

NORTHEAST AND GREAT LAKES REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Northeast and Great Lakes Regional “Seamless Network” Efforts

The Northeast and Great Lakes Region continued its “seamless network” efforts by participating in the planning and realization of a joint NOAA/Department of the Interior “Ocean Literacy and Stewardship Messages Workshop” in Burlington, Vt. The meeting recommendations underscored the importance of developing common broad interagency messages to inform the public about ocean, coastal and marine issues, and the roles individual citizens can play. An ocean stewardship messaging booklet is being produced.

Regional staff, in cooperation with the Northeast regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service and Minerals Management Service, will also co-sponsor a workshop titled “Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic” March 23-25 in Cambridge, Md. The goal of the workshop is to provide cultural and natural resource managers with an array of climate change management tools and techniques. Topics will include climate modeling and local adaptation, in-depth resource risk assessments, case studies for scenario planning, and human dimensions in climate change.

Northeast Ocean Acidification Regional Plan

The Northeast and Great Lakes Region, in collaboration with NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and other partners, began developing a “Northeast Coast Ocean Acidification Research Plan” in 2009. The goal of the effort is to assess the impact of ocean acidification on marine life in the northeast U.S. continental shelf ecosystem for the first time through a combination of research and monitoring programs. Key objectives of the plan include determining the extent of ocean acidification in the region, tracking changes in ocean chemistry, and measuring ocean acidification’s effects on individual species as well as overall ecosystem productivity.

THUNDER BAY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Higher Education: Olin Joynton (Chair)
 Alternate: Charles Wiesen

City of Alpena: Carol Shafto (Vice Chair)
 Alternate: Michael Nunneley

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Business/Economic Development: Carl Bourdelais
 Alternate: Don Newport

Citizen At-Large: Vera Kavanaugh
 Alternate: Jim Dessenberg

Citizen At-Large: Jerome Meek
 Alternate: John McVeety

Divining: Steve Kroll
 Alternate: John McConnell

Education (K-12): Karen Tetzlaff
 Alternate: Shari Davis

Fishing: Ed Retherford
 Alternate: Charles Lefebvre

Maritime History/Interpretation: Kathleen Hubbard
 Alternate: vacant

Recreation: Don Beem
 Alternate: Mark Upham

Tourism: Deb Pardike
 Alternate: Dennis Bodem

Local and Regional Government

Alpena County Board of Commissioners: Bill Estlack
 Alternate: vacant

Alpena Township Board of Trustees: Marie Twite
 Alternate: vacant

Sanborn Township Board of Trustees:
 Lynda VanDusen
 Alternate: Kenneth Gauthier

Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve Committee:
 Joe Sobczak
 Alternate: Mike Lakin

