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[Dec. 15, 2003](#)--The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) have joined forces to uncover the secrets of a technological marvel of the Civil War era akin to the USS Monitor and the CSS Hunley: the USS *Alligator*. Launched in 1862, the *Alligator* was the U.S. Navy's first submarine. While the vessel represented a significant leap forward in naval engineering, complete information about its design and fate has been elusive. Today, NOAA and ONR released findings that help fill large gaps in the history of the all-but-forgotten Union submarine, including details about the *Alligator's* inventor, innovative features and loss in April 1863.

[Nov. 7, 2003](#)--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants to fill eight Sanctuary Advisory Council seats representing agriculture, business/industry, conservation, fishing, recreation, research, and two community at-large seats. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

[Nov. 4, 2003](#)--A Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants to fill five vacant alternate slots and one vacant primary for its Sanctuary Advisory Council.

[Oct. 31, 2003](#)--A dedicated cadre of citizen volunteers braved the elements today to help determine the amount of pollution the season's first significant rains wash into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Close to 50 volunteers collected water samples from the rain's "First Flush" at Pacific Grove, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Half Moon Bay, Calif. The National Marine Sanctuary system is part of the

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Commerce Department's NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Oct. 29, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary today launched a new state-of-the-art Web site that provides users fast, easy access to the latest high quality scientific research and monitoring information on the sanctuary's major habitats, species and issues.

Oct. 22, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Michigan announce the appointment of five members and alternates for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Advisory Council.

Oct. 20, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded funds for projects that promote environmental and marine education and focus on educating students and teachers about the Monterey Bay watershed. Grants are administered through NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office to environmental education organizations located throughout the Monterey Bay watershed.

Sept. 25, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today announced the newly selected members and alternates to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council (Council).

Sept. 25, 2003--The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) will hold a public meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council on Sept. 30, 2003 in Honolulu.

Sept. 16, 2003--Hundreds of volunteers will spend Saturday, Sept. 20, 2003 in the largest volunteer beach cleanup event in the world by clearing debris from California beaches and waterways, including those bordering the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The event marks the 19th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, sponsored countywide this year by the sanctuary.

Sept. 16, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has named three Florida Keys

residents to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Sept. 16, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut (NURC-UConn) returned Monday to the wreck of the famed 19th-century steamship Portland, kicking off a week-long expedition to peer into the vessel's past and plan for its future. The NOAA-UConn team is conducting the first surveys of the Portland since they confirmed its location in August 2002 within NOAA's Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) off the coast of Massachusetts.

Sept. 5, 2003--Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants for three Sanctuary Advisory Council seats representing local conservation, living resources research and university education interests.

Sept. 3, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the State of Florida are seeking applicants to fill open positions on the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Sept. 2, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council will sponsor a workshop Sept. 3-5, to assess ship strike risks to whales in Hawaii. The council will bring together more than 80 resource managers, scientists and representatives of the marine community to identify possible actions to reduce the occurrence of vessel-whale collision in Hawaiian waters and throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System.

July 23, 2003--Newport News, VA - After five years of successful large artifact recovery missions, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today begins a four-week expedition at the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary to examine the condition of the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS Monitor. The expedition is a cooperative effort involving NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, the National Undersea Research Center (NURC) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNC-W), the Maritime Studies Program at East Carolina University (ECU) and The Mariners' Museum.

July 10, 2003--The NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants to fill six vacant Sanctuary Advisory Council seats. The seats available are for non-governmental members and include members from the following counties: Hawai`i, Honolulu, Kaua`i, and Maui, and representatives from the Education and Research communities.

June 19, 2003--NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Commerce Department, has charged the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation (PSRF), located in Santa Cruz, Calif., with two counts of violating conditions of their Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary permit for white shark research.

June 17, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has released a set of proposed actions for a revised Sanctuary Management Plan that addresses a range of critical ocean issues. Most of the proposed action plans were developed by public working groups established by the Sanctuary's Advisory Council and composed of a broad spectrum of affected stakeholders, the public, sanctuary staff and other agencies. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

June 16, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that Naomi McIntosh has been selected as manager of NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary on June 15, 2003. McIntosh had served as the acting manager since September 2000.

June 9, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that Dan Howard will become the manager of NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary on June 15, 2003. Previously, there had been one manager for both Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. This action officially separates the management for the two sites.

June 6, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program today announced their intention to institute a 60-day emergency closure of two patch reefs off Key Largo in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to all activities except permitted scientific research due to a fast-spreading coral disease. No person or vessels will be allowed to enter the closed area during the quarantined period. Notice of the closure will be published in the Federal Register next week. NOAA is an agency of

the U.S. Department of Commerce.

June 3, 2003--Attorneys for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have issued a \$20,000 civil penalty in the case of a vessel cited for illegal long-line fishing in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's protected Tortugas Ecological Reserve. NOAA has also obtained a settlement in a December 2002 Tortugas shrimping case.

May 28, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve announced today the opening of Mokupāpapa: Discovery Center for Hawaii's Remote Coral Reefs, the new, interactive educational facility that utilizes a variety of learning tools to teach visitors and school students about Hawaii's oldest islands and atolls. The Center emphasizes marine life, and the natural and cultural resources contained within the nation's largest conservation area. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

May 19, 2003--More than 100 scientists, educators and resource managers who met in Honolulu last week laid the groundwork for a regional action plan for one of the nation's unique marine treasures, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program sponsored the first collaborative workshop of its kind in more than 20 years.

May 16, 2003--Thousands of volunteers will spend Saturday, May 17th testing the quality of river and stream waters in California's coastal watersheds, including the 11 major watersheds that drain into the NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The effort is part of the fourth annual "Snapshot" Day, a one-day simultaneous water quality monitoring event where trained volunteers collect important information about the health of rivers and streams that flow into the ocean.

May 14, 2003--The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, managed by NOAA, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Michigan, is seeking five volunteer advisors, and five alternates, to serve as education, tourism, diving, maritime history and interpretation and citizen at large representatives on the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for two-year terms.

May 12, 2003--The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) christened the R/V Shearwater, a 62', high-speed Teknicraft aluminum-hull catamaran research vessel. This new vessel will be an important new tool to enhance research in the California National Marine Sanctuaries.

April 18, 2003--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for a Tourism representative (Alternate) seat on the Sanctuary's Advisory Council. The general public is welcome to apply and the candidate selected should expect to serve until February 2005. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

April 2, 2003--NOAA's Monterey Bay Sanctuary and the Coastal Watershed Council released a report that shows high concentrations of pollutants were detected in Pacific Grove, Monterey, Capitola and Santa Cruz, Calif., storm drains following last fall's first major rain storm event.

March 19, 2003--Officials from the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today announced proposed plans to upgrade and expand its Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) headquarters in Kihei, Hawai`i. The plans call for demolition and removal of two antiquated storage buildings, construction of a new multi-purpose building, installation of a new parking lot and site landscaping such as an outdoor courtyard.

March 9, 2003--In a historic step toward better preserving and managing our nation's maritime heritage, the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) broke ground today at the site of NOAA's new Maritime Archaeology Center (MAC) at The Mariners' Museum.

February 13, 2003--Attorneys for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have issued a \$20,000 civil penalty in the case of a vessel cited for illegal shrimp trawling in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's protected Tortugas Ecological Reserve last December.

January 13, 2003--The Department of Commerce has awarded its Bronze Medal to NOAA National Ocean Service biologist John Halas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for developing a mooring, or fastening, device designed to protect countless acres of

coral reef from anchor damage. His invention is being used throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and marine protected areas worldwide. The Bronze Medal is the highest honorary award given by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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[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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[December 16, 2002](#)--The NOAA Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary today released the first image of historic shipwrecks, the schooners *Frank A. Palmer* and *Louise B. Crary*. The two vessels were bringing coal to Boston when they collided and sank together 100 years ago this week. Side scan sonar images clearly show the hulls of the two large sailing vessels still locked at their bows. The wrecks are off the Massachusetts coast located within the boundaries of the sanctuary managed by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

[December 10, 2002](#)--New nautical charts delivered after December 1 will depict the waters of the NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as an area to be voluntarily avoided by ships greater than 1,600 tons, said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sanctuary officials. Although voluntary, the measure is expected to keep large commercial ships further offshore to reduce the threat of oil spills at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and for the outer Washington Coast. NOAA is an agency of the Commerce Department.

[November 26, 2002](#)--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary has released three new side-scan sonar images of the coastal steam ship *Portland*, which rests on the sea floor of the sanctuary. The ship sank November 27, 1898, during the infamous "Portland Gale of 1898" with the loss of all 192 passengers and crew.

[November 13, 2002](#)--Deputy Secretary of Commerce Sam Bodman joined with shipping industry representatives today to announce that the department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has taken historic steps through the International Maritime

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Organization (IMO) to create the first U.S. zone to protect coral from anchors, groundings and collisions from large international ships. The zone, known as the Florida Keys' Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, is more than 3,000 square nautical miles and is one of only five such areas in the world.

November 7, 2002--In an effort to determine the amount of pollution the heavy rains wash into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, more than 24 volunteers worked with sanctuary staff and the Coastal Watershed Council early this morning to collect water samples from the rain's "First Flush" at Capitola and Santa Cruz, Calif. An additional 31 volunteers stand ready in Monterey and Pacific Grove to collect samples once the rains hit Monterey County later today. Based on the findings from 19 collection sites, education programs can then be designed and prioritized to reduce the pollution flowing into the sanctuary. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary is managed by Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

November 4, 2002--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for a Citizen At-Large representative on the Sanctuary's Advisory Council. One member and one alternate will be chosen for the council position. The general public is welcome to apply and candidates selected should expect to serve until February 2005. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

October 17, 2002--Archaeologists and conservators from Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and The Mariners' Museum have recovered a wide array of artifacts that range from clothing to cannon parts after weeks of digging through more than four feet of 140-year-old silt that filled the USS *Monitor* gun turret. The Civil War gun turret was recovered from the bottom of NOAA's *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary on Aug. 5, 2002, during a 41-day expedition that brought the turret to The Mariners' Museum for further excavation and conservation.

September 12, 2002-- The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that Hawaii Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano has approved a revised final management plan that guides the operation of NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in state waters for the next five years.

September 9, 2002--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today announced Christopher T. Mobley will become the manager of NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary on Nov. 1, 2002.

September 5, 2002--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a series of free weekend community events focused on promoting coastal awareness, ocean exploration and environmental stewardship throughout the month of September.

August 29, 2002--The U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today confirmed the final resting place of New England's most sought after and mysterious wreck, the steamship *Portland*. All 192 passengers and crew were lost in the Nov. 27, 1898 storm. The wreck is located within NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Massachusetts.

August 28, 2002--Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) will continue a unique collaboration with Dr. Robert Ballard (discoverer of the *Titanic*, *PT109*) and his scientific team from the Institute for Exploration (IFE) in a mission to explore and document the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve off the coast of Alpena, Mich.

August 5, 2002--Today, at 5:55 p.m., the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U. S. Navy succeeded in raising the world's first armored revolving gun turret from the wreck of the famous Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor*, which rests below 240 feet of water 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." Also recovered today were the vessel's two large Dahlgren cannons.

July 19, 2002--Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary will celebrate its 10th anniversary at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, Mass., on Saturday with a free festival of exhibits and family activities. The 842-square-mile sanctuary of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is home to many species of marine mammals, seabirds and fish, including the endangered northern right whale.

July 15, 2002-- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) researchers revealed initial findings today from a recent expedition to a shipwreck [*Pac Baroness*] near NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off Point Conception, Calif. NOAA is an agency of the Commerce Department.

July 10, 2002--Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants for nine Sanctuary Advisory Council seats. The seats available are for non-governmental members and include business/commerce, citizen-at-large, commercial shipping, conservation, fishing, native Hawaiian, ocean recreation, tourism and whale watching positions.

July 8, 2002--Wreckage was completely cleared today from the USS *Monitor's* famous and historic gun turret for the first time in 140 years. A team of U.S. Navy divers and scientists from the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration succeeded in removing a section of hull and armor belt that has covered the turret since the warship sank on New Year's Eve 1862 off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

July 3, 2002--Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants for eight Sanctuary Advisory Council seats. The seats available include the conservation, sport diving, sport fishing, education and research positions.

July 2, 2002--Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary has invited educators from around the country to get out of their classroom and into the Gulf of Mexico for a week-long educators' underwater exploration workshop, "Down Under, Out Yonder." The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manages the Flower Garden Bank Sanctuary, which organizes this popular annual event.

June 28, 2002--The Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is opening its management plan review for public comment July 1 - October 18. The plan is found on the sanctuary's Web site and a public meeting schedule will soon be posted.

