

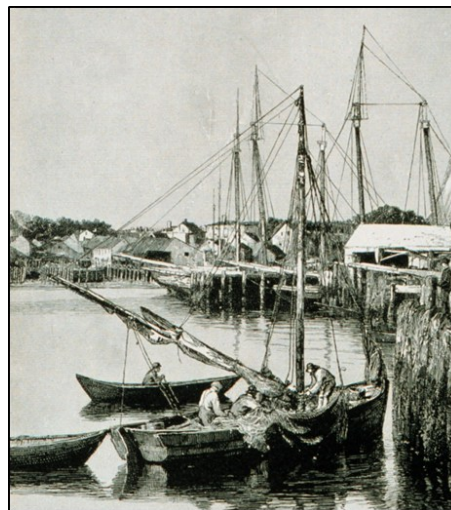
## Maritime Heritage Tourism

Edited by **Emily Susko** (Knauss Fellow) and **Amy Painter** (Communications)  
at the National Sea Grant Office

Photo Credit: NOAA Photo Library

Tourism is one of the top economic drivers in American coastal communities, and Sea Grant's unique research, extension and outreach capabilities position it to be "the 'go-to' organization for science-based information related to coastal tourism" (Carey et al. 2012). In line with our mission of wise coastal resource use, Sea Grant works with individuals, businesses and communities to develop tourism initiatives that are environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive as well as economically robust.

One approach Sea Grant programs have taken toward sustainable coastal tourism development focuses on researching, preserving and showcasing local **maritime heritage**. Such efforts promote local pride and stewardship while fostering community development. This issue of the *Sea Grant Sustainable Coastal Community Development Bulletin* highlights some examples of this work: themed tourism trails identify and link key points in maritime heritage of the past and present, while other projects provide opportunities for students and the residential community to identify local heritage treasures. The end of the issue contains a list of funding resources that may be of use to Sea Grant programs interested in heritage tourism research and extension.



See Also:

### Sustainable Coastal Tourism: Renewing Sea Grant's Role

A policy white paper produced by a working group of the Sea Grant network, May 2012.

John Carey, James Falk, Karl Havens  
*Lead Authors*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Lake Erie Shipwrecks &  
Maritime Tales**



**North Carolina's Focus  
on Maritime Heritage**



**Maine's Downeast  
Fisheries Trail**

Sea Grant



# Ohio Sea Grant Partnerships Promote Cultural and Coastal Tourism and Protect Valuable Historic Resources

By Joe Lucente, OHSG

More than 1,700 shipwrecks lie at the bottom of Lake Erie, a record-setting number for the Great Lakes. Of those, 277 have been found. Despite these impressive numbers, Ohio was the only Great Lakes state without a formal state-sponsored program dedicated to education about its maritime heritage and its historic shipwreck resources.

With help from these partners and support from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Office of Coastal Management, a total of 28 Lake Erie shipwrecks are now showcased in a brochure and on the *Lake Erie Shipwrecks & Maritime Tales* website [www.ohioshipwrecks.org](http://www.ohioshipwrecks.org).

Ohio was the only Great Lakes state without a formal program dedicated to its historic shipwreck resources.

With hundreds of shipwrecks to choose from, **Ohio Sea Grant** convened partners from historical societies, academia, archaeological survey teams, tourism organizations and visitors' bureaus to help identify the most interesting sunken ships and to develop and implement plans to promote cultural and coastal tourism. Sea Grant extension staff began researching and linking shipwrecks accessible from ports along Lake Erie, identifying important sunken ships that are accessible to the public.



Both the guide and the website highlight known, popular shipwrecks in four separate sectors of Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline. The site features a map of all the Lake Erie shipwrecks, historical images of the ships, accounts of the vessels' history, underwater video clips and descriptions of what divers can see. The brochure includes locations of the lake's lighthouses, maritime museums and museum ships that are also a part of the lake's heritage.

Image from Lake Erie Shipwrecks Brochure



The **Erie Islands Trailway** is one of four underwater routes designated by Ohio Sea Grant and their partners to connect highlighted shipwrecks.

Ohio Sea Grant created these resources to help residents and visitors locate and learn about the many historical, cultural and recreational shipwrecks in Ohio's Lake Erie waters and to promote coastal tourism and business development. Linkages to the four new designated underwater trailways enhance existing tourism initiatives such as the Coastal Ohio Trail and the Lake Erie Circle Tour. Both products encourage cultural and coastal tourism as tools to expand Lake Erie tourism revenues, and they promise to be valuable assets in the conservation and protection of important shipwreck sites. These efforts will help the coastal economy flourish by elevating direct visitor spending, creating new job opportunities, and increasing local and state tax bases attributed to visitor spending.

For more about this Ohio Sea Grant Extension project, visit [www.ohioshipwrecks.org](http://www.ohioshipwrecks.org) or contact Joe Lucente at [lucente.6@osu.edu](mailto:lucente.6@osu.edu)

## North Carolina Sea Grant's Focus on Maritime Heritage

By Katie Mosher, NCSG

North Carolina's maritime heritage may evoke sagas of the Lost Colony and the Graveyard of the Atlantic, but maritime efforts in the state are not all doom and gloom. Many coastal communities see heritage tourism as offering a sustainable path to economic opportunity.

