

FY19 Accomplishments

BACKGROUND

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1975 as the first national marine sanctuary to protect the wreck site of the USS *Monitor*. The *Monitor* was the prototype for a class of U.S. Civil War ironclad, turreted warships that significantly altered both naval technology and marine architecture in the nineteenth century. The sanctuary protects the wreck for future generations and works to share this iconic vessel's historical and cultural legacy with the public.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 14 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.





Monitor National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: The Mariner's Museum

The turret of the USS *Monitor* was placed on a new support structure that will allow preservation methods to continue.

Monitor's turret gets a new support structure

The conservation team at The Mariners' Museum and Park successfully marked a benchmark moment in the conservation of *Monitor's* turret. After nearly a decade of planning and preparation and with the aid of partners from Newport News Shipbuilding, Colonna's Shipyard, and Fairlead Boat Works, the team used four 100-ton hydraulic jacks to lift the turret. The 2002 original support structures were cut apart and lifted out and the turret settled onto a new and specially engineered support system, allowing conservators to advance to the next stage of treatment.

North Carolina schools become Ocean Guardian Schools

Working with NOAA's Ocean Guardian School Program, the sanctuary selected two North Carolina schools to each receive a \$3,000 grant. Bogue Sound Elementary School in Newport used the grant funds to support a marine debris and composting project, while Cape Hatteras Secondary School in Hatteras used the funds to begin the school's first recycling program. Working with sanctuary staff throughout the year, both schools exceeded the grant requirements and were officially awarded an Ocean Guardian School banner. The schools also reapplied and received an additional grant for the 2019-2020 school year.



Photo: Cape Hatteras Secondary School

Two North Carolina schools were awarded grants this year for sustainability initiatives under the NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program.

Dive slates for recreational divers

North Carolina shipwrecks are popular tourist attractions and drivers of the local economy. In an effort to support tourism and diving, sanctuary archaeologists designed dive slates for nine of the 90 World War II ships that sank off North Carolina's coast. Each plastic slate has historical information on one side and on the other, a site plan with an identification key. The dive slates of World War II shipwrecks and merchant ships include *Ashkhabad*, *Caribsea*, *E.M. Clark*, *F.W. Abrams*, *Keshena*, Allied vessel HMT *Bedfordshire*; and German U-boats U-85, U-352, and U-701.

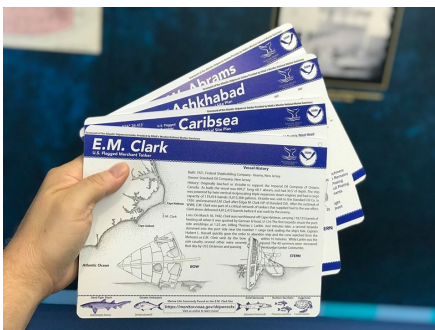


Photo: NOAA

Informational dive slates for several World War I shipwrecks were designed to provide a new resource for the recreational dive community present in the sanctuary.

Looking Ahead to FY20

- A draft document will be released for the expansion of the sanctuary, initiating public hearings and a 60-day comment period for feedback from partners, stakeholders, and the public.
- To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and to preserve North Carolina's WWII maritime heritage, the sanctuary will continue to work with partners to tell the stories and honor the thousands of sailors, marines, coast guard members, and merchant mariners lost during the war.
- In the summer of 2020, and in collaboration with NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster* and Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration, a series of live telepresence events, "Valor in the Atlantic," will happen across the U.S. to honor, study, and interpret WWII off North Carolina's coast.