

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council Meeting
November 9, 2007

In Attendance: Roger Kirchen (VA Department of Historic Resources-Alternate), Joanna Wilson (VA Department of Historic Resources), Joseph Schwarzer (Maritime Museum), Anna Holloway (The Mariners' Museum), Mitch Bowman (Heritage Tourism), Larry Murphy (National Park Service), Reed Bohne (Northeast Great Lakes Region), David Alberg (Sanctuary Superintendent), Susan Langley (Archaeological Research), Channing Zucker (Citizen-at-Large), Krista Trono (Council Coordinator), Richard Lawrence (NC Department of Cultural Resources), Terri Kirby-Hathaway (Education), Robert Neyland (Navy), David Krop (The Mariners' Museum), Marcie Renner (The Mariners' Museum), Bill Cogar (The Mariners' Museum), Valerie Grussing (East Carolina University), Alex Varouxis (Diver/Citizen)

Absent: Don Reynolds (Recreational Diving), Mark Wilde-Ramsing (NC Department of Cultural Resources-Alternate), Wayne Smith (Conservation), Claire Peachey (Navy-Alternate)

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Welcome

Channing Zucker, *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) Advisory Council (Council) secretary called the meeting to order. Wayne Smith, current acting chair, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. He introduced Reed Bohne, Northeast Great Lakes regional director for the NMS and the council's new member, Terri Kirby-Hathaway, from North Carolina Sea Grant who will be representing education. A new council contact list was distributed to those in attendance.

ACTION: Krista will email the updated council contact list to all council members. Please review the contact list to ensure all information is correct.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 2007 were emailed to the council and are available to download from the MNMS Web site. Channing reviewed the previous meeting minutes for accuracy. There was a motion to approve meeting minutes by

Joseph Schwarzer which was seconded by Susan Langley. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

NEGL Regional Program Update

Reed Bohne, director of the NMS Northeast Great Lakes Region provided the council with an update on regional initiatives, summarized below:

- Paul Ticco is the official MNMS liaison for the region.
- Regions are a mechanism to assist with dissemination of information and communications support during management plan review. The council has an important responsibility to get sanctuary information out to the public and constituent groups.
- The regional office works with states within the region that are interested in designating new sanctuaries off their coasts.
- The most recent NMSP leadership team meeting was in Wisconsin in September 2007. There has been interest from Wisconsin in designating a sanctuary in Lake Michigan.
- The region is also working with New York State to possibly create some legacy events for 2009, which may include designation of shipwrecks in Lake Champlain.
- The Graveyard of the Atlantic area is also being considered. Management plan review is an appropriate way for the program to look into further protection of shipwrecks in the Graveyard.

Swearing in of New Council Member

Terri Kirby-Hathaway recited the National Marine Sanctuary Program oath during this meeting.

Vote on new Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair

The council voted via secret ballot for Joseph Schwarzer to assume the responsibilities of council chair. Wayne Smith will remain vice-chair and Channing Zucker remains council secretary.

Discussion of Additional Seats to be Added to the Council

The council and sanctuary staff discussed whether the current council represents all necessary sanctuary constituent groups. It was determined that the council was lacking a fishing seat. Discussions then focused on how this seat should be filled (i.e.: with one representative from the commercial and one from the recreational arenas, or if it would be possible to find someone who works with both groups).

The council decided that it will be best to advertise one fishing seat. The application language should clearly define that the council is looking for an individual who represents both commercial and recreational fishing.

ACTION: Joseph Schwarzer and Terri Kirby-Hathaway will work together to draft the position description for the fishing representative. They will also assist with advertising this vacancy.

In addition the council noted that in the future a marine ecologist or biologist may benefit the council, as well as a fishing representative from the North Carolina state government. A US Coast Guard seat was also discussed. The council will re-examine the value of these seats during management plan review.

Superintendent's Report

David Alberg provided an update to the council on a variety of topics, summarized below:

- Budget: NOAA is still under a continuing resolution that is expected to last through January 2008.
- Enforcement: Dave met with US Coast Guard enforcement officers based in Hatteras, NC during summer 2007. The officers were familiar with the sanctuary but not familiar with site regulations. The sanctuary plans to offer training on site regulations to the Coast Guard twice a year.
- Education & Outreach: There has been an increased awareness of the *Monitor* since the *Monitor* Center opening in March 2007. Since April, the sanctuary has exhibited at community festivals including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in July 2007, Harborfest in Norfolk in June 2007, Hampton Bay Days, and Delaware Coast Day. They also participated in a shipwreck forum held at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island. The staff will also begin production on a 15-minute film on the *Monitor* in 2008.
- Science & Research: In summer 2007 there was only one private dive on the *Monitor*. The team collected video and still images including the first documented case of lionfish on the wreck site. In 2008 the data buoy will have an acoustic Doppler current profiler installed. New outreach materials highlighting the buoy were also created. The System Wide Monitoring (SWiM) Report on the *Monitor* will be completed in December 2007. Thanks to Anna Holloway and Susan Langley for their assistance in editing the report.
- Conservation: Conservation staff at The Mariners' Museum completed excavations of the turret during summer 2007. More aggressive treatments of the turret are now possible. The staff was assisted by three interns from East Carolina University, paid by the sanctuary office. Staff also rotated the two Dahlgren guns, and completed de-concretion of one of the Worthington Pumps. The pump will be displayed at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum once fully conserved. Turret nut guards are devoid of metal and may not make it through conservation. The nut guards have been molded and documented.
Sections of the propeller shaft, an officer's boot and other items will be coming out within the next 6 months.
- Partners: Dave met with several members of the governor's office in Raleigh, NC on the sanctuary to discuss education and outreach efforts underway in North Carolina.
 - Staff also visited with the NC Department of Cultural Resources representatives to discuss the Graveyard of the Atlantic. The state asked how to better partner with NOAA and the Park Service. A memorandum of agreement may be the next step.