June 27, 2002--The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Navy and The Mariners'

Museum have begun the process of recovering the USS *Monitor's* revolving gun turret and cannons from the wreck of the famous Civil War ironclad that rests below 240 feet of water in the Atlantic off Cape Hatteras, N.C. The site is designated a NOAA national marine sanctuary.

June 25, 2002-- One of the most famous coral reefs in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, severely damaged in 1984 when a ship ran aground, is getting a helping hand toward recovery. The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has begun the restoration of the freighter Wellwood grounding site at Molasses Reef off Key Largo.

June 24, 2002--The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has contracted with AMS Planning & Research of Petaluma, Calif., to conduct a comparative feasibility study of potential locations for a new marine sanctuary visitor education center. Funding for the \$150,000 contract comes from the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which manages the sanctuary.

JUNE 6, 2002--On June 11th scientists and resource managers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will start probing the depths of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as the final leg of a two month excursion into new underwater environments. The program is called Sanctuary Quest: West Coast Expedition 2002, and is run by the sanctuary program of NOAA's National Ocean Service. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

JUNE 4, 2002-- Sailor, educator and marine mammal researcher Carol Keiper of Benicia, Calif., has been named Chair of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and Joe Smith, Board member with the West Marin Chamber of Commerce from Marshall, Calif., has been named Vice Chair. The council is composed of private sector and government representatives who provide advice and recommendations to the Sanctuary Manager for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on issues affecting the 398-square nautical mile Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

JUNE 4, 2002 --Commercial fisher Barbara Emley of San Francisco has been named Chair of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and Bob Breen, a marine reserve naturalist from Montara, has been named Vice Chair.

The council is composed of private sector and government representatives who provide advice and recommendations to the Sanctuary Manager for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on issues affecting the 937 square nautical mile Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

MAY 23, 2002--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the state of Michigan announced the hiring of Jefferson J. Gray as manager of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Lake Huron. Gray begins his work with the Sanctuary in Alpena, Mich., on July 15, 2002. As manager for the nation's first Great Lakes Sanctuary, Gray will oversee monitoring and preservation of the shipwrecks and other significant cultural resources in Thunder Bay.

MAY 22, 2002-- State waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary reach a higher level of protection on June 19, 2002, when a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) designation takes effect. Under rules published today by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), boaters must pump out their sewage or make sure their marine sanitation devices (MSDs) cannot discharge overboard while in state waters.

MAY 20, 2002-- The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve took a great leap forward in its ability to explore and preserve our nation's maritime history with a new partnership with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) to share use of GLERL's research vessel, the R/V *Shenehon*. Both the Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve and GLERL are managed by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

APRIL 23, 2002--On April 24th, a group of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists and resource managers will start probing the depths of five Pacific Coast national marine sanctuaries on a 60-day excursion into new underwater environments. The program, called Sanctuary Quest: West Coast Expedition 2002, is run by the sanctuary program of NOAA's National Ocean Service. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

APRIL 22, 2002--The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that a team of divers led by a NOAA archaeologist has identified a mystery wreck in

the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as a former Canadian warship. NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program officials plan to nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

APRIL 21, 2002-- Three Florida Keys residents were honored today as "Environmental Heroes" by Scott B. Gudes, Deputy Under Secretary with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), at the annual Earth Day celebration at Cheeca Lodge. George Hommell, Jr., Fran Ford, and Dr. Steve Dimse were recognized for their continuing efforts to protect the environment in the Florida Keys. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

APRIL 18, 2002-- More than 120 trained volunteers will spend Saturday, April 20 testing the quality of stream water in 11 major watersheds that run into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as part of the third annual "Snapshot Day" event sponsored by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

APRIL 4, 2002-- The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Georgia will sponsor the 4th annual Gray's Reef Ocean Fest on April 13, on Savannah's River Street at Rousakis Plaza. The Ocean Fest mixes educational activities and family entertainment to raise awareness of the sanctuary's ecosystem and the ocean environment of Georgia's Low Country.

MARCH 15, 2002-- The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is announcing today four interrelated actions to protect marine life and the pristine condition of the ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The agency's aim is to maintain strong protections for the nation's largest coral reef area and begin the process for designating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve as a National Marine Sanctuary.

FEBRUARY 19, 2002--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary dedicated their new research vessel R/V *Joe Ferguson* in a ceremony today at the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium dock on Skidaway Island, Ga. National Geographic Society Expeditions Leader Joe Ferguson perished along with four students, their teachers and National Geographic Society staff on the aircraft that struck the Pentagon on Sept..

[JANUARY 2, 2002](#)--The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council will meet in a special workshop Thursday, January 17th, 2001 to address concerns about dolphin and whale strandings in the Keys. The public is encouraged to attend the workshop, scheduled for 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Highway, Gulfside.

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DECEMBER 1, 2001--The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has obtained a \$15,000 settlement against two Florida men charged with dumping materials into Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary waters to create illegal habitat to attract lobsters.

NOVEMBER 4, 2001--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) announced today the appointment of Michael Ian Weiss, former Special Advisor to the Assistant Administrator National Ocean Service, as NMSP Deputy Director effective November 5, 2001.

NOVEMBER 1, 2001--The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today the beginning of a joint management-plan review for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. These three California sanctuaries and their communities will jointly evaluate regulations, boundaries and strategies for management and operations.

OCTOBER 30, 2001--The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded its Gold Medal in Heroism to LCDR Mark H. Pickett for "his exemplary courage and heroism in saving the lives of two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) employees after the capsizing of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary *R/V Ballena* on November 4, 2000."

OCTOBER 19, 2001--The public is invited to attend a 2001 Ocean User Workshop to learn about regulations pertaining to safe and responsible whale watching. Representatives of federal and state agencies will be on hand to discuss regulations intended to protect the endangered humpback whale in Hawaiian waters.

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OCTOBER 1, 2001--The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marked the successful completion of two groundbreaking ocean exploration missions and honored U.S. Senator Ernest F. Hollings for his support of ocean science during a waterfront celebration event October 1, 2001 in Charleston, S.C.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2001--A *Time* magazine Hero-of-the-Planet, a vice-president of a major marine research company, and an owner of one of Boston's largest marine commuter vessel companies are among the 21 accomplished individuals who will help guide management of the Gerry E. Studds/Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in Maine.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2001--The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary celebrates its 9th anniversary at the annual Santa Cruz Shark Festival on Sunday, September 30, 2001.

AUGUST 30, 2001--Explorers from the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will voyage to the South Atlantic's deep sea canyons and important underwater habitats during a month-long mission to study unique coral banks and important fishing areas.

JULY 10, 2001--The National Ocean Service, an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), received initial approval for an international measure that furthers existing protection for the Florida Keys.

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NOAA AND U.S. NAVY UNCOVER SECRETS OF LOST CIVIL WAR SUBMARINE USS *ALLIGATOR*

Joint Research Project Yields New Details About The U.S. Navy's First Submarine

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) have joined forces to uncover the secrets of a technological marvel of the Civil War era akin to the USS Monitor and the CSS Hunley: the USS *Alligator*. Launched in 1862, the *Alligator* was the U.S. Navy's first submarine. While the vessel represented a significant leap forward in naval engineering, complete information about its design and fate has been elusive. Today, NOAA and ONR released findings that help fill large gaps in the history of the all-but-forgotten Union submarine, including details about the *Alligator's* inventor, innovative features and loss in April 1863.

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NOAA is excited to partner with the Office of Naval Research to bring the largely untold story of the *Alligator* to the public,” said Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for NOAA’s National Ocean Service. “Through the *Alligator* Project, we are learning not only about revolutionary developments in maritime technology, but also the American Civil War experience and the pioneering spirit that built our great nation.”

“The story of the USS *Alligator* is an exciting one. It’s a mystery,” said Chief of Naval Research RADM Jay Cohen. “The *Alligator* Project will test our ability to find an object in the sea in a reasonable amount of time and at a reasonable cost. If we can find the *Alligator*, we can find anything.”

Among the NOAA-ONR research team’s recent discoveries are the only design drawings of the *Alligator* found to date. Drafted by French inventor Brutus de Villeroi, the drawings provide new details about the vessel’s architecture and breakthrough technologies, including the first diver lockout chamber ever devised for a submarine as a weapons system. NOAA discovered Villeroi’s original, hand-drawn designs in France in May 2003 after a search for *Alligator*-related documents led to the French navy’s historical archives, the Service Historique de la Marine. Along with the design drawings, NOAA also found a number of original, hand-written letters exchanged by Villeroi and the French government. The letters document Villeroi’s repeated but unsuccessful attempts to persuade the government of his native country to purchase his submarine design.

An 1863 letter provides clues about the loss of the *Alligator* off the coast of North Carolina while it was being towed by the USS Sumpter from Washington, D.C., to Charleston, S.C. Sent by the Sumpter’s acting master, J. Winchester, to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells, the letter explains that a fierce storm on April 2, 1863 forced the crew of the Sumpter to cut the submarine loose off Cape Hatteras, N.C. The letter includes details about the climatic conditions, wind direction, ocean temperature, and longitude and latitude of the ship when the *Alligator*’s towline was cut, providing clues about where the submarine may lie.

In an attempt to answer lingering questions surrounding the *Alligator*’s fate, NOAA and ONR enlisted the assistance of U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) students and faculty. Using the details provided in Winchester’s letter, along with available information about the *Alligator* and an analysis of the oceanographic and meteorological conditions that may have existed at the time of the *Alligator*’s loss, the USNA-

NOAA-ONR research team developed a rough estimation of where the green, 47-foot-long submarine may have come to rest. The area identified by the team encompasses part of the infamous “Graveyard of the Atlantic” off Cape Hatteras.

“What makes the *Alligator* so compelling is that it combines history, mystery and technology,” said Daniel J. Basta, director of NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program, which houses NOAA’s new Maritime Heritage Program and manages the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. “Everyone has a role to play in the hunt for the *Alligator*. We encourage others to join us as we continue to uncover the secrets of the *Alligator* and push the limits of ocean exploration.”

NOAA and ONR initiated the *Alligator* Project in 2002 in an effort to shed new light on America’s maritime heritage. In October 2003, at a special symposium, NOAA and ONR brought together experts in naval history, maritime archaeology, oceanography, engineering and ocean exploration to exchange information about the *Alligator* and discuss the possibility of locating and recovering this historic vessel.

The information released today, including images of the *Alligator* design drawings, historical documents, and a map depicting the last reported position of the submarine, are available on the *Alligator* Project Web site at: www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/alligator. A project timeline and brief history of the *Alligator*, based on extensive research conducted by the Office of Naval Research with assistance from historian and artist Jim Christley EMCS(SS), USN (Ret.), and historian and author Mark K. Ragan, is also available on the Web site.

The Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) manages science and technology for the Navy and Marine Corps. ONR sponsors basic and applied research in oceanography, advanced materials, sensors, robotics, biomedical science and technology, electronics, surveillance, mathematics, manufacturing technology, information science, advanced combat systems and technologies for ships, submarines, aircraft and ground vehicles.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

ONR: <http://www.onr.navy.mil>

Alligator Project: <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/alligator>

Revised December 16, 2003 by [Sanctuaries Web Group](#)

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Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R469
Nov. 7, 2003

CONTACT:

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Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA'S MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SEEKS COMMUNITY APPLICANTS FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants to fill eight Sanctuary Advisory Council seats representing agriculture, business/industry, conservation, fishing, recreation, research, and two community at-large seats. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The sanctuary will select a primary member and an alternate for each seat. Alternates attend meetings when members are not available and assume the seat if a member resigns. Members and alternates will serve three-year terms. Current holders of seats may re-apply. The Advisory Council meets bi-monthly in daytime public sessions located throughout the 276-mile boundary of the sanctuary.

Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Considerations include community and professional affiliations, philosophy regarding the

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conservation and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Advisory Council member application packages are available at the sanctuary Web site, <http://montereybay.noaa.gov> or can be obtained by calling (831) 647-4206. Completed applications must be submitted to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA 93940 by close of business December 5, 2003.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 1994 to assure continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the Advisory Council's 20 voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus seven local, state and federal government jurisdictions. Since its establishment, the Advisory Council has played a vital role in advising the Sanctuary and NOAA on critical issues and is currently focused on the sanctuary's development of a new 5-year management plan.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses more than 5,300 square miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, the sanctuary program manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and one coral reef ecosystem reserve that encompass more than 131,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The NOS balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety

through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resource.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R468
Nov. 4, 2003

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Hawaii Islands Humpback Whale
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(808) 397-2651

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL AT HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants to fill five vacant alternate slots and one vacant primary for its Sanctuary Advisory Council.

