

SANCTUARY WATCH

Introducing the new National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

On March 27, more than 400 enthusiastic marine advocates welcomed the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' newest supporter—the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF)—and to enjoy Robert Lyn Nelson's painting, *From Sea to Shining Sea*, on exhibit in the Smithsonian



Introducing... the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Board of Directors. Boardmember and artist Robert Lyn Nelson (center), stands in front of his ocean painting now on exhibit in Washington.

Institutions' National Museum of Natural History. Marine Sanctuary Director Daniel J. Basta and the new Foundation's Executive Director Lori Arguelles were joined by NOAA's Acting Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Scott B. Gudes, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-HI),

ocean explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau and several NMSF boardmembers.

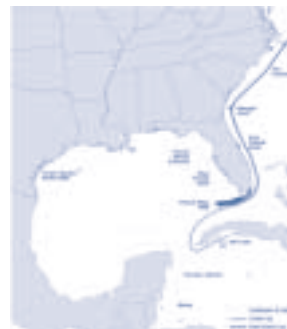
The event launched the new Sanctuary Foundation whose mission is to inspire people to preserve, protect, and promote marine sanctuaries. Its planned mission encompasses public outreach, public and private partnerships, education, and conservation-based research.

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Sustainable Seas Expeditions Set Sail for "Islands in the Stream"

NOAA's Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) Mission 2001 sets sail this summer to explore the vibrant and varied marine ecosystems within the international waters of Belize, Mexico, and the United States.

This new deep ocean exploration, called "Islands in the Stream," follows the Yucatan, Loop, Florida, and Gulf Stream Currents, the winding currents or "streams" that hug the contours of the three countries from the Yucatan Peninsula to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Along the way, scientists from NOAA's Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries and the



Scientists in SSE's "Islands in the Stream" Project will follow the Gulf Currents to study rich underwater islands of marine biodiversity.

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“Islands in the Stream” (Cont’d from pg. 1)

Geographic Society will weigh anchor at “islands” of protected and non-protected coral reefs and hard bottom communities along the way.

SSE researchers will use submarines, underwater robotic vehicles, and satellite tracked buoys to explore these coastal and deepwater marine habitats from Belize and Mexico northward to the waters of the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary off Texas/Louisiana, the Florida Keys Sanctuary, and Gray’s Reef Sanctuary in Georgia. The voyage concludes off North Carolina in the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary, shipwreck site of the Civil War vessel.

To learn more about this journey of ocean discovery, go to : <http://sustainableseas.noaa.gov>. Location images of satellite tracked drifting buoys in the region will be available at <ftp://ftp.aoml.noaa.gov/pub/phod/wilson/yoto/active.jpg>.

Sanctuary Supporters Named NOAA’s 2001 Environmental Heroes

A marine advocate, a teacher, a civic leader, and a photographer/videographer were recently named NOAA’s Environmental Heroes for their generous contributions of time and talents to the nation’s national marine sanctuaries.

Deborah Pardike, a community leader in Alpena, Michigan, lent considerable efforts to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve designation process. The sanctuary became the nation’s 13th and first in the Great Lakes on October 7, 2000. Throughout the year, teacher Bob Breen brought students to a deeper understanding of the ocean. Breen also worked closely with the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary during oil spill responses. Photographer and videographer Robert Michaelson donated significant amounts of time capturing the underwater marine world of the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary. The fourth honoree, Richie Moretti, is the founder of the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida. Moretti recruited volunteers to help with public outreach and sea turtle care and feeding to ensure the continued health of these endangered species within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Visit <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/> to learn more about this year’s Environmental Heroes.

Sanctuary Advisory Council at Work

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) has an especially busy agenda in 2001. During an April 6 meeting, the volunteer SAC discussed a host of issues including the sanctuary’s concerns with the Navy’s proposed use of the Ft. Hunter Liggett bombing range and the upcoming sanctuary management plan review. The members also received an update on Highway 1 landslide disposal issues along the Big Sur coast.

“The Advisory Council and its working groups are important tools in getting citizens involved in the management of this sanctuary,” said Sanctuary Superintendent William J. Douros. “This particular meeting was especially exciting as the council members discussed many highly visible issues. They learned about our new multicultural education plan and heard from representatives of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fishing.”

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council was established by Federal law to assure continued public participation in sanctuary management. Its 19 voting members represent a broad spectrum of the community. Information on Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council can be found at: <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Intro/advisory/advisory.html>.

—Brady Phillips

Financial Management Forum Held

“Uniformity and consistency” was the guiding focus for a recent Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Financial Management Forum in Silver Spring, Maryland. The forum enabled sanctuary headquarters and field staff to develop consistent and uniform internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for financial management issues. These SOPs will be developed into a web-based Operations Handbook.

During the headquarters forum, participants examined topics such as financial planning and reporting, quarterly reviews, document flow, and the closeout process.

To learn more, contact Bruce Jackson or Mark Friese at 301-713-3125 or via e-mail at bruce.jackson@noaa.gov or mark.friese@noaa.gov.

—Mark J. Friese

Monitor Mission 2001 continues...

This year's recovery and restoration efforts in the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary were greeted by the same tempestuous weather that helped to sink the Civil War ironclad *Monitor* that now rests 260 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

The *Monitor* mission is part of a long-term multi-agency project to protect and preserve our nation's naval heritage. The key objectives of this year's expedition is to complete the stabilization of the *Monitor's* hull, to recover her engine and associated components and the section of armor belt that overlies the turret. If time permits, divers will excavate the turret, in preparation for its recovery in 2002.

