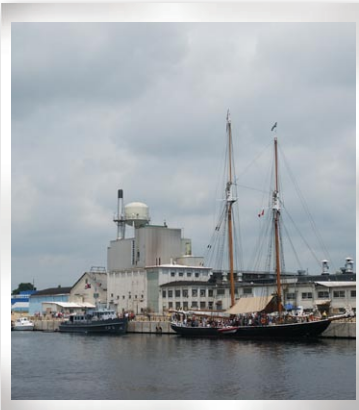


THUNDER BAY

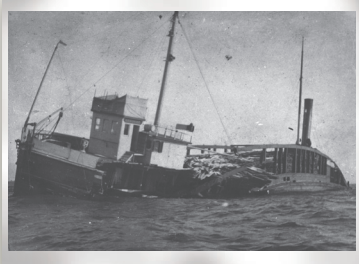
2 0 0 7 A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S



A tall ship and other vessels attract visitors along the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail. Photo: NOAA



Students compete at the Great Lakes Regional ROV Competition. Photo: NOAA.



The B.W. Blanchard sank in Thunder Bay in 1904. Photo: Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail Opens

The ribbon cutting for the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail took place at the seventh annual Thunder Bay Maritime Festival in July 2007. Senator Carl Levin, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff and partners, and 12,000 festival visitors celebrated the opening of the trail, which features a boardwalk and pedestrian bridge, acres of new landscaping, and historically themed lighting. The trail also offers dockage for visiting tall ships and allowed visitors to the festival to tour the tall ship Highlander Sea. Twenty full-color historic markers are being developed to interpret shipwrecks, lumber mills, dock remnants, historic waterfront buildings and Great Lakes shipping to create a broader maritime heritage context for the sanctuary's shipwrecks.

Regional ROV Competition Draws Teams From Around Michigan

The Thunder Bay sanctuary sponsored the Great Lakes Regional Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) building competition in April 2007. The contest featured 12 teams of high school students vying for a spot at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center's international ROV competition in St. John, Newfoundland. Great Lakes Home School, first-time competitors from Wolverine, Mich., took first place at the regional event, and finished sixth overall. The competition is designed to inspire the next generation of underwater scientists and explorers to pursue careers in marine fields.

Digitization of Historic Vessel Files is Complete

Digitizing one of the nation's largest archives of 19th-century Great Lakes vessel data and maritime history documents is complete. Volunteers contributed 3,500 hours to digitizing 15,000 Great Lakes vessel files, funded by a \$235,000 grant from the Library of Michigan. Digitization is the first step toward making the information searchable. The files are housed in Alpena County's George N. Fletcher Public Library, where staff are developing a searchable interface for the collection that will allow users to retrieve information using the Michigan Electronic Library or internet search engines. Once created, researchers will be able to access the collection's holdings, and conduct preliminary research. Over \$65,000 in digitization funding has also been awarded to the sanctuary by NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program.

Staff Lead the Way in Telepresence Programming

Throughout the year, northeast Michigan communities experienced live underwater expeditions through telepresence broadcasts at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena. Among the year's featured expeditions were Immersion Presents broadcasts from Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and an international expedition to the Black Sea. In March, more than 600 area students viewed live interactive programming during the Flower Garden Banks expedition and then continued their explorations with a