The vacancies are alternate members from Kauai and Maui counties, and from the Education, Fishing, and Native Hawaiian communities. The primary seat is for the Native Hawaiian community. The seats are vacant because current terms have expired.

The general public is welcome to apply. Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Considerations include community and professional affiliations, philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in Hawaii. Non-governmental terms run for two years and members will serve without pay. The Council meets on average once every two to four months,

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depending on issues. Applicants must be Hawaii residents. Current holders of seats may re-apply.

A council member application package may be obtained by contacting Keeley Belva at (808) 397-2651 or by email at: Keeley.Belva@noaa.gov. Application packages are also available at the Sanctuary Web site: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>. Completed applications should be mailed to Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825. Applications must be received by December 5, 2003.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 1996 to provide advice and recommendations on managing and protecting humpback whales. The Council is composed of 16 government and 15 non-governmental representatives, and represents community interests and concerns to the sanctuary and NOAA. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered through a partnership of NOAA and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitute one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Approximately two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrates to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in calving, nursing and breeding activities.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs.

Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and

research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:
<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R467
Oct. 31, 2003

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Rachel Saunders/NOAA, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary,
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DEDICATED CITIZENS SAMPLE RAINY SEASON'S "FIRST FLUSH" OF STORM WATER INTO NOAA'S MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY

A dedicated cadre of citizen volunteers braved the elements today to help determine the amount of pollution the season's first significant rains wash into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Close to 50 volunteers collected water samples from the rain's "First Flush" at Pacific Grove, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Half Moon Bay, Calif. The National Marine Sanctuary system is part of the Commerce Department's NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Based on the findings from 18 collection sites, education programs and management practices can then be designed and prioritized to reduce pollution flowing into the sanctuary. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary is managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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This is the fourth year for the “First Flush” monitoring event that helps to determine the effects of months of accumulated litter, oil, chemicals and other pollutants washed off city streets and flushed through storm drains into the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. The storm water samples, collected by Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, will be analyzed for oil and grease, metals, nutrients, bacteria, sediment and toxicity. Unlike household sewage, storm drain pollution is not cleansed by sewage treatment plants.

“First Flush is not only a great hands-on community event, but the data collected by the volunteers provides very valuable information to local agencies that are working to improve the quality of the water flowing into the sanctuary,” said Monterey Bay Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros.

“First Flush” volunteers have been on-call since late September awaiting the rains. The groups mobilized at in Santa Cruz at 5:30 a.m. and on the Monterey Peninsula at 7:10 a.m., to monitor storm drain discharges which will help in identifying areas with high pollutant loads.

With funding from the Monterey Bay Sanctuary this year’s event is being expanded to include urban watersheds in Half Moon Bay. Once significant rains fall in Half Moon Bay, local citizen volunteers will sample three different locations following the same protocols as those used for Monterey Bay.

“This will provide new information for a region that has fewer people and less development,” said Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator. “We are excited to learn the results and compare them with the data gathered in the more populated regions around Monterey Bay.”

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network is a consortium of approximately 20 citizen monitoring groups that monitor the health of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The network was established in 1997 and has since provided support, training, and a central forum and database for citizen monitoring programs. “First Flush” is a collaborative effort involving the network and the Coastal Watershed Council. Funding is provided by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Santa Cruz.

Managed by NOAA, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses over 5,300 miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and

remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is now conducting a sanctuary designation process to consider incorporating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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On the Internet:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: <http://mbnmsf.org>

Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network and "First Flush 2002" results: <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/monitoringnetwork/events.html>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R466
Oct. 29, 2003

CONTACT:

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Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

EDUCATORS, RESOURCE MANAGERS, GENERAL PUBLIC TO GET CLOSE LOOK AT MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY THROUGH INTERACTIVE WEB SITE

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary today launched a new state-of-the-art Web site that provides users fast, easy access to the latest high quality scientific research and monitoring information on the sanctuary's major habitats, species and issues.

Operated by the sanctuary's Integrated Monitoring Network - referred to as SIMoN - the website is based on a GIS (Geographic Information System) map of the sanctuary that will also allow users to access actual data and build their own downloadable maps to visually display monitoring results. NOAA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The SIMoN Web site is a powerful new tool for gathering and communicating information on the health of the sanctuary and on-going monitoring efforts to a wide audience," said Monterey Bay

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Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros. “The Web site showcases monitoring projects conducted by hundreds of people, organizations and agencies and provides integrated information for all to use.”

Users may log onto the SIMoN Web site at: <http://www.mbnms-simon.org>. Web site content will be revised on a regular basis to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information. To further build the SIMoN program and expand the Web site, users are encouraged to provide comments, suggestions and information related to additional issue areas and monitoring projects.

The Web site presents information on 15 major sanctuary habitats and issues, including kelp forests, rocky shores, submarine canyons, water quality, marine mammals and seabirds. It includes an interactive mapping application that allows users to create their own maps incorporating information from various data sets. The Web site was developed with contributions from world-class scientists at marine research institutions in and around central California, and some citizen monitoring initiatives.

SIMoN is a regional collaborative effort, designed in partnership with the regional science and management community and operated by the sanctuary in cooperation with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses more than 5,300 square miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world’s most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA’s NMSP seeks to increase public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is now conducting a sanctuary designation process to consider incorporating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: <http://mbnmsf.org>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R463
Oct. 22, 2003

CONTACT:

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THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND UNDERWATER PRESERVE ANNOUNCES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Michigan announce the appointment of five members and alternates for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Advisory Council. NOAA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Twelve people applied for five seats on the Advisory Council. "We had a good response to our request for individuals interested in serving on the Council," said Jeff Gray, sanctuary manager. "We were pleased to see all members re-apply for their seats and to review new applications as well. It creates a positive outlook for the Sanctuary to have both experienced members and new alternates on the Council."

The Council provides advice and recommendations to the Sanctuary Manager and the Joint Management Committee (JMC--a state/federal body to oversee major policy, management and budget issues) on management of the Sanctuary. The Council draws on the expertise of its members and others to provide advice, serve as liaisons between

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their constituents and/or communities and the Sanctuary, serve as a forum for consultation, and may serve as an initial forum for dispute resolution between the Sanctuary and local users and/or stakeholders.

Named to fill the vacant seats for tourism, diving education, maritime history and at large seats were the following:

Tourism (2 year term) - Full member: Deborah L. Pardike; Alternate: Dennis R. Bodem

Diving (2 year term) - Full member: Merl E. Melton; Alternate: Stephen D. Kroll

Education (2 year term) - Full member: Paula J. Thompson; Alternate: Brian L. Tippman

Maritime History/Interpretation (2 year term) - Full member: John W. McConnell; Alternate: R. Eric Cline

Citizen-at-Large - (2 year term) Full member: Betty L. Krueger; Alternate: Marie Kaminski

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated in October 2000 as a state and federal partnership to protect cultural resources within a 448 square mile area of Lake Huron off Alpena, Mich. NOAA and the State of Michigan jointly developed a comprehensive plan to protect and manage these resources.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resource.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve-
<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R461
Oct. 20, 2003

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National Marine Sanctuary Program
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NOAA AWARDS \$250,000 TO EDUCATE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ABOUT THE MONTEREY BAY WATERSHED

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded funds for projects that promote environmental and marine education and focus on educating students and teachers about the Monterey Bay watershed. Grants are administered through NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office to environmental education organizations located throughout the Monterey Bay watershed. NOAA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A total of \$250,516 has been awarded to seven organizations that will introduce 3,950 students and more than 150 teachers to the Sanctuary and the greater marine environment. This year's grant recipients were selected based on criteria that focus on providing students and teachers with "meaningful" outdoor experiences.

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The criteria emphasize sustained, hands-on, multi-disciplinary environmental experiences that are aligned with academic learning standards. Selected projects range from monitoring water quality in the Carmel River to implementing a formal outcomes-based "Certificate Program in Environmental Education and Environmental Service" through California State University Monterey Bay. The following organizations were awarded grants:

Carmel Unified School District

\$49,090 - Middle school students will collect data and monitor the Carmel river to assess the health of the river and watershed.

Monterey High School

\$9,861 - High school students will conduct water quality sampling and intertidal monitoring, conduct statistical analysis on the data, write research papers on the results, and present their findings at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Symposium.

Foundation for California State University Monterey Bay - Camp SEA Lab

\$47,046 - Underserved students will be offered field-based ocean science experiences that include scientific investigations, kayaking and introductions to marine and science careers.

\$24,494 - Teachers from underserved area schools will be introduced to local scientists and human resources to help them implement ocean science curricula and activities in their classroom.

South Coast Wilderness Society

\$30,000 - Underrepresented youth will be introduced to working professionals in the field of natural resources management and will participate in active research and restoration projects through local research organizations.

Foundation of California State University Monterey Bay - Watershed Institute

\$49,176 - A formal outcomes-based California State University certificate program will be offered to teachers aimed at providing meaningful environmental community service experiences for K-12 students.

San Jose State University Foundation - Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

\$40,849 - Teachers from underserved area schools will be educated in marine research and resource management issues, including human

impacts to coastal and marine environments

These grants have been awarded as part of the Monterey Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program. The B-WET Program was established on the east coast for the Chesapeake Bay watershed and NOAA is now piloting the successful program in the Monterey Bay watershed through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office. This funding represents the first federally supported environmental education grant program focused solely on the Monterey Bay.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs.

NOAA National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through research to better understand weather and climate-related events and to manage wisely the nation's coastal and marine resources.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R455
Sept. 25, 2003

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(808) 933-8181

NOAA ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS, ALTERNATES FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today announced the newly selected members and alternates to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council (Council). The Council will continue to provide NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) advice on the management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, as well as the designation and management of the proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Council plays an important role in helping shape many initiatives, which will provide lasting protection to the marine resources of the reserve. The newly appointed members represent a broad range of interest groups and backgrounds, which was a paramount concern during the selection process. Specifically, the Council will provide advice on the Reserve Operations Plan, which is nearing its completion, and advice and recommendations related to designating and managing any future national marine sanctuary in the reserve.

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“The first two years of the Reserve Advisory Council process enabled NOAA to receive advice and recommendations on the operation of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and ultimately produce a Reserve Operations Plan,” said Robert P. Smith, reserve coordinator. “The recently selected members of the Advisory Council will be asked to join the rest of the Council with a primary focus on the reserve’s sanctuary designation proposal.”

In December 2000, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve was designated to conserve one of the country’s most precious coral reef areas. As part of the reserve establishment, the Secretary of Commerce was directed to establish an advisory council, in accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The Council operates under a charter developed by NOAA, which prescribes the frequency of meetings, objectives and roles, and operation of the council. Council meetings are open to the public.

The new NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council’s voting representatives and their alternates include the following:

Citizen-At-Large: Kem Lowry-member, Sean Naleimaile-alternate;
Conservation:

Linda Paul-member, Julie Leialoha-alternate, Jessica Wooley-alternate; Education:

Gail Grabowsky-member, Gail Clarke-alternate; Ocean-related

Tourism: Birgit Winning-member, Matthew Zimmerman-alternate;

Recreational Fishing: Rick Gaffney-member Rick Hoo-alternate; and

Research: William Gilmartin-member, Catherine Courtney-alternate, Cynthia Hunter-member, William Worcester-alternate.

Vacancies remain for a Native Hawaiian representative and a Research alternate. These seats will be advertised shortly.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve contains 70 percent of the United States’ coral reefs and over 7,000 marine species, half of which are unique to the Hawaiian Islands. The area is critical habitat for many endangered and threatened species including the monk seal and the green sea turtle. The reserve is the largest conservation area in the United States and the second largest on earth with the first largest being the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

NOAA’s NMSP seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s

ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve - <http://hawaiireef.nos.noaa.gov>

Revised September 26, 2003 by [Sanctuaries Web Group](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R454
Sept. 25, 2003

CONTACT:

Keeley Belva, HIHWNMS Outreach/
Coordinator
(808) 397-2651

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY HOLDS SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) will hold a public meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council on Sept. 30, 2003 in Honolulu. The sanctuary is managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The meeting will be held at the Honolulu International Airport Interisland Conference Center, 7th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Council meeting will begin with a follow-up discussion on the Vessel Collision Avoidance Workshop held Sept. 3-5, to be followed by the Council's regular business meeting.

All meetings are open to the public and any persons wishing to testify on agenda items are requested to submit a written copy of their testimony to the Council Coordinator 24 hours prior to the meeting. Testimonies may be mailed to 6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825, faxed to (808) 397-2650, or e-mailed to keeley.belva@noaa.gov.