In spite of strong currents and poor visibility in Phase I of the expeditions, NOAA and Navy divers managed to document a number of measurements and place a strap on the engine/hull structure to be recovered. Divers also recovered 15 artifacts including glass condiment bottles, glass whale-oil lamp chimneys, a brass lamp heat deflector, an intact ironstone saucer, and a bayonet handle.

John Broadwater, *Monitor* Sanctuary Manager, said he was surprised at the condition of the recovered lamp chimneys despite their 132 year stay on the ocean floor.

"Amazingly, one of the lamp chimneys is completely intact and the others are well-preserved," said Broadwater.

These artifacts will be conserved and interpreted at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, the custodian of the artifacts and archives of the vessel since 1987.

In Phase II scheduled for June-July, the U.S. Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two, with support from NOAA, will rig and recover the *Monitor's* engine, cut and recover a portion of the armor belt and hull that covers the turret, and begin excavating the turret.

The final phase will take place July-September when NOAA and Navy divers aboard the USS *Grasp* conduct post-recovery expeditions to survey the site and to prepare for turret recovery in 2002.

Additional information about the *Monitor* and the mission can be found at www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov and www.monitorcenter.org.



Navy divers use specialized diving equipment such as the mK-21 MOD 1 Diving Helmet. This helmet is used for deep water and salvage diving.

News Splash...

- **The President's 2002 Proposed Budget** boosts the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries funding \$16.6 million, with an additional \$13 million for construction. If Congress approves, the annual FY02 budget goes to \$52 million, the highest funding level in the system's 26 year history.

- **Tortugas Ecological Reserve** was unanimously approved by Florida's Governor and Cabinet. The new reserve, 70 miles west of Key West, becomes the largest no-fishing zone in U.S. waters, effective July 1, 2001. Look for a feature article on the new marine protected area in the next *Sanctuary Watch*.

The Joint Management Plan Review Process for the Monterey, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuaries is receiving support from the Biogeographic Team of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). NCCOS and ONMS staff met in Monterey Bay recently to discuss this support and to implement the biogeographic analyses NCCOS will conduct. For more information, contact Mitchell Tartt at 301-713-3125, ext. 184.

The Channel Islands Sanctuary Marine Working Group (MRWG) is drafting a consensus-based recommendation regarding a potential marine reserve within sanctuary boundaries. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the Sanctuary Advisory Council, who will evaluate it before forwarding it to the Sanctuary Manager. See <http://cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmspreserves>.

Endangered whales will receive added protection in the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary this summer as a joint federal-state program begins regular enforcement patrols. The sanctuary, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, and the NOAA Office of Fisheries Enforcement will both educate the boating public and survey sanctuary resources and uses. For more information, visit <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/oms/omsstellwagen/omsstellwagen.html>.



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our vision People value marine sanctuaries as treasured places protected for future generations.

our mission To serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy.

April/May 2001 Calendar

Natural events • In April, hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays school in the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary.

Humpback whales can be sighted in the Channel Islands Sanctuary. In May, female loggerhead sea turtles come ashore on Georgia's barrier islands to dig nests and forage on crabs and sponges.

April 29 • Fagatele Bay Sanctuary celebrates its 15th Anniversary.

May 18 • Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary Advisory Meeting. Lihue, Kauai. Call Kellie Cheung for information, 808-397-2651.

May 18 • Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Celebrates 20th Anniversary & Volunteer Appreciation Evening. For more information, call 413-561-6625.

May 23 • Channel Islands Sanctuary Advisory Council and Marine Reserves Working Group meeting. For more information, visit www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/nmpreserves.html or call 805-884-1464.

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Marine Sanctuary Foundation Launches Campaign of Support

"The National Marine Sanctuary System is the crown jewel of NOAA's marine portfolio. Those underwater treasures have not gotten the attention and public support they so richly deserve. The Foundation's goal is to make it easy for people to experience the mystery, magic, and majesty of our marine sanctuaries," said Arguelles.

In the coming years, the Foundation plans to focus on increasing the sanctuary system's profile through publications, web sites and videos. It also play an instrumental role in creating visitors' centers for each sanctuary site. In the academic arena, the Foundation is working to create a national marine education curriculum for the nation's schools. Funds for these important marine sanctuary projects are expected to be raised through a significant private sector outreach effort.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Board of Directors includes a wide range of distinguished scientists, ocean explorers, and members of business organizations representing the communications, financial, and computer technology fields, in addition to ex-officio members from government. Boardmembers include Dr. Robert Ballard, President of the Institute for Exploration in Mystic, CT., best known for his 1985 discovery of the *Titanic*. Also serving on the new Foundation's Board are National Geographic Society Executive Vice President for Missions Program Terry D. Garcia, National Geographic Society's Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, marine advocate Jean-Michel Cousteau, and artist Robert Lyn Nelson.

Nelson is considered by many to be the originator of the Modern Marine Art Movement. His panoramic painting of marine life in the national marine sanctuaries as well as several other oil paintings will remain on display at the Smithsonian until mid-October. The exhibition then begins a nationwide tour in support of the National Marine Sanctuary System. To learn more about the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, contact 202-508-3781 or visit their website at <http://www.nmsf.ocean.org>.

Sanctuary Watch is a publication of the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries, Communications and Development Branch.

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The National Marine Sanctuary System is an office of the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.