



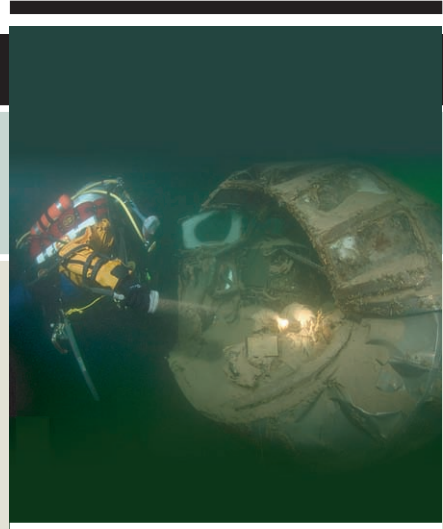
BUILDING A SEAMLESS NETWORK

OF THE NATION'S OCEAN AND COASTAL REFUGES, RESERVES, PARKS, AND SANCTUARIES

NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program and the NPS's Submerged Resources Center: Diving Together into America's Maritime Heritage

NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program (MHP), in the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center (SRC) over the past two years have collaborated increasingly on a variety of projects, training and outreach to improve management and protection of America's maritime heritage. The two programs share common goals of preserving maritime history and submerged heritage resources and have worked together on several partnership activities:

- **Lake Mead B-29 Survey:** MHP archaeologists and a representative from the NOAA Dive Center joined the SRC to
 - document two historic sites within the Lake Mead National Recreational Area, Nevada and Arizona. The sites were
 - an aggregate plant used in the construction of the Hoover Dam and a B-29 Superfortress bomber that crashed into
 - the lake in 1948. MHP and the SRC are the only two organizations within the Federal Archaeological Program that
 - routinely use technical diving to document deep water sites.
- **Japanese Midget Submarine:** Since the discovery in 2002 of one of the five Japanese midget submarines that were sent
 - to initiate the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the site has become the focus of an evolving effort by NOAA's NMSP,
 - the Hawaii Undersea Research Lab (HURL), NPS, USS Arizona Memorial and the Naval Historical Center. NPS and
 - NOAA scientists are studying the stability and corrosion rate of the midget sub and developing best management
 - practices for deep water maritime heritage sites. The midget submarine is a war grave and an important element of
 - the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark. The highest priority for the submarine research is minimizing any
 - impact while treating the site with dignity, honor, and respect.
- **Pearl Harbor Surveys:** Explorer-researchers from NOAA and the University of Hawaii joined colleagues from NPS
 - off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, to document sites where historic seaplanes - U.S. Navy flying boats - rest on the
 - ocean floor. NOAA marine archaeologists conducted two days of survey dives outside Pearl Harbor to develop
 - non-invasive documentation of crash sites. Using two HURL research submersibles at about 1,400 feet deep,
 - researchers recorded digital video and still images and used sonar to map the sites and search for other heritage
 - resources.
- **Training, Education and Outreach:** The two agencies
 - collaborated on several events,
 - including the first Maritime
 - Heritage Education Conference;
 - the Monitor 2006 Live Broad-
 - cast during the latest expedition
 - to the site; the two-day Nautical
 - Archaeology Society course in
 - underwater archeological
 - surveying; and the first ever
 - Submerged Cultural Resources
 - Law Enforcement Workshop.



A diver investigates the cockpit of the B-29 Superfortress bomber that crashed into Lake Mead in 1948.

Photo Credit: NPS



The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL) submersible Pisces IV lights the conning tower of the Japanese midget submarine off Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Photo Credit: NOAA

Challenges and Opportunities

The primary challenge has been to formalize this partnership in a way that provides the means to transfer funds for collaborative projects. Funds are limited, but these partnership projects clearly demonstrate that we can leverage funds effectively by working together on projects of common interest and priority for public benefit.

The MHP/SRC partnership is expected to expand in the coming years through increased collaborative activities and, possibly, through a specific memorandum of understanding that would simplify the collaborative process. Both programs are looking to their agency leadership to assist with this effort.

The examples indicate that there are many opportunities for future collaboration between the NMS Maritime Heritage Program and the NPS Submerged Resources Center, focusing on research, field work, education, enforcement and management. Potential joint management of a future designation of the Japanese Midget Submarine site would be an excellent and appropriate model to investigate management strategies, and may help to clearly articulate the benefits of joint preservation management of other sites. Likewise, the joint field work exploring and documenting sites like the Lake Mead NRA Project has been highly successful and will be continued and expanded. Jointly sponsored events like the Maritime Heritage Education Conference and the Submerged Law Enforcement Workshop are activities that provide exceptional opportunities for future collaboration with multiple benefits to the public, other agencies and internationally.



The conning tower of the Japanese mini-submarine, showing the 4-inch hole where the USS Ward hit and sank the vessel. This was the first shot between the U.S. and Japan in WWII.

Photo Credit: NPS



The nose cone of the flying boat *Marshall Mars* inverted on the sea floor in 1200 feet of water.

Photo Credit: NOAA

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