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The public will be invited to present these statements during its public forum period. To receive more information, or to request a meeting agenda, please contact the Oahu sanctuary office at (808) 397-2651.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered by a partnership between NOAA and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary - <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-R448
Sept. 16, 2003

CONTACT:

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Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary
(831) 647-4253 Jean Scott
Coastal Cleanup County Coordinator
(831) 647-4238

HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS JOIN MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN ANNUAL COASTAL CLEANUP

The Hundreds of volunteers will spend Saturday, Sept. 20, 2003 in the largest volunteer beach cleanup event in the world by clearing debris from California beaches and waterways, including those bordering the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The event marks the 19th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, sponsored countywide this year by the sanctuary. Data collected on the washed-up debris is used to support legislation such as the MARPOL Protocol, which in 1998 banned the dumping of plastics at sea. The sanctuary is managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The statewide cleanup is coordinated by the California Coastal Commission and sponsored by the sanctuary, Oracle, Reliant Energy, Fetzer Vinyards, Intel, Starbucks Coffee Company, Bank of America, Universal Studios, KPMG, California State Parks Foundation,

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Digitcare, and BD Medical Supply. This year's Monterey County cleanup is coordinated by the MBNMS and made possible by the Monterey Dunes Natural History Association, On The Beach Surf Shop, Cannery Row Business Association, Monterey Bay Kayaks, Orchard Supply Hardware, Pebble Beach Company, Monterey Regional Waste Management District, and KSES 107.1 FM.

"The Coastal Cleanup effort is an excellent way for citizens to get involved in protecting their sanctuary," said William J. Douros, MBNMS superintendent. "The event also brings together many groups and organizations that are interested in improving our marine environment."

Marine debris in our oceans and watersheds is dangerous to humans and animals, causes economic impacts, and is unsightly. To a sea turtle, a floating plastic bag looks like a jellyfish meal. Fishing line entangles marine mammals and birds, and also damages fishing gear, increasing the cost of marine-based products. Years of Coastal Cleanup Day data has revealed 60 percent of beach debris originates from inland sources of pollution such as cigarette butts and plastic drink bottles. This debris washes down storm drains directly to our oceans.

Last year, California had 46,000 volunteers remove 860,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from 2,500 miles of shoreline. In Monterey County alone, over 1,600 volunteers at 24 local sites cleared over 8,000 pounds (over 4 tons!) of trash and recyclable materials. Unusual items were a hibachi barbecue, a slingshot, a plastic eyeball, and baby shoes.

Volunteers are invited to come to any of the designated cleanup sites by 9 a.m. on Saturday. The event ends at noon. The cleanup sites bordering the sanctuary are listed below. Two cleanup site captains are Spanish bilingual, provided through the sanctuary's Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) and KSES 107.1 FM. Volunteers are encouraged to bring drinking water, comfortable shoes, layered clothing and sunscreen. Site captains will provide trash bags, gloves and debris collection data cards to participants. The completed data cards are sent to The Ocean Conservancy so they can monitor the data for change in types of debris and sources.

Each participant is required to sign a waiver at the cleanup site. Minors must have a parent or guardian available to sign the event waiver. Groups are encouraged to register in advance for a preferred site, or may be directed to a site that needs extra help. Participants can save time by downloading and completing the waiver in advance from the

California Coastal Cleanup Day Web site, <http://www.coastforyou.org>. Interested volunteers may contact Monterey County Coordinator Jean Scott at (831) 647-4238 or e-mail marina_interp@hotmail.com. For statewide information call the California Coastal Commission cleanup hotline, 1-800-COAST-4U or visit their Web site at: <http://www.coastforyou.org>.

MERITO is a marine conservation outreach effort involving 25 regional and statewide groups serving Hispanic citizens living near the sanctuary. MERITO was launched in Fall 2002, and is working with a cadre of partners to provide classroom support, field trips, training and resources, college internships, volunteer opportunities, event support and a forum for expanding bilingual outreach programs within sanctuaries.

Managed by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, the MBNMS stretches along 276 miles of central California coast, encompassing more than 5,300 square miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fish and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Monterey County Cleanup Sites:

Zmudowski State Beach

Moss Landing State Beach

Elkhorn Slough-Carneros Creek

Elkhorn Slough- Kirby Park

Salinas River State Beach-Sandholte Rd.

Salinas River State Beach-Potrero Rd. (Spanish bilingual beach captain)*

Salinas River State Beach-Molera Rd.

Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge

Marina State Beach-Reservation Rd. (Spanish bilingual beach captain)*

Marina State Beach-Lake Ct.

Sand City-Bay St.

Naval Postgraduate School

Wharf 2/Window on the Bay

San Carlos Beach/ Coast Guard Pier

Cannery Row-McAbee Beach

Lover's Point

Asilomar State Beach

Spanish Bay

Carmel City Beach

Carmel River State Beach

Monastery State Beach

* Spanish bilingual beach captain provided by the sanctuary's MERITO Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-R447
Sept. 16, 2003

CONTACT:

Cheva Heck/NOAA Florida Keys
National Marine Sanctuary
(305) 292-0311, cellular (305) 304-0179

THREE NEW MEMBERS JOIN FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has named three Florida Keys residents to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. The new members fill the Recreational Fishing, Upper Keys Citizen-at-Large and Charter Fishing seats and will serve for three years. Named to the council are Mark Klingbeil, Jack Curlett, and Captain Brad Simonds. Jim Trice and Jeremy Smith have been named as alternates.

“Each of these members brings a unique perspective to the Sanctuary Advisory Council based on their long experience in the Florida Keys,” said Billy Causey, sanctuary superintendent. “We are pleased that they have chosen to offer their considerable talents to help us protect the resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.”

Klingbeil joins the council as the new Recreational Fishing

representative. Formerly a paramedic and an emergency services director, Klingbeil now manages the saltwater tackle department for Worldwide Sportsman in Islamorada. Klingbeil has fished both commercially and as a charter boat captain. He now fishes for pleasure in his free time in both the Gulf and Atlantic. Jim Trice, a general management consultant, also from Islamorada, will serve as Klingbeil's alternate.

"I come in contact with folks from all over the world who come here to enjoy our national treasure," said Klingbeil. "My desire is to see that the reef continues to thrive and that careful management will let generations come to enjoy all that our sanctuary has to offer."

Curlett will serve as the Upper Keys Citizen-at-Large representative. Born, raised and educated in the northeast, Jack served in the U.S. Army Special Forces. After years in the automobile industry, he relocated to the Florida Keys 20 years ago. For the past 15 years, Jack has owned Card Sound Yachts. For the past two years, he has managed Marine Max Hatteras at the Ocean Reef Club in North Key Largo. Curlett serves on the board of the Ocean Reef Rod & Gun Club, as well as Bonefish & Tarpon Unlimited. Jeremy Smith, a Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust board member, will serve as Curlett's alternate.

Simonds will be the Charter Fishing representative. A 1979 graduate of Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in American History, Simonds moved to the Keys in 1979. He served as a mate on charter vessels in the Upper Keys. After earning his captain's license in 1983, he operated charter vessels from Ocean Reef to Key West. Simonds has been involved with billfish tagging programs since high school and has been repeatedly recognized as a top billfish tagger by NOAA Fisheries and other organizations. Since 2002, Simonds has owned and operated the charter vessel Southpaw out of Key West's Oceanside Marina.

The council was established to advise NOAA and the state of Florida on implementation of the sanctuary's final management plan. They also serve as liaisons to the community regarding sanctuary issues. Council members relay the community's interests, concerns, and management needs to the sanctuary.

Positions Still Open

The sanctuary is still accepting applications for 14 additional seats on the advisory council.

The sanctuary will select new members and alternates for the following

seats: Local elected official; Citizen-at-large - Middle Keys; Citizen-at-large - Lower Keys; Tourism - Upper Keys; Tourism - Lower Keys; Diving - Upper Keys; Diving - Lower Keys; Charter Fishing/Flats Guide; Commercial Fishing - Shell/Scale; Commercial Fishing - Marine/Tropical; Conservation and Environment; Education/Outreach; Research/Monitoring; Submerged Cultural Resources. The sanctuary is also seeking an alternate member for the Boating seat.

Alternates attend meetings when members are not available and assume the seat if a member resigns. Members and alternates will serve three-year terms. The council meets during the day on the third Tuesday of alternate months, usually in Marathon.

Applications are due in the Marathon office of the sanctuary by 5:00 p. m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2003. Applicants must reside in Monroe or Dade counties.

For information or applications, contact Fiona Wilmot via email at fiona.wilmot@noaa.gov or by telephone at (305) 743-2437, ext. 27.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1990, protects 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, hardbottom communities, mangrove shorelines and mud and sand habitat through a state and federal partnership. NOAA and the state of Florida jointly developed a comprehensive plan to protect and manage sanctuary resources.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-109
Sept. 16, 2003

CONTACT:

David Hall
National Marine Sanctuary Program
(202) 329-5827

NOAA AND PARTNERS RETURN TO 19th CENTURY STEAMSHIP PORTLAND

**Researchers Also to Survey Sunken Schooners and Mystery
Wrecks in
NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut (NURC-UConn) returned Monday to the wreck of the famed 19th-century steamship Portland, kicking off a week-long expedition to peer into the vessel's past and plan for its future. The NOAA-UConn team is conducting the first surveys of the Portland since they confirmed its location in August 2002 within NOAA's Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) off the coast of Massachusetts.

Using the latest ocean exploration technology, researchers from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and NURC-UConn, with support from NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration, are carefully surveying the Portland and its immediate surroundings. The

Science Channel joins the expedition to provide the team with high-definition video photography of the wreck and to produce a one-hour documentary special about the vessel and surveys of the wreck site.

The effort will provide baseline data that will enable researchers to monitor the Portland's condition over time and develop a plan to protect and maintain the archaeological integrity of the wreck site. Until now, researchers have not had the resources to undertake a comprehensive photographic and acoustic survey of the Portland's hull, remaining superstructure and propulsion apparatus. The team is also looking for clues into the exact cause of the steamer's sinking, which remains a mystery.

All 192 of the Portland's passengers and crew perished when the ship went down during a ferocious storm on Nov. 27, 1898. The Portland has since become known as New England's Titanic, given the number of lives lost and the impact of the disaster on the region.

"Shipwrecks like the Portland are more than piles of wood and iron," said SBNMS Operations and Program Coordinator Ben Cowie-Haskell, the expedition's chief scientist. "If properly studied and protected, shipwrecks can tell us how men and women once sailed upon the water and help us understand our nation's history. NOAA is proud to partner with the University of Connecticut and The Science Channel to document the wreck of the Portland and bring its story to the public."

The R/V Connecticut, a research vessel owned and operated by UConn, is serving as the expedition's floating base of operations. NURC has provided an array of sophisticated sonar, a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and video equipment to aid researchers in their effort to shed new light on the century-old wrecks.

"Over the past century, the Portland has become festooned with lost fishing gear and that presents an incredible hazard to this mission and the ROV," said Ivar Babb, NURC director. "But the R/V Connecticut, with its dynamic positioning system, is the perfect platform for this operation because it requires meter accurate maneuvering."

A high-definition video camera mounted on a special ROV, combined with a specialized 1,000-watt high intensity lighting system, will yield images that are sharper, more vivid and richly-detailed than those obtained during the initial surveys of the Portland.

The Science Channel, a service of Discovery Networks U.S. - which also operates and manages the Discovery Channel - will make all high-definition underwater video obtained during the research cruise

available to NOAA and NURC-UConn for archival and further analysis. The Science Channel's special, "Science of the Deep: The Wreck of the Portland," will premiere in January 2004.

"We are thrilled to partner with NOAA on the exploration of this astonishing and mysterious piece of maritime history," said Sue Norton, executive producer, The Science Channel. "We look forward to telling the story of the Portland and to generating the only high-definition footage of the wreck in existence."

In addition to documenting the Portland, the expedition team is investigating the wrecks of the Louise B. Crary and Frank A. Palmer, a pair of Boston-bound coal schooners that collided and sank in 1902 as a result of navigational error. Like the Portland, the Crary and Palmer lie within the boundaries of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Side-scan sonar images obtained last year during a joint mission between NOAA and NURC-UConn revealed that the two large vessels plunged to the seafloor simultaneously with their bows locked together in a deadly embrace.

The location of the Portland, Crary and Palmer wrecks within the sanctuary's boundaries provides protection unavailable in other federal waters off Massachusetts. Sanctuary regulations prohibit moving, removing or injuring, or any attempt to move, remove, or injure any submerged cultural or historical resources, including artifacts and pieces from shipwrecks. Anyone violating this regulation is subject to civil penalties.

