquarium in Boston. One proposal in the "The Ocean Report would enlist commercial fishermen and divers in research efforts at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in California.

[Read more about "The Ocean Report"](#)

NOAA's Shipwreck Trail

Weather and war, uncharted waters and human error enacted a deadly toll on seagoing vessels traveling the waters now contained within the boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries. The new Shipwreck Trail offers a thematic map of significant, accessible, commonly-dived shipwrecks and artificial reefs through the sanctuary's waters.

[For more on the new diving adventure](#)

Monitor Mission 1999

A joint Navy and NOAA expedition completed part one of a two-part mission this summer to salvage and shore up the historical remains of the *Monitor*, the famous Civil War ironclad that foundered and sank in a storm 137 years ago.

[For more on the *Monitor* mission including daily updates.](#)

From vessel grounding to reef recovery

On August 10, 1994, the R/V *Columbus Iselin*, a research ship studying the currents on the Florida Straits, smashed through a coral reef colony in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The damaged area, Looe Key, contains some of the most aesthetically valuable and heavily visited reefs in the continental U.S. part of the Florida Reef Tract, it is the third largest barrier reef in the world. Now five-years later, the Looe Key reef restoration has begun.

[For more on the Columbus Iselin reef restoration](#)

One fish, two fish, rockfish, bluefish!

For two weeks in July, the annual Great American Fish Count sends recreational divers and snorkelers into the water to help scientists learn more about fish diversity and populations. Waters include five

national marine sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Monterey Bay, California; Flower Garden Banks, Texas; Florida Keys, Florida; and Gray's Reef, Georgia.

[For more on the Great American Fish Count](#)

First Great Lakes sanctuary moves closer to designation

Shipwrecks spanning more than a century of Great Lakes shipping -- early wooden sailboats to steel-hulled lakes steamers -- may soon receive protection as part of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary system. An important step in the designation process of Thunder Bay, Michigan, took place recently with the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan.

[For more on the proposed Thunder Bay Sanctuary](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions head east

In early July, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions move to the East Coast where aquanauts will explore the rich boulder reefs and sandy plains of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary, 25 miles east of Boston, Mass. protects 842-square miles of open ocean.

[Learn more about SSE](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions

After a year of planning, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions kicks off its unprecedented deep sea exploration of NOAA's twelve national marine sanctuaries this month.

[For more on Sustainable Seas Expeditions](#)

New Navigation System Protects Florida's Coral Reefs

In early March the federal government installed state-of-the-art navigational aids in NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to help ships avoid grounding on fragile, threatened coral reefs.

[For full story](#)

Sanctuary educators praised for environmental work

Sarah Mitchell and Becky Shortland of NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary were honored recently in a *Savannah Morning News* series for their positive and significant roles in preserving ocean and coastal environments.

[Praise for Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary educators](#)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary honored as conservation accomplishment of the century

As the 20th century draws to a close, The Audubon Society, the nation's first bird preservation organization, took the opportunity to reflect back on the greatest conservation accomplishments of the past 100 years.

[For full story](#)

Coast Guard pilots help sanctuary protect coral reefs

NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary staff Shelley Du Puy and Emma Hickerson once had to travel eleven hours to reach sanctuary boundaries located 100 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. Now U.S. Coast Guard pilots help sanctuary staff reach the sanctuary in 45 minutes.

[For more "eyes in the sky"](#)

September 17, 2001

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NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Designated

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Thunder Bay, NOAA's proposed sanctuary, contains many historical shipwrecks. (Photo: Great Lakes Visual Research)

On October 7, 2000, the nation's 13th National Marine Sanctuary, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, was designated in Alpena, Michigan.

Elgie Hostein, DOC Senior Advisor to then Secretary of Commerce Norman Y. Mineta, joined the designation celebration with Michigan Governor John Engler, sanctuary representatives, local, state and

federal officials.

The 448-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve, chosen by NOAA for sanctuary designation, protects 116 historically significant shipwrecks from more than a century of Great Lakes maritime heritage. From wooden schooners to steel-hulled steamers, a rich array of artifacts from nineteenth century travel and commerce remain below the waters of Lake Huron in Thunder Bay.

The designation came after more than a decade of collaboration between NOAA and Michigan that resulted in [an announcement on June 19, 2000](#).

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February 16, 2001

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Agreement reached on Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Thunder Bay, NOAA's proposed sanctuary, contains many historical shipwrecks. (Photo: Great Lakes Visual Research)

On June 19, 2000, a nationally significant collection of shipwrecks in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Alpena, Mich. was protected by an agreement reached by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and Michigan Governor John Engler. This action follows an executive order issued by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore on Memorial Day weekend calling for a national system of marine protected areas.

"The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary will give a voice to the

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dozens of shipwrecks resting in its cold waters. With this newest marine sanctuary, scuba divers, students and historians will be able to learn about an important chapter of the Great Lakes' maritime and economic history," said Secretary of Commerce, William Daley.

Thunder Bay is the 13th national marine sanctuary. NOAA is designating Thunder Bay because of its' historical significance and the collection of over 100 shipwrecks, including the Issac M. Scott. A steel-hulled propeller driven vessel, the Issac M. Scott was one of eleven vessels lost in the "great storm of 1913". That storm has been described as the most disastrous storm that has ever swept the Great Lakes region.

For the past six months, NOAA and Governor Engler's office have engaged in detailed discussions on various aspects of the proposed sanctuary including the size and name, funding levels, and staffing arrangements. NOAA agreed to a number of changes in response to the state's concerns. A NOAA/state joint management committee will be created to ensure equal governance of the sanctuary/preserve. NOAA agreed to reduce the size of the boundary by almost half, from 808 square miles to 448 square miles. NOAA also agreed to the name "Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve" to reflect the state underwater preserve. The state has agreed to commit one million dollars over a five-year period.

