

**Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
- September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes-**

Date: September 13, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Meeting Attendees

NOAA: Tane Casserley, David Dodsworth, Mark Losavio, Pam Orlando, Paul “Sammy” Orlando, Jean Prevo, Shannon Ricles, William Sassorossi

SAC Members: Eileen Abel, Lee DeCola, Jay Haigler, Dan Hamilton, Bill Kiliniski, Maggie Ostdahl, Joanne Roland, Lucille Walker, Deanna Wheeler

SAC Alternates: Susan Gerbasi, Bonnie Grady, Margo Jackson, Sara Ramotnik, Taylor Schmitz, Anne Starke, Chad Tokowicz, Sharee Williamson

Government Agency and Tribe Members: Phil Hager, Mario Harley, Shaka Hill, Elizabeth Hughes, Elizabeth Moore

Guests: Ellie Oldach

Media: n/a

WELCOME & SAC BUSINESS:

Eileen Abel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Dan Hamilton motioned to approve the July 26, 2021, meeting minutes. Jay Haigler seconded and the meeting minutes were approved by the entire council. These minutes are available on the website <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-potomac/involved/meetings.html>.

New council representatives Shaka Hill from the U.S. Coast Guard and Phil Hager from the Maryland DNR were introduced.

MONITOR STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries reorganized some management of the eastern region sites. This reorganization joined the management of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary under Superintendent Sammy Orlando. Sammy plans to connect the sites and have them operate as a single unit. The Monitor NMS staff was introduced and given the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about what

types of programs they are involved with and how they could possibly integrate these programs into Mallows Bay NMS. The session provided some tangible reference points for the council to work together on joint projects. Council members should reach out to the Monitor staff directly if they have interest in these programs or questions. The Monitor staff contact information can be found on their website <https://monitor.noaa.gov/about/contact.html>.

Tane Casserley - Resource Protection and Permit Coordinator

Tane is a first generation American, his family immigrated from New Zealand. He is an active member of two New Zealand Tribes one from the south island and one from the north island. His heritage influences his decision-making processes and how he works with programs.

Tane gave a brief history of the USS *Monitor*. The *Monitor* sank in December of 1862 off of Cape Hatteras. Its remains were discovered in 1973 and in 1975 became our nation's first National Marine Sanctuary. The *Monitor's* gun turret was brought up in 2002 and is housed at the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia where the sanctuaries office is located. The museum includes a full-scale model of the *Monitor*. The sanctuary staff helps to oversee all of the artifacts that have been recovered from the *Monitor*. The museum has the largest metals lab in the world.

The sanctuary specializes in partnerships with museums and aquariums to help tell the *Monitor's* story and bring the story to the people. They also work very closely with the U.S. Navy and the Department of Veteran's affairs. Two of the sailors that were discovered inside the turret during the recovery are now interned at the Arlington National Cemetery. Not just to honor those two men, but to honor all 16 that were lost. Taking this story to a national level to show this vessel's significance and NOAA's management of the resources to the public.

The staff tells the story of the *Monitor* across the country. Tane spoke about their interpretive heritage trail signs. Currently there are 10 signs, installed in four different states. Tane can envision these same types of trail signs being used to help interpret Mallows Bay's history and heritage along the waterfront in multiple venues. Tane showed some samples of the different signs including one that featured a map that retraced the vessel movements during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Tane also spoke about different venues that they have partnered with around the country to include *Monitor* exhibits. This includes exhibits at the Roanoke Aquarium in North Carolina.

Monitor NMS is currently looking at expansion of their site, exploring the World War II heritage in the Battle of the Atlantic, using maps to help tell the story. Tane showed an example of a map that included the stories about the merchant marines and their losses.

The staff is also looking at climate change. What is climate science telling us about shipwrecks and their active environments? How is climate affecting the shipwrecks? They look at

documenting the fish that are surrounding the shipwrecks by using multibeam images that document not just the wrecks but also the surrounding schools of fish. This technology shows how things are shifting over time and how the climate is affecting marine ecosystems.

Tane mentioned many of the partners they work with, including the State of North Carolina and the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration.

Shannon Ricles – Education and Outreach Coordinator

Shannon has been with the Monitor NMS for a little over 13 years. She is a former classroom teacher with over 15 years of experience and holds an Earth Science certification.

In 2008, Monitor NMS added some science into their heritage education programs and also at that time they were beginning the Battle of the Atlantic Expeditions. That is when Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education became a very important component of their education and outreach programs. One of their most successful programs is the Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) program. The ROV-in-a Bucket kits come with a curriculum for teachers to borrow and use in their classrooms. This culminated into a semester long class called “Shipwreck of the Deep” that was in three Newport News middle schools. Staff also shared these programs around the district along with hosting teach training workshops.