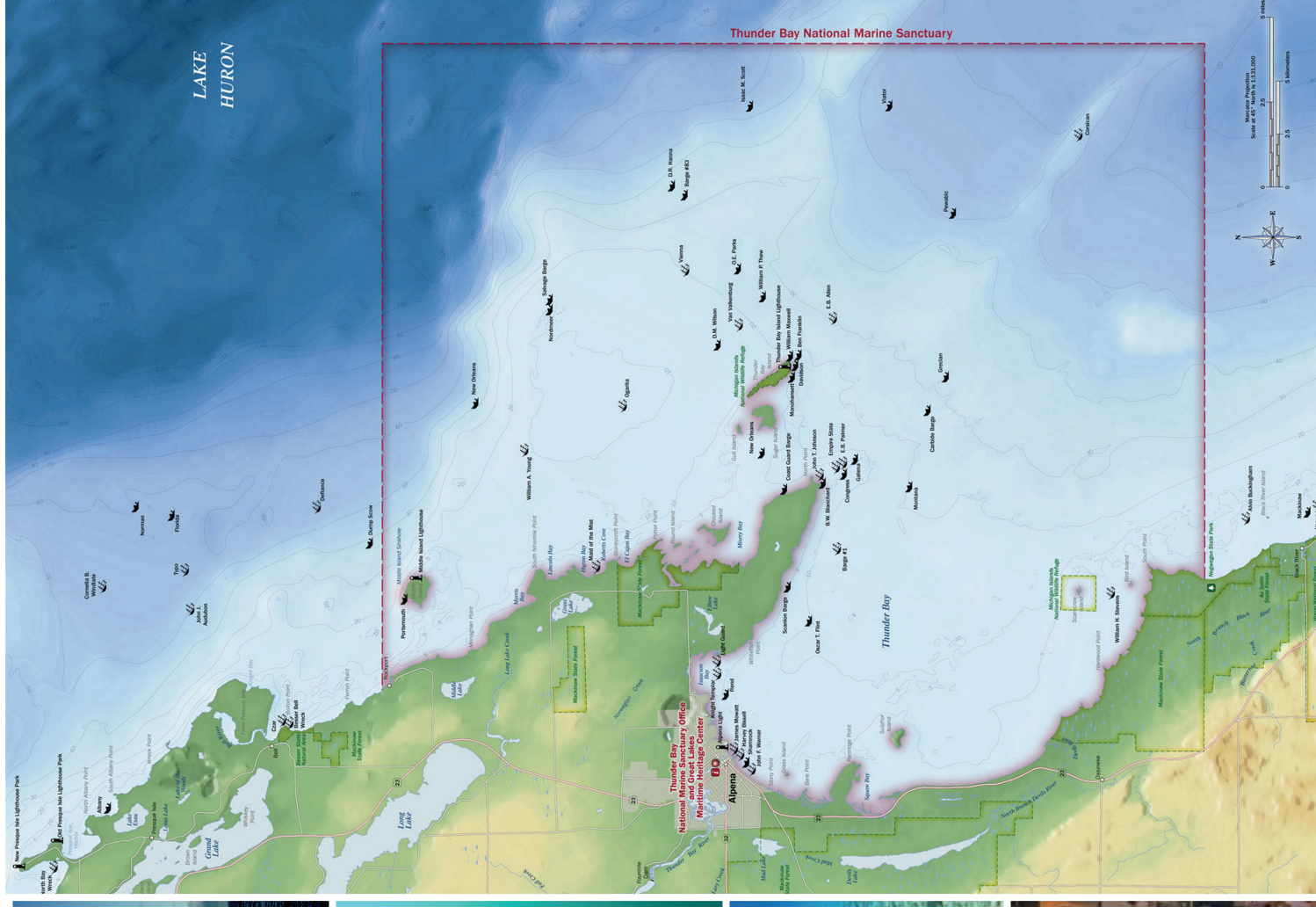
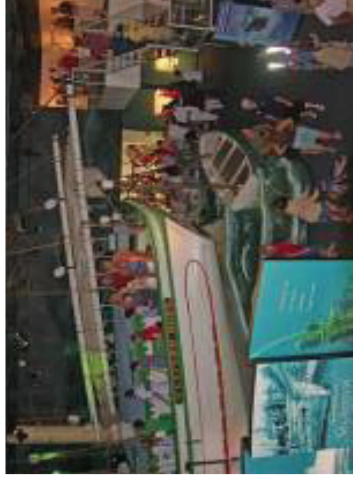
United States Coast Guard (non-voting)
 Chief Richard Houchin, Officer in Charge

Tribal Government

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (non-voting):
 Director



2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary boasts nearly 100 shipwrecks preserved by the cold, fresh waters of Lake Huron within its 448- square-mile boundary. Thunder Bay’s unpredictable weather and treacherous shoals have earned it the nickname “Shipwreck Alley,” and its collection of wrecks represents a cross-section of the diverse vessels that have traveled the Great Lakes since the 19th century. From wooden schooners to modern freighters, these cultural treasures provide a window into the region’s rich maritime history. Established Oct. 7, 2000.



Sanctuary Released Final Management Plan

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary released its Final Management Plan in August 2009. Prepared by NOAA, the state of Michigan, and the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council, the document utilized substantial input from the public, local government, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders. The plan is comprised of four action plans — resource protection, education and outreach, research, and sanctuary operations and administration that will guide sanctuary efforts to protect the site's rich maritime heritage over the next five years.