"A close and ongoing partnership between NOAA, the state of Michigan and local communities will ensure that this sanctuary/preserve will be a success and a cultural resource for future generations." said Jeff Benoit, director of NOAA's Office of Coastal and Resource Management. "I would like to thank members of the Thunder Bay communities who put considerable time and effort into the designation process. Their input was critical to crafting a viable proposal for a Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The project would not have progressed to this point without their assistance."

In response to state and sanctuary advisory council concerns, NOAA had previously agreed to other "safeguards" that were reflected in the final environmental impact statement, published in 1999. In particular, after an initial five-year period, providing an opportunity for both parties to determine the success of the partnership, NOAA will re-propose the sanctuary/preserve reflecting mutual concerns. NOAA also agreed to obtain approval from the governor on changes to the scope of management, promulgation of emergency regulations, and imposition of user fees.

In terms of next steps, NOAA will publish the final regulations in the Federal Register, and the sanctuary/preserve will be designated after a four month congressional and state review.

The mission of the National Marine Sanctuary Program is to conserve, protect and enhance the bio-diversity, ecological integrity, and/or cultural legacy of selected marine and Great Lakes areas. For more information on national marine sanctuaries visit, <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>.

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Volunteers Test Monterey Bay Sanctuary Waters

On Earth Day 2000, local citizens celebrated the event along California's Central Coast by participating in the first annual Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary "Snapshot Day," a sanctuary-wide watershed monitoring event designed to increase public awareness of water quality issues affecting sanctuary watersheds.

"This event draws attention to the vital role citizen volunteers play in protecting the Sanctuary's waters," said William Douros, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Armed with test tubes, thermometers, buckets, and cameras, the volunteers fanned out into the 11 major watersheds which drain into the sanctuary. Volunteers tested air and water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and took photos at creeks, rivers, streams, and estuaries



Monterey Bay Sanctuary Superintendent Bill Douros inspires Snapshot Day volunteers with the "10 Ways" that they can protect the Earth everyday. (Photo: Brady Phillips)

spanning over 300 miles of the California coast. They also collected

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samples, which were later analyzed by local agency and university labs for nitrate, phosphate, and bacteria levels.



Snapshot Day volunteer collects a water sample in the Salinas River. (Photo: Brady Phillips)

Although other "snapshot days" have been held elsewhere in the nation, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary's Snapshot Day was the largest simultaneous water monitoring effort to occur in California. "We were thrilled with the response, especially since this was the first year," said Susan Pufahl of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program. "More than 120

volunteers came out to test 82 rivers and creeks, at 108 different sampling sites, throughout Sanctuary watersheds."

"We hope that Snapshot Day will help inspire new volunteers to assist in year-round efforts to monitor water bodies, and will teach individuals the critical role they can play in protecting the health of their local waters through their own actions," commented Douros.

The water quality data generated from Snapshot Day will be compiled into a report, and issued to the public later this summer. The data will help establish much needed baseline information about the health of Sanctuary watersheds, as well as flag potential problem areas.

"Resource managers need more scientific data," Pufahl said. "Government agencies regularly test fewer than 5 percent of California's water bodies because they have neither the funds nor the staff to do more."

In recent years citizen volunteers have begun to help fill the data gaps

by monitoring the health of their own watersheds. The information collected from Snapshot Day this year and in subsequent years can be used by resource managers to help make planning decisions and to better protect Sanctuary resources.

Snapshot Day was organized as part of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, a project of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program and two nonprofit organizations based in Santa Cruz, California--the Coastal Watershed Council, a local organization dedicated to protecting coastal watersheds through the establishment of community-based stewardship programs, and the Center for Marine Conservation, a national organization dedicated to protecting ocean environments.

The Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network was established as a forum for volunteer monitoring groups in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary watersheds. The objectives of the Network are to provide guidance, training, and other assistance to these monitoring groups; to increase the amount and quality of citizen monitoring data by developing standardized protocols for collecting, storing, and analyzing data; to increase public and agency use of, and access to, citizen monitoring data; and to increase public understanding of, involvement in, and stewardship of local waterways within the Sanctuary and its watersheds. The Network is currently funded through a grant from California's State Water Resources Control Board.

The Network will be hiring a permanent Coordinator this summer to take the lead in organizing Network activities. Among other long-term goals for the Network is the development of a web-based mapping system which will allow citizens to search and find monitoring data results along rivers and creeks in their local watersheds.



Volunteers of all ages prepare to test the water quality of the Tembaldero Slough. (Photo Janice Jones)

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Students join scientists in Gray's Reef Sanctuary Research



The scientific party from NOAA's ORCA Lab and students-at-sea take a break from collecting data aboard NOAA's ship Ferrel to catch good lighting for a photo op. Left to right: scientist Len Balthis and chief scientist Dr. Jeff Hyland, students-at-sea Ashley Dowling and Nora Fleming and scientist Cindy Cooksey. (Photo: Cathy Sakas)

Braving howling wind and high seas four high school students from Gray's Reef's Student Ocean Council -- Danielle Hauss, Heather Ferguson, Nora Fleming and Ashley Dowling --assisted scientists Dr. Jeff Hyland, Cindy Cooksey and Len Balthis from NOAA's ORCA Lab in Charleston, South Carolina in a mission to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

"Back and forth, back and forth. Tossing, rolling even pitching from time to time. Ever since we had gotten out of the Intercoastal

Waterway between Wassaw and Tybee Islands, the NOAA vessel the *Ferrel*, had been throwing those of us on board all about," said Ferguson. "The day actually was quite beautiful, full of sun and a few clouds."

The team's mission was to collect specimens and sediment from the waters around Gray's Reef Sanctuary and to record the conditions of the water column. By analyzing and determining the sediments' contaminant loads and the specimens' body burdens, the general health of the reef can be assessed.

Ashley Dowling described her part of the research: "At each station we were to lower the Data Sonde and Secchi Disk over the side of the ship. We lowered the Data Sonde on the port side and the Secchi Disk on the starboard side. The Data Sonde is an instrument that measures many different properties of the water including its salinity, dissolved oxygen (D.O.), depth, temperature, conductivity and pH.....After we had finished cleaning the deck, [scientists] Cindy and Len, Chief Tolento [the head cook], and I started preparing to go deep-sea fishing.

"We used squid as bait, and although we didn't catch anything, it was another opportunity to learn more," Dowling added. "We did manage to snag about ten black sea bass in the Chevron fish trap we had deployed [earlier] however. While we were fishing, crabs, which are normally at the bottom of the ocean, swam at the surface, which I found very interesting. We also saw lots of neat wildlife including a sunfish, a sea turtle, some dolphins and oddly enough, a sparrow".

The students were asked to help with all aspects of the collecting process and performed their duties with tenacity performing good techniques while keeping good spirits despite the pitching and rolling of the NOAA ship *Ferrel*.

Gray's Reef Sanctuary Marine Educator Cathy Sakas and Executive Officer Lieut. Ralph Rogers were in charge of the students and were especially attentive with "rail duty."

"We had to get our sea legs first," said Dowling. " It took me awhile to do so." (Hint: if you stay outside, you usually will be okay). Dowling said she also learned the wisdom of hugging the lee rail instead of the windward one.

Sakas and Rogers also assisted in team in collections both on deck and in the water. They dove on the best day the weather offered which

was marginal at best. They did complete their mission however with the collection of 50 Zebra Arcs. Despite the adverse conditions under which the students and scientists worked, all agreed that the experience was well worth the hardships and unpleasantness the motion of the ocean served up.



Students-at-Sea Nora Fleming (l) and Ashley Dowling (r) prepare a Chevron fish trap used to catch black sea bass, one of the many study species the scientific party targeted during operations at Gray's Reef. (Cathy Sakas)



Students-at-Sea Danielle Hauss (l) and Heather Ferguson (r) assist NOAA's ORCA Lab scientist Cindy Cooksey with deploying and taking readings from the Data Sonde and Secchi Disk aboard NOAA's ship *Ferrel* while on assignment in Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary. (Photo: Cathy Sakas)

In a report Ferguson wrote for her school, she said, "My experience was exceptional. The Students-at -Sea project helped to guide me in knowing what I want to do later in life. Every minute was filled with exciting and educational encounters. All of the thanks has to go to NOAA and the crew of the *Ferrel* who allowed us the chance [to]

journey and learn. Given the chance, I would not hesitate to go back out on that forever rolling sea. The experiences that I had will definitely stick with me for life and lead me later to hopefully become those scientists who so willingly helped us to understand what was going on. Thanks to this program, I was truly a Student at Sea".

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Joining Forces on Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Programs

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Male and female chinook salmon preparing to spawn. Photo: Bonneville Power Administration.

NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently embarked on a joint effort to promote public awareness and support for conserving threatened salmon and steelhead in the California Central Coast area. The NMFS is responsible for recovering fish and habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary program focuses on research, resource protection, and education and outreach from Marin County in the north to Cambria in the south.

By combining their capabilities and resources, the two NOAA agencies will provide a cohesive message and enhance services to California's Central Coast citizens. The expanded technical assistance, education,

and outreach efforts will enable the Monterey Bay Sanctuary and their local partners, together with the NMFS Santa Rosa Habitat Conservation Division, to reach landowners, including rural homeowners, and the agriculture community, county public works staff, boaters and fishers, the general public, and volunteer citizen monitoring groups.

A key component of the effort will be to incorporate the goals and policies of the Endangered Species Act into educational and outreach efforts, including recommendations for actions which various groups can take to restore salmonid populations on the Central Coast. Monterey Bay Sanctuary has worked extensively with both urban and agricultural communities on the development of water quality plans to protect marine resources, including salmon and steelhead. Many of the strategies and community networks established under these plans will be helpful in educating landowners regarding salmon and steelhead issues related to water quality and practices they may use to reduce their impacts. The outreach effort will harness the expertise of local partners working with the sanctuary and NMFS: the Coastal Watershed Council, the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Save Our Shores.

Although it will take many years for threatened salmon and steelhead to recover, and protecting the Sanctuary's resources is a long-term proposition, participants in this collaboration believe that NOAA's new joint effort will pay dividends immediately in the streams and watersheds along the Central California coast.



Male salmon protects female and developing redd from other potential spawners. Photo: Bonneville Power Administration.

By delivering a combined National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service message, California citizens will have a better understanding of NOAA's responsibilities in conserving our nation's marine resources, as well as a better appreciation for the role of the public in protecting natural resources.

For more information, contact Miles Croom, NMFS Southwest Region, Habitat Conservation Division, at 707 575-6068. For information on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, contact Maris Sidenstecker,

Water Quality Education Specialist, at 831-647-4216.

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May 10, 2000

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Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Diving Photo Contest



Monterey Bay Harbor seal lolls in kelp bed. (Photo: Kip Evans)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary announces a new diving photo contest for coastal and underwater enthusiasts starting on May 2 and ending on September 1, 2000. Contest winners will have their work prominently featured in a new brochure being developed by the Sanctuary and members of its Diver Partnership Program.

The sanctuary is seeking amateur or professional photographs of dive sites, diving activities, marine life, kelp forests and other marine habitats in the sanctuary. All photographic entries should be taken within the boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary or the land areas bordering it. The winners will be announced on September 15, 2000.