Ten ROV kits have been purchased and Shannon is looking forward to working with schools in the Mallows Bay area over the next coming months. Contact Shannon or Sammy if that is something you are interested in doing at your school.

Water quality testing kits have also been purchased to be used with the curriculum for watersheds. Hope to build a citizen science stewardship program with teachers and students.

Monitor NMS has partnered with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology to host the Submerged North Carolina webinar series. These are one-hour monthly webinars on a variety of topics that revolve around the maritime heritage in North Carolina and also include other topics of interest like hurricanes and diversity and inclusion. Archived webinars can be found at www.monitor.noaa.gov/gallery/webinar-archive.html. Shannon would like to repeat some type of webinar series with Mallows.

The Monitor’s education site <https://monitor.noaa.gov/education/> has many resources for educators. Hoping to adapt some of these guides and activities to be used for Mallows and to build a large suite of education programs for the Mallows website.

The Monitor NMS received a mini-grant from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to outfit a trailer to be a traveling exhibit, with interchangeable exhibits to meet the needs of whatever community they are traveling to. The trailer will have tv monitors, a solar powered generator and

more. The exhibit will also include a variety of posters, brochures and outreach materials. The trailer can be used at Mallows outreach events, as well.

Shannon is looking forward to partnering with more organizations in the Mallows area to offer different types of activities, maybe even some summer camp programs. Shannon is also working on updating the Mallows Bay NMS website. Please email her a short bio and headshot if you haven't done so already.

Mark Losavio - Media and Outreach Coordinator

Mark joined the Monitor staff last February. Mark deals with all things outreach which includes all of the social media for Monitor NMS. Mark has recently taken over the Mallows Bay NMS Facebook page. If you are on social media please follow and like Mallows Bay NMS's Facebook page and share with all of your friends

<https://www.facebook.com/MallowsBayPotomacRiverNMS>.

Mark has plans in place to grow social media presence both as a site and nationally, which involves distributing and creating amazing content from the sanctuaries. Mark also works with all of the media outlets for the Monitor NMS and hopes to try to connect with the Mallows Bay NMS media outlets. Specifically, some of the high profiled ones in DC to get as much attention on the sanctuary as possible.

Mark is looking forward to attending live events, making one-on-one connections and finding new partnerships. If you have any ideas please share them with Mark. If you're not sure who your question should go to Mark can help direct you in getting to the right person. Please reach out to Mark anytime.

Will Sassorossi - Research Coordinator, SAC Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator

Will has been at Monitor NMS since 2014. All of his roles blend into one. He uses volunteers on research projects and works closely with advisory council members to plan out research projects or open up volunteer opportunities.

Excited for some of the collaboration that can be worked on with Mallows Bay NMS. Some of these ideas included building out a suite of maps and outreach products. He also has some thematic ideas that could be implemented, including interactive trails that could have a variety of different topics.

There are a lot of field related projects that they would like to do. An East Carolina University field school was planned for 2021 but it was canceled due to COVID. Hoping to pick that back up in the future to get the students working on the Mallows Bay sites.

Currently, the Monitor NMS has a project with "Diving with a Purpose" to document a field site. They would like to have this same field team document sites in Mallows Bay.

As far as the advisory councils, there is so much crossover with constituents and stakeholders who have similar vested interest from both the Mallows and Monitor councils. Will can see joint working groups being put together. Two sanctuaries working the same heritage field and playing ideas off of each other. There are also business and tourism opportunities that are shared goals between the sites. He would like to bring the councils together informally.

David Dodsworth - Information Technology Coordinator

Dave has been with NOAA for 12 years. He is the IT coordinator for the east coast region. He oversees the technology and networking infrastructure, as well as providing customer support to seven different sites. He is based out of the Monitor NMS office. Dave enjoys participating in Monitor events.

SMALL GROUP UPDATES:

During our last SAC meeting Eileen asked folks that are sitting in similar seats (members and alternates) to get together. On August 26 members from the education and research, science and technology seats met. Maggie Ostdahl gave a report out from that call.