- The site is currently working with the National Park Service Cape Hatteras Group on park service interpretive materials and outdoor signage.
- Exhibits will be installed in the NC Aquarium and Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in 2008.
- Staff have also been working more closely with NOAA partners. This summer they participated in NOAA Restoration Day to clean up the James River, and have begun attending regional NOAA collaboration meetings.
- The sanctuary has once again began working with the Navy. In summer 2008 the Navy plans to utilize their new saturation dive system to allow divers to practice deep-diving skills on Graveyard of the Atlantic wrecks including the *Jackson* and *Bedloe*.
- NOAA is now involved in permitting trips to the *Titanic*. Under the new legislation revenues generated from violations/fines will be directed first to the *Titanic* and second to assist with *Monitor* conservation. The MNMS will coordinate permits to the *Titanic*.

Priority Issues Development

The council was provided a list of suggested issues that impact the *Monitor* NMS (See Appendix A). Members were asked to identify the 10 that they found to be most significant. This initial exercise was given to assist with future development of goals and objectives for the management plan. Council members not in attendance at the meeting were provided with the issues list by email.

There was some discussion about whether the initial list should focus solely on the *Monitor* sanctuary or should broaden its focus to include other shipwrecks of the Graveyard of the Atlantic. It was determined that for now the focus should remain on the *Monitor* and that sanctuary expansion can be proposed as an issue area to explore.

ACTION: Priority issues should be ranked and sent back to Susan Langley to summarize by November 19, 2007. Susan will collate and redistribute to the council.

ACTION: The council was asked to assist with the development of an email distribution list for management plan review. Council members were asked to provide Krista with the contact information for their key constituents as well as suggestions for any listservs, newsletters, Web sites, etc. where sanctuary information should be posted.

Public Comment Period

The general public in attendance at this meeting did not have any comments.

Working Groups

Council members were asked to volunteer for a variety of working groups to assist the site with upcoming projects and initiatives. The following individuals volunteered for the following groups:

Priority Issues- Susan Langley

State of the Sanctuary Report Review- Channing Zucker, Joanna Wilson, Larry Murphy, Terri Hathaway and Richard Lawrence

Application Review- Joe Schwarzer, Anna Holloway, Mitch Bowman and Terri Hathaway

Charter Review- Anna Holloway and Joe Schwarzer

Greening- Roger Kirchen

Sanctuary Advocacy & Ways to Support Future Efforts

David Alberg encouraged council members to continue their public outreach efforts.

ACTION: The sanctuary has been asked to add a “notes” section and draft a script for the PowerPoint presentation distributed to the council in April 2007.

Future Meetings

The council discussed moving from two meetings per year to three. The council agreed that the already scheduled April and November meetings are good. They would like to add the third meeting either in late January or early February. Budget permitting they would also like to meet in person three times per year.

ACTION: The next council meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 10-11, 2008 in Hatteras, North Carolina. Mitch Bowman noted that he is unavailable April 16 and 20-25 and Anna Holloway noted that April 26-27 and the first week of May she is not available.

ACTION: The January 2008 meeting is tentatively scheduled for 24-25 in Newport News, VA. Dave will determine whether a January meeting is feasible and will let the council know.

Other Business

Roger Kirchen updated the council on a recent survey by the NOAA Ship *Rude* which identified 3 wrecks in the Chesapeake Bay of possible historic significance. The Department of Historic Resources was asked to respond and Roger spoke with the sanctuary staff and regional representatives for guidance on this matter. The shipwrecks have subsequently been recorded as soundings until further investigation can be conducted. As a result, DHR recognized the need for more support for shipwrecks at their office.

Meeting Adjournment

Channing Zucker thanked the council and public for attending the meeting. The meeting was officially adjourned.

Priority Issues

From the following list of 23 issues, rank the top 10 in order of importance:
1 being the most important and 10 the least important

- _____ Artificial reefs
- _____ Climate change (coral bleaching)
- _____ Endangered species
- _____ Enforcement
- _____ Fishing: Recreational
- _____ Fishing: Commercial
- _____ Impacts on wildlife: Physical contact with wildlife
- _____ Impacts on wildlife: Underwater sound
- _____ Invasive species
- _____ Living Resources Research (biodiversity, key species, etc.)
- _____ Marine Debris: Lost fishing gear
- _____ Marine Debris: Trash
- _____ Maritime Heritage: Continued *Monitor* preservation
- _____ Maritime Heritage: Future archaeological work on the *Monitor*
- _____ Pollutants: Discharge From vessels
- _____ Pollutants: Seepage from shipwrecks (RUST database)
- _____ Sanctuary boundary expansion into the area known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic
- _____ Shipping/transport
- _____ Visitor use: Use and management of mooring buoys
- _____ Visitor use: Increasing numbers of visitors
- _____ Visitor use: User Conflicts
- _____ Visitor use: Diver Etiquette
- _____ Water quality
- _____ Other