"Divers have a unique perspective on the sanctuary. They are able to visit and photograph areas of the Sanctuary that few others get to experience," says Patrick Cotter, Sanctuary Diving Supervisor. "We are excited to work cooperatively with the dive community to produce this new brochure welcoming divers to explore the sanctuary's world class dive sites, while helping to protect the sanctuary's incredible and diverse underwater resources."

Thousands of divers explore the Monterey Bay Sanctuary every year. The Diver Partnership Program was created by the sanctuary, with guidance from the diving community, to serve as a diverse forum for dive-related groups interested in exchanging information, developing education materials, participating in fun diving activities and events, and promoting stewardship of sanctuary resources.

A complete listing of the photo contest rules and a photo contest entry form can be obtained from <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Educate/divered.html> or by contacting Patrick Cotter at mbnms_dpp@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov or (831) 647-4252.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 12 marine sanctuaries administered by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The sanctuary extends from southern Marin County to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County, encompassing 300 miles of shoreline and 5,322 square miles of ocean. This remarkably productive coastal environment is home to numerous marine mammals, seabirds, fish, invertebrates and plants. Information on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary may be found at <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>.

Contest Rules and Information

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the largest marine sanctuary in the United States, and members of the Sanctuary's Diver Partnership Program are designing a new brochure to welcome divers to explore the sanctuary. The brochure will focus on the ways that divers can enjoy the Sanctuary's world-class dive sites and protect the Sanctuary's marine resources.

Top quality photographs are needed for the new brochure. The sanctuary is sponsoring a photo contest, from May 2, 2000 through September 1, 2000, to find the best diving photographs for the brochure. We are interested in amateur or professional photographs of dive sites, diving activities, marine life, kelp forests and other marine

habitats in the Sanctuary. The contest winners will be announced on September 15, 2000.

1. Where should the photo be taken?

All photographic entries should be taken somewhere within the boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary or the land areas bordering the sanctuary.

2. Is the sanctuary looking for specific scenes or subjects?

Yes, we are looking for the following types of photographs:

- * Vertical photograph of a dive team
- * Divers assessing their dive site
- * Boat diving
- * Beach diving
- * Dive classes
- * Photo or video diving
- * Cleanup diving
- * Underwater Fish counting
- * Underwater mapping and compass use
- * Divers practicing proper dive techniques
- * Marine life (plants, invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals)

3. Who are the judges for the contest?

Local award winning underwater photography experts and sanctuary staff.

4. How many photos may I enter?

- * You may enter a total of three photographs in the contest.

- * Please DO NOT enter three photographs for each format listed in Rule

Number 6.

- * Entries of more than three total photographs will not be considered.

5. When is the deadline?

All entries in the photo contest must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2000.

6. What photographic format should I enter?

- * Photographic formats may be standard, wide-angle, or close-up.

- * All entries must be 2" x 2" slide duplicates

DO NOT send entries on photographic paper.

- * Computer altered photographs will not be accepted.

- * No other formats will be considered in the contest.

7. How should I mark my 2" x 2" slide duplicate?

The following information must be printed in block letters on the slide mount when viewed from the non-emulsion side, right side up:

- * On the top of the slide mount print the entrant's name, address and phone no.

- * On the bottom left corner, place a large dot to ensure proper viewing.

- * At the bottom center, print the title of the slide and where the photograph was taken.

8. If my slide is selected for the brochure, do I give up my copyright to the slide?

No. The entries selected by our judges will be reproduced in the sanctuary's new diving program brochure. The sanctuary will contact the selected photographers to sign a release for use of their photographs. The selected photographers retain all copyrights to their photographs. Credit will be given in the brochure next to the photograph. Please be sure to provide a duplicate slide and retain the original.

9. If my slide is not selected, will it be returned to me?

* If your slide is not selected and you would like to have it returned to you, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry. The return envelope must have adequate postage for return mailing.

* If you do not provide a self-addressed envelope, your entry will not be returned.

* The sanctuary cannot be held responsible for loss or damage of any entry before, during or after this competition.

10. If your slide is not selected, you may chose to donate the slide to the sanctuary and retain photographic copyrights. The sanctuary will accept slide donations that will be used for educational and publicity purposes related to the sanctuary. If you would like to donate your

slides, please complete the Permission to Use Copyright Protected Photographic Slides form and submit it with your entries. You will receive a letter from the sanctuary confirming your donation.

11. Where do I send my entry?

Diver Partnership Program

Brochure Photo Contest

Monterey Bay NMS

299 Foam Street

Monterey, CA 93940-1463

12. Who should I contact if I have questions?

Patrick Cotter, Sanctuary Diving Supervisor

Web Site: <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Educate/divered.html>

Email: mbnms_dpp@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov

Telephone: (831) 647-4252

Fax: (831) 674-4250

13. "Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Bubbles"

EPIC (Environmentally Aware Photographic Image Competition) was one of

the first photo contests to promote the idea that underwater photography

need not be stressful for marine life. The sanctuary supports EPIC's

desire to protect marine life while taking photographs. We have adopted

the following rules for this contest. The judges for the photo contest will have the final decision and will disqualify any entry that exhibits any of the following:

- * Animals shown in unnatural settings
- * Marine life being touched or mistreated
- * Animals being fed
- * Divers visibly damaging the environment
- * Fins kicking up sand or sediment
- * Divers exhibiting poor diving techniques

Photo Contest Entry Form

A complete entry form must accompany all entries.

I _____ (print name), read and understand all Contest

Rules and Information, including photographic entry criteria and disqualification criteria, for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Diving Brochure Photo Contest.

Entrant's Signature

Date of Entry

Entrant's Printed Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Telephone

All entries must be postmarked by September 1, 2000.

All entries must be 2" x 2" slide duplicates and properly labeled as specified in the Contest Rules and Information. Do not send your original slide. No more than three slides per entrant may be submitted.

Contest Entry No. 1

Title of Photograph

Location of Photograph

Contest Entry No. 2

Title of Photograph

Location of Photograph

Contest Entry No. 3

Title of Photograph

Location of Photograph

(See Permission to Use Copyright Protected Photographic Slides)

Send Entries To:

Diver Partnership Program

Brochure Photo Contest

Monterey Bay NMS

299 Foam Street

Monterey, CA 93940-1463

For more Information, contact:

Patrick Cotter, Sanctuary Diving Supervisor

Web Site: <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Educate/divered.html>

Email: mbnms_dpp@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov

Telephone: (831) 647-4252

Fax: (831) 674-4250

Permission to Use Copyright Protected Photographic Slides

I, _____ (print name), give my permission to the

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (the Sanctuary) to use

copyrighted slides that belong to me. Use of my photographic slide will

be limited to educational and publicity purposes related to the

Sanctuary. Such uses may include: (1) press releases, (2) news stories

in newspapers and television news programs only, (3) static and portable

displays, (4) information brochures, (5) slide presentations, (6) office displays, and (7) other educational materials. Permission to use my copyrighted slides for stories in magazines that normally pay for the use of photographs is not included in this release.

My permission to use photographic slides includes does not include (circle one) use on the Sanctuary's Internet website (<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>).

My permission does not extend to the sale of photographic materials owned by me or use in materials that may be sold, other than standard newspapers.

Credit for my photographic work shall be given where appropriate. Whenever possible, the credit shall appear with the image, rather than on a master credit list located elsewhere in a publication. I have printed the proper citation for the photographic credit and the title and location of each photographic slide covered by this permission statement in the appropriate lines below.

Printed Name for Photographic Credit

Title of Photograph and Location

Title of Photograph and Location

Title of Photograph and Location

Signature

Date

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Diving Brochure Photo Contest

May 8, 2000

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NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries Celebrate Earth Day



Join in the fun at <http://www.coral.org/divein.html>

See also President Clinton and Vice President Gore's on "A Healthy Environment for the 21st Century" at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ/earthdayreport/ch6.html>

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is involved in a major Earth Day festival for Saturday, April 22, 2000 at Santa Barbara City College. This festival is in partnership with all aspects of the community including schools, businesses, government agencies, environmental organizations, and social service organizations. Over 30,000 people are expected to celebrate this year's 30th Anniversary Earth Day Festival. Food, music, exhibits - a celebration to be sure! For more information, see <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/calendar.stm>.

Contact: Julie Goodson, Education Coordinator
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
113 Harbor Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
805/ 966-7107 x462 (phone)
805/ 568-1582 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov>

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary will be sponsoring the second annual "Trash 'n' Fashion" show. It's just what it sounds like: participants use collected trash from beach areas to make a costume for a fashion show. Schools and local village groups are invited.

The Sanctuary will also sponsor a dive cleanup with the new dive club in American Samoa.

Contact: Puni Lagai, Education Coordinator
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 4318
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
684/ 633-7354 (phone)
684/ 633-7355 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.fbnms.nos.noaa.gov/>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

On April 22, Florida Keys Sanctuary National Marine Sanctuary will

assist with the Earth Day event at Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada. The event is co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and Cheeca Lodge. Staff will assist with the children's catch-and-release fishing tournament and the Kids Critter Costume Parade and Contest. In addition, the Sanctuary will sponsor a booth with children's activities such as decorating sunglasses, making friendship bracelets, and decorating grocery bags for local stores to encourage recycling. The highlights of the day are the sand sculpture contest, EARTH DAY 2000, and helicopter fly over.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park will be sponsoring an Earth Day event on April 29. The Sanctuary will have a display and children's activities. Staff will also give a 45-minute slide presentation in the auditorium about the Keys ecosystem and the Sanctuary.

The 2000 Adopt-A-Reef season will kickoff on Saturday April 29. The reef cleanup is being sponsored by Sharky's Dive Center, Key Largo (Mile Marker 100). The cost of the trip is \$30 per diver and includes tanks and weights. A 25% discount is available on rental equipment for the day. Space is limited to 20 divers, and training in reef cleaning techniques is provided prior to the dive. Eight other Adopt-A-Reef dives will take place at various dive shops before the end of June.

Contact: Mary Tagliareni, Education Coordinator
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 1083
Key Largo, FL 33037
305/852-7717 (phone)
305/852-0877 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov>

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary will be participating in two Earth Day celebrations. On April 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Sanctuary will be at North Harris College in Houston. There will be a kids area with hands-on activities, an adult oriented area with exhibits, and a series of speakers throughout the day.

The NOAA Fisheries Laboratory in Galveston is hosting a four-day event. Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary will participate in the April 20 event, and possibly also in the other three days. The

schedule is:

April 17 - Partnership Recognition Day

April 18 - Public and Volunteers Recognition Day

April 19 - Open House for Public Schools

April 20 - Special Ceremony, featuring the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, The Honorable Robert Mallett and other VIPs. Activities include:

- a celebration of NOAA's stewardship of the nation's living marine resources
- recognition of the importance of NOAA's Galveston laboratory
- the dedication of two renovated research buildings at historic Ft. Crockett
- special recognition of the special people, agencies and institutions who are NOAA's indispensable partners (Environmental Hero awards)
- an announcement of the National Marine Fisheries Service memoranda of understanding with various entities, including the National Ocean Service.