The group brainstormed ways to reach new audiences and activities that could take place or be developed with Mallows. Maggie grouped them into a couple of different categories:

Mapping:

- GIS resources – existing and to be created
- NOAA data layers – update baseline maps
- Inventory current/recent research projects
- How to connect with geography and other teachers

Exploring:

- How to incorporate ROVs and autonomous drones
- Connect with other resources and technology
- What community/citizen science programs can be crowdsourced and hosted?
- SAC could consider developing an annual STEAM event/robotics competition

Learning:

- Connect with history of the wrecks, why are they there, how long will they remain – in part to enrich ecology, tourism, economic development, community, etc.
- Curriculum capacity is likely limited, keep in mind how we can work well at Mallows without putting more burden on already strapped educators and curriculum writers
- Link to science fairs and other existing student STEAM events and initiatives

Communicating:

How can this group and SAC work with NOAA staff (e.g. Shannon Rickles) to tell stories and build out content; adapt as necessary many of the modules, curriculum, etc. from Monitor NMS
ROV and water quality kits that could be deployed

These are just some first ideas to build on, but are not the only ones for how we could start really working as a council to learn and explore, connect, communicate and educate to tell the stories.

MONITOR/MALLOWS PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:

The council was given the opportunity to discuss program opportunities with the Monitor NMS staff.

Dan Hamilton is interested in seeing the mobile outreach trailer and would like to see one at Mallovs Bay. Dan is also interested in what types of water quality testing kits have been purchased. Shannon Ricles shared the link to the vendor https://www.neobits.com/hanna_instruments_hi3817bp_hanna_water_quality_p1940734.htm. She worked with the Newport News science teacher to find out what types of tests they used in the schools. Shannon has already written a curriculum to go with water testing and can revamp it to fit Mallovs Bay NMS.

Eileen Abel asked how they determined where the Monitor trail signs would be installed since they are in different states, not just in Virginia? Tane explained that in making those decisions they looked at the touch points of the *Monitor* during its time in service. They have trail signs in the state of New York where it was built. In Delaware there is a Swedish heritage foundation that has ties to the Swedish royal family that honor John Erickson the *Monitor's* designer. Newport News, Virginia is where the battle occurred. In placing the signs, they tried to tie those connection points together, but really the story of the *Monitor* is nationwide just like Mallovs Bay ships so the shipyards where the Ghost Fleet ships were built would be good locations for trail signs.

Bonnie Grady sees so many opportunities for Maryland having connections with the Monitor NMS. In each of the trail locations do they show where the other signs are located and layout the path to follow? Tane said that information is mainly found on their Monitor NMS's website at <https://monitor.noaa.gov/visit/places.html>. There just wasn't enough room to put all of that on the signs.

Jay Haigler when you collaborate in another state is that collaboration for the purposes of locating where you will put the sign? Tane stated it's a two-pronged approach. First, is determining the appropriate place to put the sign and then working with whoever owns the land. Second, is working with those partners then to determine how to incorporate their story into signage itself. The signs aren't just about the Monitor NMS, they are also about what our story

means to that community. Would do the same thing at Mallows, find out what that piece of land means to the community and then tie the stories together.

The Monitor NMS is also going to start using chronologs (more info can be found at <https://www.chronolog.io/>). The chronologs are a way to get a time lapse at the site. Testing at the Monitor NMS and then hopefully will apply them at Mallows Bay NMS as well as other sanctuaries. Dan Hamilton volunteered to help with the chronolog effort at Mallows.

Eileen is interested in planning a summer ROV program for rising ninth graders next year at the Technology Center that is doing autonomous systems in California, Maryland. Would like to see that program reach some under-resourced students.

The chronologs and the summer ROV program are two real hands-on things we know we can work on overtime. Would like to hear other people's ideas and would like to come put together a list of five or six things Mallows can partner on with Monitor staff and get some momentum behind them.

Joanne Roland volunteered to pursue the Tourism Area Coordination signage for Mallows Bay. It would be linking the already existing 295 signs. Right now, they are in three areas of southern Maryland. Sammy suggested that Joanne coordinate with the state and the county.

Lee DeCola asked if there is a connection between the histories of the vessels in Mallows Bay, the Battle of the Atlantic vessels and the *Monitor*? Tane sees the connections of the histories of all of these vessels as the rise of America becoming a super power. Many overlapping stories between the Merchant Mariners, the shipping and the rise to power. There are also artifacts of the Ghost Fleet sitting in Hampton Rhodes.

The maritime heritage trail signs wouldn't just be about the ships but also about the journey of the ships and the communities around those ships. Having these signs out there is a way to connect people and provide information about Mallows Bay.

The programs that the group is interested in are the chronologs (Dan Hamilton), tourism signage (Joanne Roland) and a summer program for underserved students (Eileen Abel). If anyone is interested in connecting with any of those projects please contact Eileen, Jean or Sammy.