Along with these shipwrecks, researchers will also investigate a number of nearby mystery wrecks on the seafloor of the sanctuary that have yet to be identified.

"This expedition supports NOAA's mission to explore the oceans for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge," said Capt. Craig McLean, director of NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration, a co-sponsor of the expedition.

The public can follow the expedition, which takes place Sept. 13-20, at sanctuaries.noaa.gov/exploration. The site offers daily logs, photographs, fact sheets and education lesson plans.

NOAA's Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary was designated by Congress in 1992 as an area of special national significance. Virtually the size of the state of Rhode Island, the sanctuary stretches between Cape Ann and Cape Cod in federal waters off of Massachusetts. The sanctuary is renowned as a major

feeding area for marine mammals, particularly humpback whales, and supports an ecosystem of diverse wildlife.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is in the process of designating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve as a sanctuary.

NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving, and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA's National Undersea Research Center for the North Atlantic and Great Lakes, located at the University of Connecticut-Avery Point, is one of six research centers funded by NOAA's National Undersea Research Program. NURC-UConn supports and conducts research in the waters off the northeast coast of the U.S. including the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, Southern New England Bight including Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes.

On the Web:

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

National Ocean Service: oceanservice.noaa.gov

National Marine Sanctuary Program: sanctuaries.noaa.gov

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration: oceanexploration.noaa.gov

National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut: nurc.uconn.edu

The Science Channel: science.discovery.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-442
Sept. 5, 2003

CONTACT:

Becky Shortland/NOAA
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Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA'S GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking applicants for three Sanctuary Advisory Council seats representing local conservation, living resources research and university education interests.

Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Consideration includes knowledge of the resources, and community and professional affiliations. Terms run for three years and members will serve without pay. The council meets on average once every two to four months depending on issues. Current holders of seats may re-apply.

The Gray's Reef Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in August 1999 to provide advice on management and protection of the Sanctuary. The council, through its members, also represents community interests and concerns to sanctuary management and

NOAA.

A council member application package may be obtained by calling Council Coordinator Becky Shortland at (912) 598-2345 or by e-mail at Becky.Shortland@noaa.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary; ATTN - Sanctuary Advisory Council Applications; 10 Ocean Science Circle; Savannah, GA, 31411. Applications must be received by Sept. 30, 2003. Representatives for each seat selected by the sanctuary will begin their terms in October.

Gray's Reef was designated as a national marine sanctuary in 1981. It contains one of the largest near-shore, live-bottom reefs off the Southeastern United States, encompassing approximately 17 square nautical miles. The sanctuary supports an abundant reef fish and invertebrate community. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, use Gray's Reef year-round for foraging and resting. The reef rests within the known winter calving ground for the highly endangered northern right whale.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary - <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-441
Sept. 3, 2003

CONTACT:

Cheva Heck
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
(305) 292-0311, Cell Phone: (305) 304-0179

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SEEKS COMMUNITY APPLICANTS FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the State of Florida are seeking applicants to fill open positions on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"One of the most important tasks facing our Sanctuary Advisory Council members and alternates will be guiding us through the continuing review of our final management plan," said Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey. "Their firsthand knowledge of the Keys environment and links to the community will help us meet our goal of protecting our coral reef, mangroves and seagrass beds, while preserving the economy that depends on them."

The Sanctuary Advisory Council was established to advise NOAA and the State of Florida on implementation of the sanctuary's final management plan. The council members also serve as liaisons to the

community regarding sanctuary issues. They relay the community's interests, concerns, and management needs to the sanctuary administration.

The sanctuary will select new members and alternates for the following 14 seats: Local elected official; Citizen-at-large – Middle Keys; Citizen-at-large – Lower Keys; Tourism – Upper Keys; Tourism – Lower Keys; Diving – Upper Keys; Diving – Lower Keys; Charter Fishing / Flats Guide; Commercial Fishing – Shell / Scale; Commercial Fishing – Marine/Tropical; Conservation and Environment; Education/ Outreach; Research / Monitoring; Submerged Cultural Resources. The Sanctuary is also seeking an alternate member for the Boating seat.

Alternates attend meetings when members are not available and assume the seat if a member resigns. Members and alternates will serve three-year terms. The Council meets during the day on the third Tuesday of alternate months, usually in Marathon.

Applications are due in the Marathon office of the sanctuary by 5:00 p. m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2003. Applicants must reside in Monroe or Dade counties. The application review panel will consist of representatives from the sanctuary, the Governor's office, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Monroe County and National Marine Sanctuary Program Headquarters. Daniel Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, will make final selections and appointments.

For information or applications, contact Fiona Wilmot via email at: fiona.wilmot@noaa.gov or by telephone at (305) 743-2437, ext. 27.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1990, protects 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, hardbottom communities, mangrove shorelines and mud and sand habitat through a state and federal partnership. NOAA and the State of Florida jointly developed a comprehensive plan to protect and manage Sanctuary resources.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA National Ocean Service manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program and balances environmental protection with

economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resource.

On the Internet:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

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NATIONAL MARINE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-440
Sept. 2, 2003

CONTACT:

Naomi McIntosh
NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whale National Marine Sanctuary
(808) 397-2652

HAWAIIAN HUMPBACK WHALE SANCTUARY SPONSORS WORKSHOP ON MINIMIZING VESSEL COLLISIONS WITH WHALES

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council will sponsor a workshop Sept. 3-5, to assess ship strike risks to whales in Hawaii. The council will bring together more than 80 resource managers, scientists and representatives of the marine community to identify possible actions to reduce the occurrence of vessel-whale collision in Hawaiian waters and throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System. The workshop will be held at the Wailea Marriott, an Outrigger Resort, in Maui. NOAA is an agency of the Commerce Department.

"Both NOAA and the marine industry in Hawaii, and across the nation, recognize the potential for an increase in interaction between vessels and whales," said Daniel J. Basta, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program director. "We are pleased to work with our partners to address these concerns and seek a solution."

Speakers will focus on a variety of topics including: the distribution, abundance and behavior of humpback whales in Hawaii; the occurrence of collisions between vessels and whales; why those collisions occur; options for reducing collisions; and economic importance of vessel operations in Hawaiian waters.

The workshop will include working groups that will consider possible means of reducing collisions risks with various types and classes of vessels.

A product of the workshop will be a summary report with recommendations for the National Marine Sanctuary Program on (1) whether the issue of ships hitting whales merits special attention within the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) generally, and within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) in particular, and (2) if so, the research, management and regulatory actions that should be taken in collaboration with other agencies and industry groups to reduce the risks of such collisions.

The workshop's steering committee includes representatives from NOAA, Matson Navigation Company, Inc., Marine Mammal Commission, Trilogy Excursions, Star of Honolulu/Paradise Cruise Ltd., members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the State of Hawaii.

The shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitute one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Approximately two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrates to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage calving, nursing and breeding activities. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is a partnership of NOAA and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA's National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its

mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: <http://monitor.noaa.gov>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary - <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-088
July 23, 2003

CONTACT:

David Hall, NOAA
(202) 329-5827
Justin Lyons, The Mariners' Museum
(757) 591-7738

NOAA DIVES INTO MONITOR RESEARCH AND RECOVERY EXPEDITION 2003

Newport News, VA - After five years of successful large artifact recovery missions, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today begins a four-week expedition at the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary to examine the condition of the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS Monitor. The expedition is a cooperative effort involving NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, the National Undersea Research Center (NURC) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNC-W), the Maritime Studies Program at East Carolina University (ECU) and The Mariners' Museum.

"This is going to be a very busy summer for the NOAA dive team in Hatteras," said John Broadwater, manager of Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and chief scientist for the expedition. "Our goal is to thoroughly document the changes made to the site after our major artifact recovery expeditions that ended last year with the recovery of

the Monitor's world-famous revolving gun turret."

"The Monitor expedition and partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Program is a highlight of our dive season," said Andrew Shepard, associate director of NURC/UNC-W. "Saving the wreck gives us purpose, and the challenge of deep diving is a bonus."

In addition to documenting the site, divers will survey the stern area of the wreck site, the boilers and the surviving lower hull structure, the galley area and will recover any exposed artifacts. Recovered artifacts will be delivered to The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va., for conservation and possible exhibition.

"This is a very important year for the Monitor team," said Jeff Johnston, NOAA historian. "The site of the Monitor has changed significantly over the last five years. This year's expedition gives us an opportunity to document changes to the site and record any further deterioration to the vessel."

"We are pleased to be partnering with NOAA for another expedition to Monitor National Marine Sanctuary," said John Hightower, The Mariners' Museum president and CEO. "In addition to providing conservation support for the expedition this summer, the Museum's conservation team will be hard at work treating artifacts recovered over the past five years such as the turret, engine and propeller, under the watchful eye of the visiting public."

NOAA will conduct all dives using sanctuary staff, NURC and ECU personnel as well more than a dozen volunteers from across the country. Weather permitting, dives will launch daily from the UNC-W research vessel Cape Fear. All NOAA dives will use mixed gas rather than compressed air. The use of mixed gas will greatly improve the divers' effectiveness and safety at the Monitor's depth of 240 feet.

In 1975, the Monitor was designated as the first national marine sanctuary to protect the wreck of the historic vessel. The wreck lies approximately 16 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., in 240 feet of water. On Aug. 5, 2002, the sanctuary completed the last phase in a series of large-scale efforts to recover significant pieces of the vessel that were deteriorating rapidly.

In 1987, NOAA designated The Mariners' Museum as the custodian of the artifacts and archives of the USS Monitor. As custodian, The Mariners' Museum is charged with housing artifacts and providing conservation, interpretation and education. These efforts will be greatly enhanced in 2007 when The Mariners' Museum, in collaboration with

NOAA, will open a new \$30 million USS Monitor Center.

The USS Monitor Center will be home to the priceless artifacts recovered from the historic ship and a worldwide resource for exhibitions, conservation, research and education related to the Monitor and the larger story of the naval history of the Civil War. Information about the history of the Monitor and conservation and exhibition of the vessel's artifacts and archives can be found online at: <http://www.monitorcenter.org>.

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is an office of the NOAA National Ocean Service, which is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. NOAA Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: <http://monitor.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R433
July 10, 2003

CONTACT:

Amy Glester
NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
(808) 397-2655

Applicants Sought for Advisory Council at Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

The NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants to fill six vacant Sanctuary Advisory Council seats. NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The seats available are for non-governmental members and include members from the following counties: Hawai`i, Honolulu, Kaua`i, and Maui, and representatives from the Education and Research communities. Seats are vacant because current terms have expired. The general public is welcome to apply and the candidates selected should expect to serve until September 2005. Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Considerations include community and professional affiliations, philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in

Hawai'i.

Non-governmental terms run for two years and members will serve without pay. The council meets on average once every two to four months, depending on issues. Applicants must be Hawai'i residents. Current holders of seats may re-apply.

A council member application package may be obtained by contacting Amy Glester at (808) 397-2655 or by email at: Amy.Glester@noaa.gov. Application packages are also available at the Sanctuary Web Site: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>. Completed applications should be mailed to Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825. Interested persons must submit applications by August 1, 2003.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 1996 to provide advice and recommendations on managing and protecting humpback whales. The council is composed of 16 government and 15 non-governmental representatives, and represents community interests and concerns to the sanctuary and NOAA. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered through a partnership of NOAA and the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitute one of the World's most important humpback whale habitats. Approximately two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrates to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in calving, nursing and breeding activities.

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration, and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is now conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is an office of the NOAA National Ocean Service. The NOAA Ocean Service manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving, and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. NOAA Ocean Service balances environmental protection with

economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats, and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R135
June 19, 2003

CONTACT:

Jim Milbury - NOAA (562) 980-4006
Mark Oswell - OLE (301) 427-2300
Rachel Saunders (Sanctuary) (831) 647-4237

White Shark Research Organization Charged in Illegal Filming Activities

NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Commerce Department, has charged the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation (PSRF), located in Santa Cruz, Calif., with two counts of violating conditions of their Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary permit for white shark research.

In its Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA), NOAA assessed a \$21,000 penalty against the PSRF for illegally luring a white shark to attack a Hollywood mockup of a South African fur seal off of Ano Nuevo, Calif. The white shark was lured in order to get it to breach out of the ocean for the production of the cable television program AIR JAWS II. Attracting white sharks for this purpose is not allowed under PSRF's permit. Allegedly, Shark Entertainment Inc., paid Sean Van Sommeran and Callaghan Fritz-Cope, of PSRF, in order to use the two researchers' sanctuary permit authority to illegally attract the white shark. In addition to the NOVA, portions of the PSRF Permit Conditions are subject to sanctions, which will affect how the PSRF

conducts future research operations.