Contact: Shelly Du Puy, Education Coordinator
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
216 West 26th Street, Suite 104
Bryan, TX 77803
409/ 779-2705 (phone)
409/ 779-2334 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.flowergarden.nos.noaa.gov>

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary will be celebrating Earth Day with Ocean Fest on River Street at Rousakis Park in downtown Savannah. It will take place on April 22 from noon until 5:00 p.m. The NOAA ship *Ferrel* will be docked along side Rousakis Park and will be open for tours. Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary hopes to have a model of DeepWorker 2000, a submersible used in marine sanctuary expeditions, on display as well as many hands-on exhibits from area organizations and institutions. Some of the more popular venues include touch tanks and marine life printing. "Mr. & Mrs. Fish" will be on hand to entertain and educate as well as local puppeteers. Several bands and musical groups will celebrate the Earth and its Water through their various styles of music.

Contact: Cathy Sakas, Education Coordinator

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
912/ 598-2345 (phone)
912/ 598-2367 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov>

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (through the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association) will participate in the San Mateo Coast Earth Fair located in Half Moon Bay on April 22, 2000. Staff will set up an exhibit displaying information about the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, and the various volunteer programs they sponsor, such as BeachWatch and the SEALS program. Staff will also have some interactive activities for kids, display artifacts, and brochures and informational fact sheets about the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Contact: Maria Brown, Director
Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association
Fort Mason Building #201
San Francisco, CA 94123
415/ 561-6622 (phone)
415/ 561-6616 (fax)
Web address: <http://www.gfnms.nos.noaa.gov/>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary will participate in the Molokai Earth Day Celebration on April 21. This event is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Chapter. Sanctuary staff will give presentations about the Sanctuary to Molokai students in the morning and participate in the Earth Day celebrations in the evening.

Contact: Claire Capelle, Maui Liaison
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

808/ 879-2818 (phone)

808/ 874-3815 (fax)

Web address: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/oms/omshawaii/omshawaii.html>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will help host an event on Earth Day called "Snapshot Day," which is meant to draw public attention to water quality issues in the watersheds that drain to the Sanctuary and to the role of volunteer monitoring. This is part of a California Coastal Zone Management Program grant the Sanctuary is working on with two non-profit organizations -- the Center for Marine Conservation and Coastal Watershed Council -- to support a Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network.

For Snapshot Day, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is trying to organize as many volunteers as possible to go out during a 2-hour period on Earth Day and collect data for some basic water quality monitoring parameters in local streams (from San Mateo County all the way down to Cambria). These parameters will include, for example, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, as well as snapshots (literally) of the streams and riparian areas, and macroinvertebrates (in some of the streams). The volunteers will also grab water samples, which will be tested for nutrients, bacteria, and perhaps some metals by local agency labs. In this way, partnership between local agencies and the volunteer monitors will be fostered.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will piggyback this effort with other volunteer efforts, including a beach and stream-side cleanup (sponsored by the California Coastal Commission), to help make the connection between trash upland and its path to the sea.

Contact: Susan Pufahl, Water Quality Specialist

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street, Suite A

Monterey, CA 93940

408/ 647-4256 (phone)

408/ 647-4250 (fax)

Web address: <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary will be supporting an Olympic Coast Clean-Up on Saturday, April 29 along with the Olympic National Park and a myriad of other organizations. Energized by a partnership of community service organizations, businesses and government agencies, volunteers will gather on the Olympic Coast between Shi Shi Beach and South Kalaloch Beach to collect and remove marine debris during this major cleanup effort. This important community effort will help preserve the natural beauty of the beautiful Washington wilderness beaches. The event is being organized by Jan Klippert.

Contact: Bob Steelquist, Education Coordinator
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
138 West First Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360/ 457-6622 (phone)
360/ 457-8496 (fax)

Web address:<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/oms/omsolympic/omsolympic.html>

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March 29, 2000

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Sustainable Seas Expeditions Work Ocean Magic with Hawaiian Students



A rainbow illuminates the Hawaiian landscape during the SSE Expeditions. (Photo: Claire Cappelle)

Over 400 students in Hawaii were fortunate to get a closer look at the Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) during its two week visit to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback National Marine Sanctuary. Meanwhile, beneath the waves a 6-foot octopus got a closer look at aquanauts aboard Deep Work submersible as they traveled through dense colonies of black coral and a forest of plants off the coast of Maui and Lanai.

SSE, joins NOAA and the National Geographic Society with support from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, in a 5-year project to explore the nation's 12 marine sanctuaries using sophisticated new submersible technology. Hawaii was the Expeditions' tenth since its launch in April 1998.

On Tuesday, January 25, over 80 students from the Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa took part in a Student Summit. The next day,

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120 local students traveled to Maui to board three whale watch vessels (donated by three local whale watching companies) where they recorded whale sightings, conducted water quality tests, and participated in other marine research activities. On another excursion, 15 students and three teachers boarded the NOAA's ship *Ka'imimoana* to shadow pilots and scientists and learn about ship board operations, the DeepWorker and sanctuary research.

During the SSE Expeditions, approximately 200 students boarded Atlantis Adventures submarines in Kona and Maui to do fish counts and monitoring activities. Students aboard the Maui *Atlantis* submarine were also in the unique position of being part of the first ever submersible rendezvous! *Atlantis* submarine was joined by two DeepWorkers piloted by National Geographic Society's Explorer-in-Residence and SSE Director Dr. Sylvia Earle and Sanctuaries' National Science Coordinator Steve Gittings.

Educators and scientists benefited too from the Hawaii Expeditions. During the first leg, SSE explorers practiced shipboard procedures, tested the submersibles and their equipment, conducted pilot checkout dives, and conducted dives for education and outreach purposes. The second leg focused on research dives in the four island region of Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe.

The Hawaii Expedition was a joint endeavor with American Marine Corporation which provided a vessel, *American Islander*, two submersibles (DeepWorker #8 and #9) and personnel support. NOAA's ship *Ka'imimoana*



Students get an up close look at the DeepWorker and learn more about sanctuary research. (Photo: Laura Francis)

was used as a multi purpose platform for launch and recovery, night acoustic surveys and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) work. Sanctuary research dives quickly surpassed everyone's greatest expectations.

Overall, 25 dives were completed during the mission including four night dives. The deepest dive for a SSE mission was obtained off Palaoa (sperm whale) Point, Lanai where the DeepWorker dove to 1,299 feet. A rare pelagic octopod, *Haliphron atlanticus*, was observed and captured on film by Dr. Earle on the last dive of the mission. Several habitat characterization and black coral survey dives were conducted off Lahaina. In addition, explorers surveyed the Lahaina Roads area, a "drowned reef" 2-3 miles off Lahaina. This unique lagoon features black coral along the walls of the former freshwater lake and Halimeda and Rhodolith communities on the bottom floor.

At the conclusion, the explorers--both SSE and student--pronounced the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary expedition a resounding success. The mission log and more extensive details about this mission can be found at <http://sustainableseas.noaa.gov/>.

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February 8, 2000

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Sanctuaries Join to Aid Samoan Coral Reef



Coral reefs threatened by the removal of grounded vessels in Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa are now a little bit safer through the efforts of the Florida Keys and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sanctuary staff move threatened coral to a safer place while wrecked vessels are dismantled nearby. When the work is done, the coral will be returned to their original home. (Photo: Doug Helton, Office of Response and Restoration, OR & R)

Florida Keys Sanctuary Regional Biologist Harold Hudson and Resource Manager

Bill Goodwin traveled to the island of Tutuila recently to assist in relocating threatened coral while efforts were underway to remove the vessels resting on the harbor's two coral reef flat. In Samoa, the team was joined by Fagatele Bay Sanctuary Manager Nancy Daschbach.

Nine long line fishing vessels grounded in the area during Hurricane Val nine years ago: two on the reef flats in the mouth of the harbor and seven further within the harbor proper. The vessels' owners were never located, and no one could be held financially responsible for the groundings. Funds were only recently made available to remove the rusted vessels from the sea bottom.

The U.S. Coast Guard began dismantling the vessels as part of an

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emergency response effort to remove the oil and hazardous materials. (NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is leading co-trustees from American Samoa and the Department of the Interior in an emergency restoration effort under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.) These



Rusted vessels marred Samoan harbors before their recent removal. Underneath the wreck vessels, some coral communities still remain. (Photo: Doug Helton, OR & R)

restoration efforts include conducting complete vessel removal to allow natural recovery in areas that have been under the vessel footprints, repairing gouges in the substrate, conducting coral transplants, and validating the Aua transect, a source of long-term monitoring data on Pacific coral systems.

The Coast Guard removal plan required constructing earthen causeways to the vessels that would then allow for the passage of heavy equipment to the site. Resembling a "giant pair of scissor-like arms," this equipment breaks the vessels into smaller, more manageable pieces. Unfortunately, the causeways would have damaged coral reefs during the process.

During an earlier visit to Samoa, Goodwin and Hudson completed underwater video transects to evaluate the condition of the coral colonies living near the grounded vessels. This evaluation supported an assessment of options for moving coral colonies to another area of the reef tract while the U.S. Coast Guard and the natural resources trustees, including NOAA, completed vessel removal efforts. Based upon this assessment, coral colonies were moved out of harm's way and into a rubble zone--a part of the reef normally populated with pieces of coral broken into the fore reef during storms and flung backside of the reef.

The resident coral species reflect a rich tapestry of color beneath the surface: *Pocillopora*, a brown coral with purple, pink or yellow-green cast; the chocolate brown *Porites*, and the light yellowish brown *Acropora*.

"It's not the main part of the reef. It's the fore reef's not so glamorous brother," said Goodwin. "But, it's still an important habitat, and it provides homes for a lot of invertebrates--octopus, sea urchins, mollusks, crab and shrimp. It serves as a fabulous nursery area and permanent residence for a variety of aquarium size fish."

After their initial visit, Goodwin and Hudson worked with the Damage Assessment Center within NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration to support the development of an emergency restoration plan for protecting the threatened coral colonies. Funding for these emergency restoration activities were acquired from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund since funding was not available from the responsible parties. Later, Goodwin and Hudson worked with sanctuary manager Nancy Daschbach and a team of volunteers to successfully move significant coral colonies out of the construction area.

Participants in the coral transplanting efforts included federal and local government representatives, Americorps volunteers, a local high school science club, and the Sanctuary manager's 8 and 13-year-old daughters. Over 2,500 corals were removed from the areas around the two vessels as well as along a proposed causeway path. Nearly 1,000 of the corals were tagged and placed in a safe area about 100 meters from the boats. The rest were strewn randomly in that same area.

"Fagatele Bay Sanctuary has been involved in local efforts to remove the long liners for many years, and we are gratified to see them gradually disappearing, " said Daschbach. "The work to save corals in an area that has been rapidly recovering from the multiple insults of the hurricane, the groundings, and coral bleaching certainly highlights our mandate of marine resource protection."

The new location, while safe from heavy equipment, is still a tenuous one for the coral, says Goodwin. Their safety depends on the absence of storms and other hazards. "I would have certainly preferred to have left the corals in place, but the alternative location leaves them in a much better position than if they were in the path of tons of rock and road fill."

Once the vessels are removed, the coral will be moved back to their original homes and reattached. With American Samoa celebrating its 100 anniversary in 2000 and plans for holding a Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Pago Pago, the vessels' removal became a priority says

Daschbach.

"The Sanctuary's assistance on this partnership between the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and the American Samoa Government highlights the multi-level participation that has made this effort possible," said Sanctuary Manager Daschbach.