Tane spoke about citizen science backpack program that was used at Thunder Bay NMS. People could check out the pack that contained a camera, a gps and instructions to document shipwrecks as they were walking along the beach if they found something. Tane could envision a program like that working at Mallows with kayakers when there is more staff. Right now, an iNaturalist page could be developed and then worked into a bigger citizen scientist program down the road. These programs help connect people to the resource and gives them a purpose.

Mark Lasovio encouraged everyone to go on their phones and check out the iNaturalist app. It could really help elevate Mallows by engaging people when they visit the site. It's also a great way to get some really charismatic pictures. <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Shannon is currently working on revamping the Mallows' website and will be adding different pointers like using iNaturalist.

Deanna Wheeler would like to see monthly educational activities for families with different topics like birding, ROV, iNaturalist, water testing and build a buoy. She sees this as a way to expose families to different opportunities.

Shannon worked with the Coastal Environmental Educators Network to create an Earth Day Event, both virtually and in person during COVID. It included a list of things for the families to complete and then submit back to them for an opportunity to win prizes. Shannon could see expanding this to Mallows and putting online for parents to download.

The Monitor NMS programs are scalable and could be used with the groups at the sanctuary or could be brought to community events.

Other ideas that were suggested in the chat box during the discussion were:

Scout Merit Badges

The quirky motion building that the Visionary Museum does

Painting plein air of the ship

Eileen Abel will reach out to Carmen that runs the plein air event at Solomons for tips on running an event at Mallows. Joanne Roland suggested contacting Mattawoman Creek Arts Center. Deanna Wheeler mentioned Vicki Marckel is an artist that worked on a plein air with students at Mallows Bay.

If you have ideas please continue to reach out to Sammy.

SANCTUARY UPDATE:

Charles County Oral History Project

As part of the heritage interpretation of Mallows Bay, Sammy is working with Charles County to conduct community interviews to collect local stories from folks that have generations of connections to the land, the water, the resource, etc. of the area. The sanctuary goes well beyond the Ghost Fleet. The Charles County team has started the filming effort. Sammy is looking for council members to provide contacts that they can reach out to that can tell these stories. There are generations of people in and around Charles County that have these connections. Have already had some conversations with the Charles County chapter of the NAACP about

generations of African American families who can tell stories about participating in the salvage of the ships during the depression era.

Sammy has had conversations with Francis Gray and Mario Harley about the Piscataway Conoy tribe, whose heritage goes back thousands of years. Hoping to include their stories along with stories from the commercial watermen, the Department of Defense and the Wilson Farm just to name a few.

Bill Kilinski mentioned that he was interviewed pertaining to the oyster fishery. During the interview he talked about the culture, the heritage and the history and how they are trying to build it back. Bill was very impressed on how well the piece turned out.

Deanna Wheeler put the following suggested contacts in the chat box:

Norm Palmer he lived in Wilson's Landing
Rick Posey, who may have stories from his father, Calvert Posey, local historian, worked on Douglas point for 8 years for the EIS in the 70s. Cal was very good friend to Chief Tayak.

If you would like to be part of the storytelling or if you know groups or individuals that they could interview please contact Sammy by phone, email or text.

Virtual Tours

Mallows NMS has contracted with Terrain 360 to create virtual on-water tours using technologies that resemble Google street view. This filming project will be conducted over the next few weeks. The imagery from this project will help us to create many virtual paddles all with different themes (i.e. history of the ships, nature and ecology, other peoples and communities). This will be a great way to tell the stories from different perspectives. It will create the digital framework where we can begin to tie historic pictures, virtual 3d models of the shipwrecks and video together. All of these virtual tours can be annotated to create a history of the bay well beyond the Ghost Fleet. Hoping to have a presentation and discussion on this project at our next advisory council meeting.

SAC Comment:

Dan Hamilton –
October 9th Patuxent River Appreciation Days

Maryland Office of Tourism is doing a promotion right now on Chesapeake Bay Storytellers and Destination Maryland. Maybe there is a way to roll Mallows Bay into it? Dan will reach out to the folks at the Office of Tourism.

Lee DeCola –

Very intrigued by things he saw on the Monitor NMS' site, they have raised parts of the ship and also created a replica. Would like to throw out doing one or both of those things in the next 10 years in Mallows Bay.

Deanna Wheeler comment in the chat box –

10,000 reusable bags that include a small drawing of Mallows that her students drew will now be coming in late October.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ellie Oldach just said thank you for all of the work getting the sanctuary up and running.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm . The next regular meeting is **Monday, October 25, 2021** at **6:00pm**.