The NOVA is issued as a result of a joint investigation by the Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. The incident took place on October 22, 2001, near Ano Nuevo Island. PSRF has 30 days to respond to the NOVA and permit sanctions.

White shark enthusiasts from around the country informed the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and OLE of the televised airing of AIR JAWS II, which depicted the activity within the boundaries of the sanctuary. The intentional attraction of white sharks within the sanctuary was prohibited in 1997. An immediate investigation ensued.

"The deliberate attraction of white sharks for unauthorized purposes is a very serious violation that harms the management objectives within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Furthermore, this type of violation for monetary gain harms the legitimate research activities conducted within the sanctuary boundaries" said Mike Gonzales, Special Agent In Charge for the OLE's Southwest Division.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources.

NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses more than 5,300 square miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-070
June 17, 2003

CONTACT:

Rachel Saunders
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
(831) 647-4237

NOAA'S MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY RELEASES PROPOSED ACTION PLANS TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has released a set of proposed actions for a revised Sanctuary Management Plan that addresses a range of critical ocean issues. Most of the proposed action plans were developed by public working groups established by the Sanctuary's Advisory Council and composed of a broad spectrum of affected stakeholders, the public, sanctuary staff and other agencies. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The working groups' proposed action plans represent a critical phase in our management plan review process," said Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros. "The proposed plans recommend specific strategies to reduce pollution of sanctuary waters, minimize disturbance to marine wildlife and restore and enhance biological communities and habitats. Taken together, the action plans will shape the focus and scope of work for sanctuary staff and our partners over the next five to ten years."

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary is undergoing a Joint Management Plan Review process with the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. A report detailing site-specific action plans for the two adjoining sanctuaries will be issued separately.

The working groups met this past winter and spring to develop strategies and actions to address issues identified as priorities by the Advisory Council and the public as part of the sanctuary's mandated review of its management plan.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council will hear oral reports on the proposed action plans at its June 26 - 27 meeting at the Best Western Beach Resort in Seaside, Calif. The Advisory Council will provide advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent at its two-day meeting on July 31-August 1 in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Copies of the proposed action plans can be found on the Web at: <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>. The document will also be available at area libraries. For more information on library locations or to request a free CD-ROM of the document, contact the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at (831) 647-4201.

The agenda for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council's meeting on Thursday, June 26, and Friday, June 27, can be found on the Sanctuary's web site at: <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/intro/advisory/sacagendas.html>. The meeting is open to the public with a brief public comment opportunity Friday afternoon.

Members of the public who wish to provide comments on the proposed action plans have several options:

- Direct your comments to a Sanctuary Advisory Council member.
- Send a comment letter for the Sanctuary Advisory Council to consider at its special July 30, 2003 evening public comment workshop in Santa Cruz.

Letters should be addressed to Stephanie Harlan, Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair, 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA, 93940.

- Attend the Advisory Council's July 30th evening public comment workshop in Santa Cruz at the UCSC Inn and Conference Center at 611 Ocean street.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational

programs.

NOAA National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through research to better understand weather and climate-related events and to manage wisely the nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 03-R431
June 16, 2003

CONTACT:

Matt Stout, National
Marine Sanctuary Program
(301) 713-3125, Ext. 173

NEW MANAGER NAMED FOR NOAA'S HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that Naomi McIntosh has been selected as manager of NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary on June 15, 2003. McIntosh had served as the acting manager since September 2000.

As manager of NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS), McIntosh will oversee the management of over 1,300 square miles of one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. The sanctuary was established in 1997 to protect the North Pacific population of the endangered humpback whale.

"Naomi's service with the National Marine Sanctuary Program predated the establishment of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary," said Richard W. Spinrad, assistant administrator for the NOAA National Ocean Service. "We are pleased that she will continue her stewardship of these important resources

from a leadership position, and that she will continue to serve the sanctuary, which is one of America's ocean treasures, in her new role as its manager."

McIntosh came to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in March 1994 as the sanctuary's Oahu office liaison assisting in program development with projects such as resource protection, research and monitoring, and coordinating public and media relations, education and outreach.

As acting manager, McIntosh oversaw the successful completion of the sanctuary's five-year management plan review and gubernatorial approval, undertook innovative actions to foster public and private partnerships to promote conservation and management of the humpback whale and its habitat in Hawaii, and established several successful partnerships to benefit the sanctuary's marine and cultural resources.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS - <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R430
June 9, 2003

CONTACT:

Matt Stout
National Marine Sanctuary Program
(301) 713-3125, Ext. 173

NEW MANAGER NAMED FOR NOAA'S CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced today that Dan Howard will become the manager of NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary on June 15, 2003. Previously, there had been one manager for both Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. This action officially separates the management for the two sites.

As manager of NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), Howard will oversee monitoring and preserving one of the nation's most significant coastal resources. Designated in 1989, CBNMS protects an area of 526 square miles (397 square nautical miles) off the northern California coast. Cordell Bank is located on the continental shelf, about 43 nautical miles (nm) northwest of the Golden Gate Bridge and 18 nm west of the Point Reyes lighthouse. The main feature of the sanctuary is an offshore granite bank 4.5 miles wide by 9.5 miles long. The sanctuary is home to diverse marine life. Additionally, the sanctuary sponsors a range of programs designed to

promote public awareness of marine issues.

“Dan has for many years played a key role in exploring Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and increasing our knowledge and understanding of the distinctive marine ecosystem it encompasses,” said Richard W. Spinrad, assistant administrator for the NOAA National Ocean Service. “We are pleased that he will continue to serve the sanctuary, which is one of America’s ocean treasures, in his new role as its manager.”

Most recently, Howard has been assistant manager of CBNMS. He came to the sanctuary in 1995 to oversee research and education.

From 1980 to 1995, Howard was a fisheries biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service. He conducted research on nearshore fish communities along the California coast and Hawaii, including the Cordell Bank area. He has co-written numerous papers on the dynamics of nearshore ecosystems. Howard received a B.S. in fisheries biology from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.

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The Commerce Department’s NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate- related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Cordell Bank NMS - <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R429
June 6, 2003

CONTACT:

Cheva Heck
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
(305) 292-0311, Ext. 26
(305) 304-0179, Cell

NOAA CLOSES TWO REEF PATCHES DUE TO CORAL DIE-OFF **Effort Taken to Minimize Risk of Spread**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program today announced their intention to institute a 60-day emergency closure of two patch reefs off Key Largo in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to all activities except permitted scientific research due to a fast-spreading coral disease. No person or vessels will be allowed to enter the closed area during the quarantined period. Notice of the closure will be published in the Federal Register next week. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

White Banks North and White Banks South, two mid-channel patch reefs, have recently experienced a rapidly-spreading die-off of staghorn coral. Scientists are concerned that the die-off may be caused by a new type of coral disease. Early stages of the affected colonies have large white patches, approximately three to four inches long, along the branches at the middle and base of staghorn.

Sanctuary researchers report that only the staghorn coral in the closed area appears to be affected.

“Scientists have recommended the strict quarantine as a precautionary measure to help prevent the possible transmission to healthy areas,” said Billy Causey, superintendent of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. “The closure will also help eliminate any additional stress to the corals in the affected area.”

The area closed is less than a .25nm square. The coordinates are:

White Banks North: NW 25 02.718 80 22.261
NE 25 02.780 80 22.105
SE 25 02.691 80 22.000
SW 25 02.567 80 22.157

White Banks South: NW 25 02.414 80 22.425
NE 25 02.446 80 22.267
SE 25 02.314 80 22.278
SW 25 02.336 80 22.408

Approximately two weeks ago, NOAA scientists discovered the die-off during routine monitoring of the area, and became concerned as they observed its spread. Scientists continue to monitor the situation and are collecting tissue samples for laboratory analysis to determine the cause.

The sanctuary will remove the mooring buoys from the two areas, and will be working with area dive charters to place mooring buoys on nearby patch reefs to minimize the impact on their operations.

Divers and snorkelers can help by reporting sightings of white, dead staghorn coral to Mote Marine Laboratories, Marine Ecosystem Event Response and Assessment Program at (305) 745-2729.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1990, protects 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, hardbottom communities, mangrove shorelines and mud and sand habitat through a state and federal partnership.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

NOAA National Ocean Service manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program and balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resource.

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

Revised June 10, 2003 by [Sanctuaries Web Group](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R427
June 3, 2003

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LONG-LINE FISHING IN TORTUGAS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE BRINGS \$20,000 PENALTY

Settlement Also Reached in 2002 Case

Attorneys for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have issued a \$20,000 civil penalty in the case of a vessel cited for illegal long-line fishing in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's protected Tortugas Ecological Reserve. NOAA has also obtained a settlement in a December 2002 Tortugas shrimping case.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers assigned to the sanctuary were on routine patrol in the Tortugas aboard the Point Monroe on March 26, 2003, when they boarded the fishing vessel Can Do, owned by Can Do of Pinellas, Inc., and operated by Stephen P. Thorsteinsson of Madeira Beach, Fla.

A marine fisheries inspection revealed that the Can Do had set five miles of long-line gear within the Riley's Hump area of the Tortugas

Ecological Reserve. A sanctuary officer who remained aboard the vessel as the crew recovered its gear reported that six sand bar sharks, 16 black tip sharks, one silky shark and two black nose sharks were dead when brought aboard. The officer ordered the crew to release two goliath grouper (formerly called jewfish), two mutton snapper, one black grouper, and one red grouper recovered alive.

Riley's Hump lies in the Tortugas South section of the reserve, which is closed to all activity except for continuous transit by vessels with their fishing gear stowed. "Commercial fishermen told us that Riley's Hump deserved protection as a key spawning ground for snapper and grouper," said sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey. "Sanctuary officers aboard the Point Monroe and NOAA attorneys understand that the protections of the Tortugas reserve require consistent enforcement if they are to succeed."

The vessel owner and operator face an additional \$7,500 penalty for a second federal count of failing to comply with rules for the at-sea fisheries observer program.

FWC officers also wrote a state citation to ship operator Thorsteinsson for having dogs aboard a commercial fishing vessel that processes fish on board. Proceeds of \$254.40 from the sale of 636 lbs. of shark meat and \$405.00 from the sale of shark fins remain in escrow pending the settlement of the case.

NOAA attorneys recently prevailed in another Tortugas reserve case, when Christine Ho of Abbeville, La., owner of the Miss Christine V, and vessel captain Cu T. Nguyen of Port Arthur, Texas, agreed to a \$15,000 settlement for shrimping in the reserve. The Coast Guard vessel Nantucket cited the Miss Christine V on Dec. 16, 2002 and escorted the vessel to Key West, where its catch of 1,117 lbs. of pink shrimp was seized and sold by a NOAA agent. As part of the settlement, Ho and Nguyen will forfeit the \$1,733.38 proceeds from the sale.

The Tortugas Ecological Reserve, established in 2001, protects 151 square nautical miles of deep coral reefs and essential habitat for fish and other marine life. The reserve is the largest of the sanctuary's network of 24 "no-take" areas set aside to protect habitat and preserve the diversity of marine life in the coral reef ecosystem of the Florida Keys.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1990, protects 2,900 square nautical miles of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, hardbottom communities, mangrove shorelines and mud and sand habitat through a state and federal partnership.

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National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program - <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R425
May 28, 2003

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NOAA OPENS NEW CORAL REEF DISCOVERY CENTER IN DOWNTOWN HILO

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve announced today the opening of Mokuapāpapa: Discovery Center for Hawaii's Remote Coral Reefs, the new, interactive educational facility that utilizes a variety of learning tools to teach visitors and school students about Hawaii's oldest islands and atolls. The Center emphasizes marine life, and the natural and cultural resources contained within the nation's largest conservation area. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Mokuapāpapa features a 2,500 gallon salt-water aquarium containing fishes found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), and offers colorful bilingual interpretive panels in English and Hawaiian, which explain the breadth and depth of the natural and cultural heritage of the region. Interactive exhibits with touch-screens and video vignettes cover topics ranging from giant, apex predators to tiny, yet poisonous invertebrates. The Center will enable visitors to explore for themselves

what life on the reefs is like.

The Discovery Center contains a large program room that provides a theater environment for multimedia educational programs and classes. The program room is available to community groups for educational use.

“The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands represent over two-thirds of Hawaii and contain one of the healthiest marine environments in the world, yet few people know they exist,” said Robert P. Smith, manager for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. “Our hope is that this Discovery Center will bring these remote reefs and their abundant marine life to both residents and visitors so they can learn about the wonders of the ocean that we are all responsible to protect.”