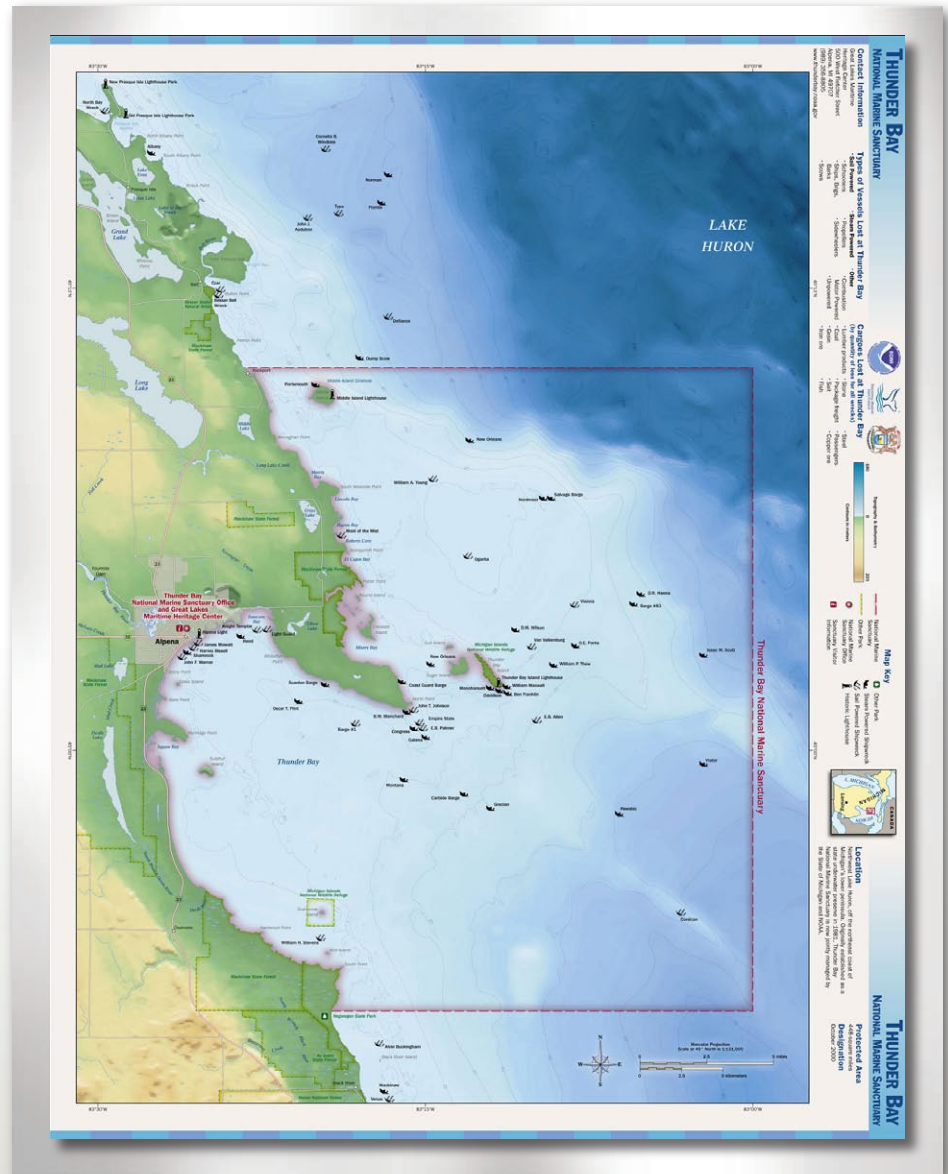
<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>



mapping exercise of the NR-1 research submarine. More than 500 members of the public also participated in telepresence programs in August, when Robert Ballard and an international team documented and excavated two Byzantine-era shipwrecks in the Black Sea. The Thunder Bay sanctuary will continue to increase its telepresence capabilities and offerings by enhancing educational programming and hardware installation.

Great Lakes Center Receives Energy Award

In 2007, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Mich., was presented with the Department of Energy’s Federal Energy Saver Award. The purpose of the award is to promote wise energy and water use throughout the federal government by recognizing agencies that showcase cost-effective, energy-efficient, water-conserving and renewable energy technologies in their facilities. The center is on track to becoming a Gold Certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building. This is only the fifth time NOAA has received the award since 1995. The center, which serves as headquarters for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, also won a Department of Energy “You Have the Power” award for energy conservation in 2006.



Sanctuary maps available at sanctuaries.noaa.gov

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov

