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

Officers
Education (K-12): Olin Joynton (Chair)
Alternate: Charles Wiesen
City of Alpena: Carol Shafto (Vice Chair)
Alternate: Michael Nunneley

Other Non-Governmental Members
Business/Economic Development: Carl Bourdelais
Alternate: Don Newport
Citizen At-Large: Karen Tetzlaff
Alternate: Shari Davis
Citizen At-Large: Ed Retherford
Alternate: Charles LeFebvre
Maritime History/Interpretation: Kathleen Hubbard
Alternate: vacant
Recreation: Don Beem
Alternate: Mark Upham
Tourism: Deb Pardike
Alternate: Dennis Bodern

Local and Regional Government
Alpena County Board of Commissioners: Bill Estlack
Alternate: vacant
Alpena Township Board of Trustees: Marie Tielke
Alternate: vacant
Sanborn Township Board of Trustees: Lynda VanDusen
Alternate: vacant
Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve Committee: Joe Subtsicz
Alternate: Mike Lakin
United States Coast Guard (non-voting): Chief Richard Houchin, Officer in Charge

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

http://thunderbay.noaa.gov
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 addition to evaluating potential site expansions, the sanctuary will continue to work with partners to ensure that all of Lake Huron’s historic shipwrecks are protected and preserved as part of the Great Lakes shipwreck heritage.

Thunder Bay Sanctuary Acquires a 'Storm'

In partnership with the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory's (GLERL) Great Lakes Shipwreck Conservation Program, the sanctuary acquired the 50-foot vessel named "Storm" in late 2009. This vessel will serve as the sanctuary’s primary platform for archaeological research, remote sensing, and educational cruises. The vessel will be 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.

Sanctuary Offers Hands-on Education Programs

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary organized and hosted the Great Lakes ROV Competition Attracts Students from Around Region. One major action found in the management plan is to continue to expand and enhance the sanctuary’s educational programs. The sanctuary also participated in renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard's Immersion Learning broadcasts in spring 2009. The Thunder Bay sanctuary participated in the Immersion Learning events for the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center’s (MATE Center) regional event for 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 educator resources. Additionally, six groups dove into Thunder Bay by participating in100 additional wrecks yet to be discovered.

Thunder Bay Offers Diving, Wading and Snorkeling Opportunities

Thunder Bay offers a variety of diving, wading and snorkeling opportunities. The sanctuary offers a full schedule of programs for all ages and abilities. Visitors can explore the underwater world of Thunder Bay by diving or snorkeling, or by exploring the sanctuary's educational exhibits. The sanctuary also offers a variety of special events throughout the year, including open houses, educational programs, and guided tours. Visitors can learn about the history and ecology of Thunder Bay, as well as the importance of protecting this unique marine environment.

New Shipwreck Located and Identified In Alcona County

Sanctuary archaeologists investigated a new shipwreck near Harrisville, Michigan in 2009. Preliminary evidence suggests that this is a large, steel-hulled ship that sank in the early 1900s. The ship is located in 100 feet of water and is the subject of an ongoing research project. The sanctuary continues to work with local communities to protect and preserve this important historical and cultural resource.

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 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 programming via the Internet and through the Immersion Present's network at broadcast sites. Questions from participants at locations ranging from New York to New Mexico were presented as part of the broadcasts with content experts.

ROV Competition Attracts Students from Around Region

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary organized and hosted the Great Lakes ROV Competition Attracts Students from Around Region. The competition was designed to inspire the next generation of underwater scientists and explorers to pursue careers in marine fields. Thousands of students from around the region participated in the competition, which featured a variety of underwater vehicles and technologies. The sanctuary continues to work with educators and students to promote interest in marine science and technology.