Many coastal communities see heritage tourism as offering a sustainable path to economic opportunity.

In addition to shipwrecks, maritime culture in North Carolina includes boatbuilding and fishing communities along the coast, which spans about 300 miles of ocean-front and more than 3,000 miles of estuarine shoreline. A **North Carolina Sea Grant** study of changing demographics of the Down East area in Carteret County resulted in community meetings and a video documentary that showed how much both newcomers and long-time residents value the region's natural resources, history and culture. The project also leveraged \$350,000 for the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center to continue community visioning and to initiate similar efforts in two additional counties.

The project also helped inspire the Saltwater Connections network, a regional initiative aimed at sustaining cultural heritage along the central coast. The network, working with fisheries specialist Sara Mirabilio, invited residents to compile asset maps of local treasures. The maps are elements in the ongoing Outer Banks Scenic Byway, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, as a local guide system for visitors traveling by car or bike and ferry.

Photo courtesy of Sarah K. Amspacher



Lillie Chadwick Miller is the editor of *Down East Community News Online*, a Saltwater Connections project.

Since 2007, **North Carolina Sea Grant** and East Carolina University have sponsored **fellowships in maritime heritage**. The fellows focus on a variety of topics, including demonstrating new tools to survey shipwrecks such as the Confederate ironclad *Neuse*, documenting newly discovered submerged relic vessels and detailing the historic role of the U.S. Lifesaving Service on the Outer Banks.

### 2012 Maritime Heritage Fellows

**Daniel Brown** of Bladensburg, MD will investigate an early 17th century wreck of unknown origin off Corolla in the Outer Banks.



**Thomas Horn** of Los Angeles, CA will study the corrosion rate of the iron-hulled USS *Huron*, which sank in 1877.

Photos courtesy of NCSG

For more information, see:

[www.saltwaterconnections.org](http://www.saltwaterconnections.org)  
[www.outerbanksscenicbyway.org](http://www.outerbanksscenicbyway.org)

North Carolina Sea Grant's quarterly publication *Coastwatch* has covered several stories on Maritime Heritage, most recently:

[Ship Ashore! Risk and the Historic U.S. Life-Saving Service](#),

Winter 2012

## Maine's Downeast Fisheries Trail: Celebrating Fisheries Heritage, Then and Now

By Natalie Springuel, MESH



This summer, **Maine Sea Grant** and partners celebrated the launch of the Downeast Fisheries Trail. From Penobscot Bay to Cobscook Bay at the northeast tip of the U.S., the Downeast Fisheries Trail connects 45 historic and active fisheries sites, including fish hatcheries, aquaculture facilities, fishing harbors, clam flats, processing plants, historical societies and community centers—all of which tell a story of the region's maritime heritage. Marine resources sustain the culture and economy of Downeast Maine. The Downeast Fisheries Trail builds on these local resources to strengthen community life and enrich visitors' experience of the area.

Heritage often gets lost in history tomes, when in fact, it encompasses all aspects of a culture, then and now, that are passed down through generations. Fisheries heritage tells us everything from how to work the herring weir to when the alewives run to how lobster transitioned from poor man's lunch to luxury meal. Heritage is knowledge in action, and in academic terms, heritage is at the crossroads of history, economics, politics, marine ecology and culture.



Hauling a net full of salmon at the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in East Orland, a Downeast Fisheries Trail site.

Photo courtesy of the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery.

This type of project is a perfect fit for Sea Grant because it fosters collaboration among two primary audiences who stand to benefit from working together, the fisheries and tourism industries. Both industries face challenges in the current economic climate, and both depend on the health and vitality of the ocean and coast. They also share a common heritage. Heritage preservation offers visitors a personal, local experience and helps residents remember where they come from and anticipate a future where knowledge of the coast remains important.

This type of project is a perfect fit for Sea Grant because it fosters collaboration among the fisheries and tourism industries.

The trail includes interpretive signs at three locations to explain various aspects of local fisheries heritage. A map brochure points the way to 45 historic and active fisheries sites, and a website ([www.DowneastFisheriesTrail.org](http://www.DowneastFisheriesTrail.org)), companion Facebook page and traveling exhibit of fisheries photos educate visitors and celebrate Downeast Maine's fisheries heritage.

Maine Sea Grant coordinates the project in partnership with the Maine Community Foundation, Downeast and Acadia Regional Tourism, Sunrise County Economic Council, the Lobster Institute, Penobscot Marine Museum, and all of the organizations that manage sites on the Downeast Fisheries Trail.

For more information, contact  
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant,  
[nspringuel@coa.edu](mailto:nspringuel@coa.edu) or 207-288-2944 ext. 5834

### Maritime Heritage Tourism Grants and Funding Sources

NOAA Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding Program: [preserveamerica.noaa.gov](http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov)

TourismCares Worldwide Grant Program: [www.tourismcares.org](http://www.tourismcares.org)

Preservation Directory's Grants & Funding Sources List:

[www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationGeneralResources/GrantsFundingSources.aspx](http://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationGeneralResources/GrantsFundingSources.aspx)