



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 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.



Monitor National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: Tane Casserley/NOAA

ANCHOR partner, Discovery Diving in Beaufort, North Carolina, hosted a Nautical Archaeology Society class for recreational divers to learn how to map shipwrecks.



Photo: Tane Casserley/NOAA

In August 2018, researchers from multiple agencies and organizations partnered to conduct an assessment of the USS *Tarpon* shipwreck and its biological habitat.



Photo: NOAA

Three new curriculum guides offer a variety of activities to excite and motivate students about our maritime heritage, while covering science, technology, engineering, art, and math concepts.

Protecting our nation's maritime heritage off North Carolina's coast

Over 5,000 people have learned about the importance of good stewardship of our nation's cultural resources, while enjoying their history, beauty, and bounty, by attending events, presentations, and classes. Local and national presentations underscored the importance of an expanded sanctuary to protect World War II shipwrecks off coastal North Carolina and honored the men who died on them. Through the ANCHOR program and local dive shops, divers learned about maritime archaeology to assist with data collection, create site plans, and take beautiful underwater images of these historic shipwrecks.

2018 research expedition

A multidisciplinary cruise aboard the NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster*, in partnership with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, documented maritime heritage sites to assess their archaeological integrity and function as marine life habitat. A diverse group of experts from NOAA's Restoration Center, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, UNC-Coastal Studies Institute, and East Carolina University participated in documenting several sites off North Carolina. The resulting wealth of data will shed light on the shipwrecks' beneficial role as habitat for diverse marine life and future management of these national historic resources.

Bringing history and science to the classroom

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary created three new curriculum guides to excite and motivate students to learn about our nation's maritime heritage while offering activities in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Each guide, "USS *Monitor*," "World War I," and "World War II," is filled with a variety of lessons that bring history to life, while supporting required STEAM educational standards for grades 4-12. The guides help students understand the importance of protecting these historic cultural resources by focusing on our nation's maritime heritage as it happened off the North Carolina coast.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY19

- As Monitor National Marine Sanctuary moves toward expanding its boundaries, NOAA will continue partnerships with other government agencies and academia to research WWII shipwrecks off North Carolina's coast in an effort to commemorate and honor the 75th anniversary of WWII.
- NOAA's R/V *Peter Gladding*, a 57-foot research vessel, has been permanently transferred to Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. The vessel will support dive operations enabling researchers to better characterize the habitat and cultural resources off the North Carolina coast.
- Working in partnership with The Mariners' Museum, NOAA will continue to support the museum's efforts in the conservation of USS *Monitor* artifacts and in telling the *Monitor's* story to thousands of museum visitors each year through exhibits and galleries.

<http://monitor.noaa.gov/>