“Mokupāpapa is a joint project of NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program and the University of Hawaii,” explained Smith. “Working with UH-Hilo we are hoping to expand the educational opportunities of the Center to include joint programming, curricula development and teacher training opportunities. Opening the doors of Mokupāpapa today represents our first step toward this goal.”

“Mokupāpapa will be a great thing for Hawaii island and Hilo and will help teach our kids and visitors about the wonders of the ocean,” said Hawaii County Mayor Harry Kim. “The thing that strikes me most about the center is its blend of natural and cultural history and respect for the Hawaiian culture. Native Hawaiians have been the best stewards of these islands for centuries, yet much of their traditional practices of ocean conservation have been lost with time and change. Mokupāpapa helps those who visit understand the importance of traditional values and need to protect not only our environment, but our native culture as well.”

“The center plays an important part of the growing science and cultural identity of East Hawaii,” Kim explained. “The visitor industry on the Hawaii Island is largely fueled by independent travelers who are thirsty to learn about the natural history of Hawaii. Nearly 2.4 million people visit the island to see the Kilauea volcano erupt each year alone. These visitors will likely also be drawn to this facility

“The Center is a terrific boost to Downtown Hilo,” said Steve Handy, president of the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association. “To have this kind of educational attraction standing alongside our outstanding museums, galleries and cultural centers, will definitely draw local families and travelers to our downtown. We hope that once it’s opened

to the public, a greater level of awareness will be created regarding all of our Hawaiian Islands.”

“The Big Island is often overlooked in terms of providing new educational opportunities for students, especially in the arena of science,” said Hawaii’s Department of Education resource science teacher Julie Williams. “Since most of us will never have the opportunity to visit these remote atolls and reefs, the Center provides us with a way to bring this place home to our students and teach them to care about our oceans, no matter how far away they seem.”

Mokupāpapa is the Hawaiian term for remote, low-lying islets and reefs, which appropriately describe most of the atolls in the northwestern chain. The atolls are coral ‘footprints’ of former large, volcanic islands stands, but have since subsided into the ocean over geologic time. Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. with atolls.

Comprising two-thirds of the Hawaiian Archipelago, the longest chain of coral-ringed islands in the world, the NWHI are a mostly uninhabited chain of small islands, atolls, reefs and submerged banks that begin northwest of the populated main Hawaiian Islands. The majority of all coral reefs in the U.S. are in NWHI waters, and it is home to several federally protected species. On December 4, 2000, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve was created by Executive Order to protect the Federal waters surrounding these islands and atolls. The Reserve is the largest conservation project under the U.S. flag and is administered by NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The Discovery Center is located on the first floor of the S. Hata Building at 308 Kamehameha Avenue along Hilo’s famous Bay Front. Admission is free to the public. Mokupāpapa will be open Tuesdays – Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Group tours can be arranged through Jeff Kuwabara, Discovery Center Manager, at (808) 933-8195.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOAA’s National Ocean Service manages the NMSP and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation’s

coasts and oceans. The National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

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On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Oceans and Coasts - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve – <http://hawaiireef.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R423
May 19, 2003

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SCIENTISTS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

More than 100 scientists, educators and resource managers who met in Honolulu last week laid the groundwork for a regional action plan for one of the nation's unique marine treasures, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program sponsored the first collaborative workshop of its kind in more than 20 years. NOAA is a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"A regional action plan is a logical next step in assisting all parties involved in the conservation, management, protection, and study of resources," said Daniel J. Basta, director of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program. "We are redoubling our commitment to the area with the establishment of a post-workshop team who will take the ideas articulated in the workshop and help facilitate the development of an action plan."

Participants in the “Information Needs for Conservation and Management: A Workshop on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands” identified priority scientific and informational needs for understanding and managing the marine waters and associated habitats and resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). The three-day process was successful in the following areas:

- Building a foundation for establishing similar priorities to support the current and future management of NOAA's NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.
- Identifying a specific set of recommendations on information needs associated with the characterization, monitoring, and research of the marine waters, habitats, and resources of the NWHI.
- Drafting associated strategies or actions across a broad set of disciplines and practices that includes hypothesis-driven science as well as Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge.

The workshop and continuing activities are a collaborative effort by representatives from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii, Bishop Museum, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The NWHI is a mostly uninhabited chain of small islands that stretch more than 1,000 miles northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands. A major portion of all coral reefs in the U.S. are in NWHI waters, and it is home to several federally protected species including the threatened green sea turtle and endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Native Hawaiians were the first to find the islands and regularly ventured to parts of the region for economic and religious reasons. It is the site of one of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, designated in 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt. On December 4, 2000, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve was created by an executive order and is managed by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The NMSP seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to determine if it is appropriate to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral

Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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On the Web:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>.

National Ocean Service - <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>.

National Marine Sanctuary Program – <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>.

NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve - <http://www.hawaiireef.noaa.gov>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R422
May 16, 2003

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(831) 464-9200

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS MEASURE WATER QUALITY IN CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL WATERWAYS

Thousands of volunteers will spend Saturday, May 17th testing the quality of river and stream waters in California's coastal watersheds, including the 11 major watersheds that drain into the NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The effort is part of the fourth annual "Snapshot" Day, a one-day simultaneous water quality monitoring event where trained volunteers collect important information about the health of rivers and streams that flow into the ocean.

This year's statewide event is directed by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and supported through funding from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California State Water Resources Control Board. Collaborators in the event include the California Coastal Commission, Coastal Watershed

Council and The Ocean Conservancy. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, manages the Monterey Bay sanctuary.

“We are proud to have launched the first Snapshot Day back in 1999 and to see it now blossom into a statewide event involving the collaboration of federal, state and local agencies, grassroots organizations, watershed groups, universities and local citizens,” said Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros. “Citizen monitoring is a key element of environmental stewardship and with each successive year of data collected we learn more about how our activities on land may affect the quality of our coastal and ocean waters.”

This year’s Snapshot Day will include volunteers collecting water samples from the Oregon border into Mexico. Within the watersheds of the sanctuary over 150 streams will be sampled. Parameters measured will include temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Collected samples will also be sent for laboratory analysis of nutrients and bacteria levels.

“Today, less than five percent of California’s rivers and streams are monitored regularly,” said Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network coordinator. “Ultimately the goal of Snapshot Day is to help people gain a better understanding of the natural systems that surround them as well as highlight the key role volunteer monitors can play. By involving people directly in monitoring activities they also gain a sense of ownership and responsibility to keep their waterways clean.”

Managed by the NOAA National National Marine Sanctuary Program, a part of the National Ocean Service, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses more than 5,300 square miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world’s most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Monitoring Network is a consortium of approximately 20 citizen-monitoring groups that monitor the health of the sanctuary. Established in 1997 the network facilitates the work of volunteer monitoring groups by providing guidance, technical training, equipment, and database development. A detailed look at previous year’s Snapshot Day results can be found on the network’s Web site: <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/>

monitoringnetwork/events.html

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation whose goal is to promote protection and public understanding of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Since 1995 the foundation has been instrumental in helping support research, education and enforcement initiatives for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is now conducting a sanctuary designation process to consider incorporating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Monitoring Network:
<http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/monitoringnetwork/events.html>

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: <http://www.mbnmsf.org/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R421
May 14, 2003

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THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND UNDERWATER PRESERVE SEEKS VOLUNTEER ADVISORS

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, managed by NOAA, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Michigan, is seeking five volunteer advisors, and five alternates, to serve as education, tourism, diving, maritime history and interpretation and citizen at large representatives on the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for two-year terms.

The volunteer representatives provide advice and recommendations for the management of the sanctuary to the Sanctuary Manager and the Joint Management Committee, a state and federal body that oversees major sanctuary policy, management, and budget issues. Council members serve as liaisons to the community regarding sanctuary issues and concerns.

Sanctuary management partners, NOAA and the State of Michigan,

will review applications and agree upon the new members. A member and alternate will be selected for each seat. Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Considerations include community and professional affiliations, philosophy on the conservation and management of marine and Great Lake resources, and the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. Alternatives have voting privileges when the primary representative cannot attend a meeting.

Applications will be accepted for the open seats from May 13 to June 6. Application packets can be obtained at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve office in the Federal Building, 145 Water Street, Alpena, Michigan during business hours or contact Kate Thompson at 356-8805 (ext 10) or Kate.Kauffman@noaa.gov. Application packets can also be downloaded from the sanctuary Web site.

The SAC was established in 1997 and consists of 15 members who represent a variety of local user groups, the public, and local and state government jurisdictions. The council typically meets several times per year.

Managed by the NOAA National Ocean Service, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is located in Lake Huron off lower Michigan's northeast coast. The Sanctuary protects the nationally significant collection of shipwrecks in the Thunder Bay region.

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resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve:

<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>

Sanctuary Advisory Council Applications: <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/sac/sac.html>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R420
May 12, 2003

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CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CHRISTENS NEW RESEARCH VESSEL

Today the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) christened the R/V Shearwater, a 62', high-speed Teknicraft aluminum-hull catamaran research vessel. This new vessel will be an important new tool to enhance research in the California National Marine Sanctuaries. Held at the Sea Landing Dock at Santa Barbara Harbor, the vessel's homeport and the headquarters for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), the christening was attended by NOAA's Captain Ted I. Lillestolen, associate deputy assistant administrator for National Ocean Service, and Congresswoman Lois Capps, D-Calif. The vessel will also serve Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, all located off the California coast.

"The R/V Shearwater will usher in a new level of research capability for both Channel Islands and the California sanctuaries," said Captain

Lillestolen. "It is the first research vessel built specifically for the sanctuary use. It took a dedicated team effort, including sanctuary researchers and marine specialists, to make it possible."

"This vessel shows NOAA's commitment to the Santa Barbara area and I believe that the R/V Shearwater will prove to be a critical investment in the agency's ongoing work to protect the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary," said Representative Lois Capps.

"The vessel design provides enhanced capabilities for on-board science and data collection, plus increased stability and speed needed for management and research at the sanctuary," said Chris Mobley, CINMS manager.

Paul Gow, Naval Architect with PK/Marine, Moorpark, Calif., developed the specification requirements for the vessel contract. The detailed design was accomplished by Nic deWaal of Technicraft, Inc. Auckland, New Zealand. George Ringstad of Discovery Marine Services, Edmonds, Wash., accomplished on-site construction inspection and engineering consultation for the project.

"The result is a vessel ideally suited for oceanographic research in the waters off of California. We were delighted to work with the boat builder, All American Marine, and all those who contributed to the successful completion of this research vessel," said CINMS Research Coordinator Sarah Fangman, who coordinated the design and production of R/V Shearwater with the builders.

The vessel's A-frame and winch configuration are used for a variety of projects including conductivity, temperature and depth casts, sediment sampling, and towing equipment such as sidescan sonar and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). The wet and dry laboratories allow onboard processing of samples and data.

R/V Shearwater will hold 24 passengers with a top speed of 24 knots and cruising speed of 20 knots. The vessel's power system is designed for sensitive scientific equipment and to ensure scientific data are not lost due to power surges or interruptions. The vessel's bridge electronics include two radars, differential global positioning system, autopilot, Simrad echosounder, an acoustic water column and bottom mapping system.

The R/V Shearwater's onboard facilities and equipment can support extensive scuba dive operations. The flying bridge is outfitted for marine mammal and seabird observation. Recent efforts within CINMS have emphasized seabird research, archeological/cultural research

(primarily shipwrecks) and collecting data for emerging management issues. Onboard berthing, stowage, galley and safety equipment allow for multiple-day excursions with crews of up to 10 scientists.

“In addition to serving as the platform for open water research, the vessel will serve as a host for educational field trips and emergency response in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary,” said CINMS Vessel Operations Coordinator and R/V Shearwater Captain Matt Kelly.

There are approximately 43 vessels in the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) fleet, including the R/V Shearwater. They allow managers, scientists, and other employees of the nation’s 13 National Marine Sanctuaries conduct routine and recurring business on the water including monitoring, research, enforcement, education and diving operations. The other vessel available to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the 29-foot Xantu, is a small vessel suitable for day trips and education and research activities.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries administered by the Commerce Department's NOAA. It encompasses 1,658 square miles of water surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands, extending from mean high tide to 6 nautical miles offshore around each of the five islands. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents results in a great variety of plants and animals, including nearshore kelp forests, fish, invertebrates, cetaceans, pinnipeds, and marine birds.

NOAA’s NMSP seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to determine if it is appropriate to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOAA’s National Ocean Service (National Ocean Service) manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation’s coasts and oceans.

National Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats

and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resource.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary - <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R414
April 18, 2003

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(831) 647-4237

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SEEKS TOURISM REPRESENTATIVE (ALTERNATE) FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for a Tourism representative (Alternate) seat on the Sanctuary's Advisory Council. The general public is welcome to apply and the candidate selected should expect to serve until February 2005. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Applicants are chosen based upon their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Considerations include community and professional affiliations, philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) was established in March 1994 to assure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the SAC's 20 voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus seven local, state and federal governmental jurisdictions. Since its establishment, the SAC has played a vital role in advising the sanctuary and NOAA on critical issues and is currently focused on the sanctuary's development of a new 5-year management plan. The SAC meets bi-monthly in public sessions located throughout the 276-mile boundary of the sanctuary.

The SAC member application packages are available at the sanctuary Web site, <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>, or can be obtained at (831) 647- 4201. Completed applications must be submitted to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 299 Foam Street, Monterey, Calif. 93940, by close of business May 12, 2003.

Managed by the NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS), the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses more than 5,300 miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is now conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOS is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. The NOAA Ocean Service balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats, and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security

and national safety through research to better understand weather and climate-related events and to manage wisely the nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>.

NOS - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>.

NMSP - <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R412
April 2, 2003

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NOAA'S MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY "FIRST FLUSH" REPORT SHOWS STORMWATER NOT CLEAN WHEN REACHES BAY

NOAA's Monterey Bay Sanctuary and the Coastal Watershed Council released a report today that shows high concentrations of pollutants were detected in Pacific Grove, Monterey, Capitola and Santa Cruz, Calif., storm drains following last fall's first major rain storm event. Monterey Bay is one in a network of Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) national marine sanctuaries.

The report, titled "First Flush," showed that accumulated oil, chemicals, and litter runoff flushed from streets and other impermeable surfaces

were found in the rain water samples going into NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The water quality sampling was conducted at 19 sites by an extensive network of volunteers with the sanctuary's Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network and Coastal Watershed Council.

Samples were analyzed in the laboratory and compared to the findings of previous "First Flush" events. Metal concentrations, such as copper, lead and zinc, have increased every year at the majority of sites. Bacteria and total suspended solids were also higher than previous years. Sources of these metals may include brake pads, copper piping, building materials and pressure treated wood.

Some examples of impaired water flows include:

- The site located at Soquel Creek at Capitola Village in Santa Cruz had the highest reported lead concentration of 92 micrograms/liter. This level is three times higher than the state water quality objective of 30 micrograms/liter.
- The Asilomar site in Pacific Grove, and the outfall site at Merced Avenue and West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz reported copper concentrations of 340 micrograms/liter. This is 11 times higher than the state water quality objective of 30 micrograms/liter.
- The Steinbeck Plaza site in Monterey, and the Lover's Point site in Pacific Grove had the highest average orthophosphate (a form of phosphorus commonly found in detergents) concentrations for all three years. This year, Steinbeck Plaza's concentration of 3.15 parts per million was 20 times higher than the state action level of 0.16 parts per million. Lover's Point initial sample reported 2.64 parts per million.

"While these results are not conclusive as to a certain contamination problem, some preliminary conclusions can be drawn that require further investigation," said Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros. "Additionally, these results have occurred over three years, and are not a one time, single phenomenon. In all cases the sanctuary is working very closely with local agencies to further investigate the causes of the contamination events."

Storm water runoff in coastal urban areas has been known to produce significant toxicity to early life stages of aquatic organisms due to the presence of trace metals. Effects include reduced reproduction, developmental deformities and mortality. Toxicity analysis of three different test marine organisms indicated that the water from the 2002

“First Flush” was toxic to the test organisms resulting in impaired reproduction or mortality. Preliminary findings identify copper and zinc concentrations as possibly contributing to the toxicity.

“An important next step will be additional testing by the state of California’s Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory to help us better pin down the causes of the toxicity,” said Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator. “Each city also had at least one site that warrants upstream monitoring to locate the source of contamination. It is important that we work together to solve these problems, as well as educate the general population that all of our actions contribute to the quality of water flowing off our streets.”

This was third annual “First Flush” monitoring event in Monterey and Pacific Grove and the second annual event in Capitola and Santa Cruz. Unlike household sewage, storm drain pollution is not cleansed by sewage treatment plants and is one of the largest sources of pollution throughout the country.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network is a consortium of approximately 20 citizen monitoring groups that monitor the health of the Sanctuary. The network was established in 1997 and has since provided support, training, and a central forum and database for citizen monitoring programs. “First Flush” is a collaborative effort involving the network and the Coastal Watershed Council. Funding is provided by the sanctuary, and the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Capitola and Santa Cruz.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches along 276 miles of central California coast and encompasses over 5,300 miles of ocean area. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary supports one of the world’s most diverse marine ecosystems, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes and thousands of marine invertebrates and plants.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOAA Oceans and Coastal Services (NOAA Oceans and Coasts)

manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. NOAA Oceans and Coasts balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

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Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network or see "First Flush 2002": <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/monitoringnetwork/events.html>.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R411
March 19, 2003

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(800) 831-4888

**EXPANSION PLANNED FOR NOAA'S HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
FACILITIES ON MAUI**

New Multi-Purpose Center Proposed

Officials from the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today announced proposed plans to upgrade and expand its Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) headquarters in Kihei, Hawai'i. The plans call for demolition and removal of two antiquated storage buildings, construction of a new multi-purpose building, installation of a new parking lot and site landscaping such as an outdoor courtyard.

"The new building will enhance the capabilities of the sanctuary to accommodate its education and research programs," said Naomi McIntosh, acting sanctuary manager. "The proposed project will relieve current overcrowding and provide space for additional staff as well as a modern facility for conducting seminars and community outreach."

The sanctuary will hold a public open house from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on

Thursday, March 20, 2003, at 726 South Kihei Road, Kihei, Hawai'i. Site drawings and a model of the proposed building will be on display. A draft environmental assessment (EA) has also been released for public comment. The project team including sanctuary staff, the project architect and consultants preparing the EA, will be available to answer questions.

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To receive a copy of the draft environmental impact assessment, contact the Sanctuary office at 1-800-831-4888 or email; claire.cappelle@noaa.gov. All written comments must be received no later than April 7, 2003. Comments must be sent to:

Claire Cappelle
726 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753
Phone: (800) 831-4888
Fax: (808) 874-3815
Email: claire.cappelle@noaa.gov

For more information online, please visit:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>.

NOAA Ocean Service - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary - <http://>

hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA03-R409
March 3, 2003

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**NOAA DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
BREAK GROUND ON NOAA'S NEW MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY
CENTER**

Newport News, Va.—In a historic step toward better preserving and managing our nation's maritime heritage, the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) broke ground today at the site of NOAA's new Maritime Archaeology Center (MAC) at The Mariners' Museum. The groundbreaking was attended by Commerce Department Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Scott B. Gudes, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Rep. Bobby Scott, (D-VA) and The Mariners' Museum President and CEO John Hightower.

"NOAA's Maritime Archaeology Center will serve as the coordination point for the protection of cultural resources within our National Marine

Sanctuaries,” said Gudes. “Since the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated the first National Marine Sanctuary in 1975, NOAA has been charged with the protection of historic shipwrecks and other submerged archaeological sites. By breaking ground today, we are taking a vital step toward strengthening NOAA’s commitment to protecting these unique and irreplaceable underwater resources.”

NOAA’s Maritime Archaeology Center, which will be located on the grounds of The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Va., will house NOAA staff dedicated to assisting the National Marine Sanctuaries in their efforts to manage and protect their maritime and cultural artifacts. The MAC also will provide assistance and consultation to other federal and state agencies on issues concerning submerged maritime and cultural artifacts and seek to develop new methods, tools, and partnerships for achieving program objectives. The office of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will be co-located at the MAC.

"NOAA has played an extremely important role in preserving our local heritage, and promoting the commonwealth's and the nation's rich history," said Rep. Davis. "NOAA's work on the USS Monitor is indicative of their dedication to our heritage, and I applaud their efforts. The recovery and preservation of the Monitor is an important part of preserving our nations history."

“Locating, protecting, managing, researching and educating the public about archaeological sites throughout the sanctuary system is an important part of the overall mission,” said Daniel J. Basta, director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. “As with natural resources, numerous user and interest groups – from archaeologists to recreational divers to salvors – seek to interact with these resources in a variety of ways. The cultural resources within our sanctuaries, if properly studied and interpreted, will increase public enjoyment and appreciation of our special and diverse sanctuary resources.”

“I am very excited about the sanctuary program’s increased emphasis on maritime and cultural artifacts that will be embodied in this new center,” said MAC Director and Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Manager John Broadwater. “Americans are, and always have been, a maritime people, beginning with the native coastal tribes, expanding with the European exploration and settlement period, and culminating in the greatest naval power the world has ever seen. One of the center’s primary goals is to emphasize and interpret America’s maritime heritage, thus adding a new dimension to the already well-developed natural resources programs.”

“The groundbreaking of NOAA’s Maritime Archaeology Center on the

campus of The Mariners' Museum is another significant moment for the partnership of the Museum and the National Marine Sanctuary Program,” said Hightower. “As plans continue to progress for the Museum's USS Monitor Center, NOAA's expansion of its concern for underwater cultural resources put both organizations on a path of continuing growth and endless educational possibilities.”

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. In addition, the NMSP is conducting a sanctuary designation process to incorporate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve into the national sanctuary system.

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOAA Oceans and Coasts) manages the National Marine Sanctuary Program and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. NOAA Oceans and Coasts balances environmental protection with economic prosperity in fulfilling its mission of promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats and mitigating coastal hazards.

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the internet:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Oceans and Coasts - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary - <http://monitor.noaa.gov/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 02 R404
February 13, 2003

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**TORTUGAS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE VIOLATION BRINGS \$20,000
PENALTY**

NOAA Cites Owner and Operator of Shrimp Trawler

Attorneys for the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have issued a \$20,000 civil penalty in the case of a vessel cited for illegal shrimp trawling in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's protected Tortugas Ecological Reserve last December.

Christine Ho of Abbeville, La., owner of the Fishing Vessel *Miss Christine V*, and vessel captain Cu T. Nguyen of Port Arthur, Texas, face a combined penalty in the incident. The Coast Guard vessel Nantucket cited the *Miss Christine V* on Dec. 16, 2002. The Nantucket escorted the *Miss Christine V* to Key West, where its catch of 1,117

lbs. of pink shrimp was seized and sold by a NOAA agent. The \$1,733.38 proceeds from the sale remain in escrow pending settlement of the case.

Five days previously, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers had cited the *Miss Christine V* for illegal shrimp trawling inside the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary, a cooperative closure between the State of Florida and the Department of Commerce.

“Once again, we thank the United States Coast Guard for helping to provide the effective enforcement that is critical to the success of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve,” said Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey. “Law-abiding commercial and recreational fishermen, who are by far the majority, deserve to know that those who violate the reserve’s protections will pay the price.”

The Tortugas Ecological Reserve, established in 2001, protects 151 square nautical miles of deep coral reefs and other essential habitat for fish and other marine life. The reserve is the largest of the sanctuary’s network of 24 “no-take” areas set aside to protect habitat and preserve the diversity of marine life in the coral reef ecosystem of the Florida Keys.

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For more information online please visit:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Ocean Service - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOAA 02 R402
January 13, 2003

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AWARDS BRONZE MEDAL
TO FLORIDA BIOLOGIST JOHN HALAS**

The Department of Commerce has awarded its Bronze Medal to NOAA National Ocean Service biologist John Halas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for developing a mooring, or fastening, device designed to protect countless acres of coral reef from anchor damage. His invention is being used throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and marine protected areas worldwide. The Bronze Medal is the highest honorary award given by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“Thanks to Halas’ ingenuity what may now seem like a simple invention has helped revolutionize coral reef management worldwide

and significantly reduced a major source of damage to the heavily visited reefs of the Florida Keys,” said Billy Causey, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary superintendent.

Consisting of concrete block and heavy chain, previous mooring devices threatened to damage the very sea floor they were designed to protect. The Halas Mooring Buoy System consists of a stainless steel eyebolt cemented securely into a hold drilled into the seafloor. A floating line shackled to the eyebolt extends through a plastic mooring buoy. Boaters use a pick-up line attached to the buoy to secure their boats.

Halas first implemented the system as an experiment in the old Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary as a sanctuary employee in 1981. That area is now part of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, where more than 420 mooring buoys protect the coral reefs, and nearly 240 additional buoys mark areas set aside for special protection. Halas designed the mooring system in consultation with Harold Hudson, a sanctuary assessment and restoration expert.

Halas has visited more than 35 countries to train personnel and assist in installation of the mooring buoy system in the Caribbean, Egypt’s Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the broader Pacific region and China.

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For more information online please visit:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Ocean Service - <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

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