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Sanctuary staff aided firefighters in the battling the flames on Stearns Wharf. Photo: Ed Cassano

NOAA's Channel Islands Sanctuary Heroes honored with DOC Silver Medal

Managers of National Marine Sanctuaries are no strangers to putting out fires. Every day they balance the needs and desires of a sanctuary's many visitors with the protection of vulnerable marine resources. Last November, NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Manager Lieutenant Commander Ed Cassano quickly moved from fighting metaphorical fires to actual firefighting when he and other sanctuary personnel helped to battle an intense fire engulfing a Santa Barbara seaside wharf.

A year later in a December 7, 1999 ceremony in Washington, D.C., Department of Commerce Secretary William F. Daley honored Cassano and Sanctuary Assistant Manager Lieutenant Stephen Beckwith for public service and heroism in their efforts to assist the

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Santa Barbara Fire Department, Santa Barbara Harbor, Patrol and the U.S. Coast Guard in fighting the fire on Stearns Wharf.

During the height of the 1998 inferno, Cassano, Beckwith and sanctuary intern Adam Petusky, aboard the Sanctuary R/V *Ballena*, transported Coast Guardsmen Jack Jackson to the scene of the fire. In dense smoke, the men searched the water for people who may have been forced to jump into the water to escape the blaze. Then with the Coast Guard, they opened the firefighting pumps and worked throughout the night.



Coast Guard and Sanctuary staff worked together to fight a night time blaze engulfing historic Stearns Wharf. Standing left to right are Stephen Beckwith, Ed Cassano and Adam Petusky. Photo: NOAA's Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary.

"The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is part of the greater community of Santa Barbara," said Cassano. "It was a scary night. The real heroes of the fire were the Santa Barbara Fire Department. We are glad to assist and be a part of the community's efforts to save this historic landmark."

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Sustainable Seas Expedition 2000



After a successful year conducting more than 150 submersible dives in nine of NOAA's marine sanctuaries, Sustainable Seas Expedition explorers are looking to 2000 with renewed energy and enthusiasm in their quest to learn more these unique protected

Sustainable Seas Expeditions explorers hope to videotape Hawaiian humpback whales in next year's mission. (Photo: Dr. Joe Mobley)

areas. Sustainable Seas Expeditions is administered by the National Geographic Society in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and funded by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The 5-year scientific mission to explore our nation's marine sanctuaries uses DeepWorker, a one-pilot submersible and is led by National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia Earle.

During the FY 2000 field season, the explorers will begin to focus research efforts-- visiting fewer sites for longer periods of time. Scientists anticipate that this strategy will result in the collection of information useful in sanctuary site characterization efforts, provide

researchers with data to complement ongoing scientific research, and provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the DeepWorker submersible's capabilities.

As currently scheduled, SSE will conduct submersible operations at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale, Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, *Monitor*, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries. A SCUBA and ROV mission is tentatively scheduled for the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary in American Samoa. Other potential expeditions include the "Dead Zone" off the coast of Louisiana and Texas and the Florida Middle Grounds.

The goals of the new year's first expedition in Hawaii include an assessment of potential food sources in the mesopelagic zone, an assessment of bottom characteristics in areas heavily used by whales, and an evaluation of the effect of the DeepWorker on whale behavior. In addition, expedition researcher are hoping for the opportunity to collect video footage and audio recordings of whales.

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November 1, 1999

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New Monitor Exhibit Opens

A nearly full-scale replica of the *Monitor's* famous revolving turret is the centerpiece of a dramatic new exhibition on the USS *Monitor* and the *Monitor* Sanctuary that opened at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, on September 25. The 9-foot high, 20-foot diameter turret (the *Monitor's* turret is actually 22 feet) has interior exhibit space featuring the brass signal lantern recovered from the Sanctuary in 1977. Archivists believe that this lantern may be the one used as a distress signal the night the *Monitor* sank off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The exhibition holds numerous other artifacts recovered from the *Monitor* including the unique four-fluked anchor designed by John Ericsson. Photographs and video of the wreck tell the story of NOAA's efforts to preserve this significant part of American history.

The *Monitor* Collection was established in 1984 to formally incorporate all historical and research data that had been generated by NOAA and

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agencies and individuals who had assisted in various aspects of research and management of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary. In 1986, NOAA recognized the need for specialized care of this collection and solicited proposals from maritime museums for long-term curation of the Collection, which was expanded to include artifacts recovered from the sanctuary. In 1987, The Mariners' Museum was selected principal museum for the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary.



The exhibit holds a distress lantern that may have been lit the night the *Monitor* sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras? (Photo: Monitor NMS)

Because the *Monitor* Collection is a federal collection under the ultimate jurisdiction of the National Archives, the museum was designated a regional repository under National Archives guidelines. Under a cooperative agreement with NOAA, the museum provides curatorial services for the Collection, including reviewing and making recommendations on requests for artifact loans.

The more than 100 artifacts recovered from the wreck of the *Monitor* includes the ship's anchor, numerous condiment bottles, dinnerware, a portion of leather bookbinding, and the brass signal lantern with a red lens. Papers in the *Monitor* Collection include historical information on the *Monitor's* officers and crew, technical and historical reports and studies, news articles, publications, and information on other monitor-type vessels as well as *CSS Virginia*. The collection also includes slides, photographs, and videotapes generated by numerous expeditions to the site. Several private collections of *Monitor* material have been donated to the *Monitor* Collection, most recently the papers of Capt. Ernest W. Peterkin (USNR Ret.) a long-time *Monitor* researcher and expert on her construction.

The *Monitor* Collection is housed in The Mariners' Museum Research Library and is available to the public by appointment Monday through Friday. See the Mariners' Museum Web Page for more information <http://www.mariner.org/>.

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