One major action found in the management plan is to evaluate the advisory council's recommendation to expand the sanctuary to include all Lake Huron waters off Alpena, Alcona and Presque Isle counties, eastward to the international border with Canada. In response to local support for boundary expansion, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin and Rep. Bart Stupak introduced and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Reps. Vernon Ehlers, Dale Kildee and Thaddeus McCotter co-sponsored sanctuary expansion bills, which are currently moving through Congress.

New Shipwreck Located and Identified in Alcona County

Sanctuary archaeologists investigated a new shipwreck near Harrisville, Michigan in Alcona County. Originally discovered by commercial fishermen, the wreck has been identified as the *John Shaw*, a three-masted schooner built in 1885 by James Davidson, a noted ship builder. The schooner sank in 1894 while being towed in a snowstorm. Although almost 100 shipwrecks have been located in and around the sanctuary, historical data suggests there may be more than 100 additional wrecks yet to be discovered.



First Year of 'Shipwreck Century' Exhibit Draws Large Crowds

Over 60,000 people visited the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in the first year of "Exploring the Shipwreck Century" exhibit. Designed to foster appreciation for the Great Lakes' role in American history and to enhance public awareness and appreciation for the Great Lakes and their shipwrecks, the interactive exhibits take visitors on the "ride of their life" aboard a replica schooner battling a fierce Great Lakes storm. Future enhancements to the exhibit will feature NOAA science and technology including Science on a Sphere, remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles, and distance learning experiences. These additions will further enhance the center's notoriety as a family destination for tourists.



Thunder Bay Sanctuary Acquires a 'Storm'

In partnership with the NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary has acquired the research vessel *Storm*. This 50-foot vessel will serve as the sanctuary's primary platform for archaeological research, remote sensing, mooring buoy deployment, and educational cruises. The *Storm* provides increased capabilities and range allowing the sanctuary to work within current and proposed sanctuary boundaries. The *Storm* has been converted to a petroleum-free vessel that uses grapeseed hydraulic oil for its deck crane, winches and marine gear, 100-percent soy biodiesel for engine fuel, and canola motor oil. The sanctuary continues to make operations on land and water efficient and environmentally friendly.



Archaeologists Document Grecian Shipwreck

Sanctuary archaeologists documented the wreck of the *Grecian*, a large steel bulk freighter that sank in 1906 and rests in 100 feet of water. The team spent nine days documenting the wreck, which resulted in a detailed archaeological plan of the site. These products will not only help the sanctuary better understand and protect the wreck, but they will be made available as interpretive products to enhance recreational divers' experiences.

ROV Competition Attracts Students from Around Region

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary organized and hosted the Great Lakes regional event for the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center's International Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition in April 2009. Thirteen teams from around the region participated in the competition, and the two top teams went on to the international competition in Buzzards Bay, Mass. Sanctuary staff also participated in teacher workshops in Traverse City, Michigan, and at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, to develop new ROV teams. Thunder Bay staff mentored Shedd Aquarium throughout the year to hold its own successful regional competition in spring 2009. The program is intended to inspire the next generation of underwater scientists and explorers to pursue careers in marine fields.



Sanctuary Offers Hands-on Education Programs

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary offered diverse educational opportunities for students and public groups visiting the sanctuary throughout the year. The *Nina* and *Pinta*, replicas of Columbus's ships, and the Great Lakes schooners *Madeline* and *Denis Sullivan* provided students, educators and adults with the chance to experience Thunder Bay through dockside tours and half-day experiences on Lake Huron. Participants learned about the Great Lakes watershed and the importance of protecting this unique region. Additionally, six groups dove into Thunder Bay by participating in snorkeling adventures led by sanctuary staff at shallow-water wrecks around the sanctuary.



Thunder Bay Broadcasts Engage Students Nationwide

The Thunder Bay sanctuary participated in renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard's Immersion Learning broadcasts in spring 2009. The broadcasts streamed live content from Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut and the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center highlighting the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay, technical diving and autonomous underwater vehicle research. Thousands of students around the country accessed this unique interactive programming via the Internet and through the Immersion Presents network's broadcast sites. Questions from participants at locations ranging from Newfoundland to New Mexico were answered as part of the broadcasts with content experts, Dr. Ballard and fellow student explorers.

