2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Look Ahead

As we celebrate our tenth year, the sanctuary and our community reflect on the first decade of our partnership to protect the Great Lakes and their rich history. While we are proud of our many accomplishments, we are not yet satisfied, and we look forward to the next decade. Moving ahead, the sanctuary will expand and enhance our research and education programs that have defined Thunder Bay. Our successful Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail will stretch along the waterfronts of Presque Isle, Alpena and Alcona counties and provide a comprehensive interpretive experience for our visitors and residents alike. Our research will delve into new depths with an expanded portfolio of scientists, vessels, mapping and observation tools, and diving capabilities, positioning Thunder Bay as a sentinel site for ecosystem and archaeological research in the Great Lakes. Finally, the sanctuary will evaluate the sanctuary advisory council’s recommendation to expand the sanctuary’s boundaries. To accomplish these aggressive goals, the sanctuary will continue to foster strong support from our community, volunteers, and many partners in our ongoing efforts to protect and understand the maritime heritage of these waters.

Jobs, Communities and Culture

The Northeast Michigan region is rich in history and natural resources and is home to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Approximately 53,000 people live Alpena, Presque Isle and Alcona Counties adjacent to the sanctuary. As a popular destination for outdoor recreation, people travel to the region for fishing, scuba diving and snorkeling on shipwrecks, visiting beaches, touring lighthouses, camping and hunting. A 2005 study estimated annual visitor spending in the three counties to be approximately $110 million supporting around 1,700 jobs. The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (the visitor center for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve) is a major tourist destination for the region, hosting approximately 60,000 visitors annually.

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers
Chair: Olin Joynton
Vice Chair: Carol Shafto

Non-Governmental Members
Recreation: Don Beem
Alternate: Mark Upham
Higher Education: Olin Joynton
Alternate: Charles Wiesen
Business/Economic Development: Carl Bourdelais
Alternate: Don Newport

Citizen At-Large: Vera Kavanaugh
Alternate: Jim Deuserberg

Tourism: Deb Pardike
Alternate: Dennis Bednarski
Education (K-12): vacant
Alternate: Shari Davis
Fishing: Ed Retherford
Alternate: Charles LeFebvre
Diving: Steve Voell
Alternate: John McConnell

Governmental Members
Alpena Township Board of Trustees: Marie Twite
Alternate: vacant
Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve Committee: Joe Sobczak
Alternate: Mike Larkin
State Government
City of Alpena: Carol Shafto
Alternate: Michael Nunneley
Sanborn Township Board of Trustees: Lynda VanDusen
Alternate: Kenneth Gauthier

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (non-voting): Director

Federal Government
NOAA Thunder Bay NMS (non-voting): Jeff Gray
Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator: Jean Prevo

http://thunderbay.noaa.gov
Cutting Edge Technology and the Search for Lake Huron’s Lost Ships
Sponsored by the NOAA’s Office of Exploration and Research and in partnership with the University of Michigan, this project utilized a multi-beam sonar mounted on the sanctuary’s RV Thunder Bay Storm for operations in the sanctuary. Among their experiences, as an AAUS institutional partner, students learned about the importance of using the latest technologies in marine research and conservation, and the role they can play in preserving our nation’s maritime heritage.

Mystery Beneath the Waves: Exploring Thunder Bay’s Deep Shipwrecks
Technical divers and archaeologists from Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, the Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology, and University of Connecticut conducted two weeks of mixed gas diving in an effort to document historic shipwrecks at 138-292 feet of water in Lake Huron. Studies in this depth range are often extremely challenging due to limited visibility, low temperatures, and strong currents, but the rewards can be significant. The project involved documenting the historical and archaeological content of shipwrecks that represent important events in the development of the Great Lakes. By understanding the context in which these ships were lost, researchers can gain valuable insights into the lives of the people who lived and worked on the Great Lakes, and the challenges they faced in navigating these treacherous waters.

Sanctuary Hosts Three Live Broadcasts from the Shipwreck Montana
On July 14, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Maritime Heritage Program conducted a series of live broadcasts from the shipwreck Montana in Thunder Bay. The program highlighted the importance of shipwrecks as historical and archaeological resources, and the role they can play in educating the public about the rich maritime heritage of the Great Lakes. The Montana is a steel-hulled 3,000-ton side-wheel steamer that was built in 1875 and sank in 1907 after colliding with a sandbar near the mouth of the St. Mary’s River. The shipwreck is a significant example of the industrial shipping that once thrived on the Great Lakes, and it remains an important reminder of the dangers that mariners faced on these treacherous waters.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Partner with TBNMS for Training and Research
Sponsored by the NOAA Office of Exploration and Research, and in partnership with the Noble Odyssey Foundation and their training vessel, the Pride of Michigan, this project utilized a multi-beam sonar mounted on the sanctuary’s RV Thunder Bay Storm for operations in the sanctuary. The students have participated in a year-long Place-Based Education (PBE) program, focusing on the importance of marine research and conservation, and the role they can play in preserving our nation’s maritime heritage.

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center Programs and Exhibits
Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Over 50,000 visitors explored the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC) in 2010. The center is a partnership of the Great Lakes Maritime Museum, Michigan State University’s Great Lakes Research Center, and the University of Michigan’s Great Lakes Research Center. The center’s mission is to preserve and share the history and culture of the Great Lakes, and to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the region’s maritime heritage.

Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuary
The Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuary is a federal protected area located in the U.S. Great Lakes, spanning over 5,000 square miles of Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario, and Lake Superior. The sanctuary’s mission is to conserve and protect the marine environment, and to promote understanding and appreciation of the Great Lakes’ unique history, culture, and natural beauty.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is located in the northeastern portion of Lake Huron, and is home to a diverse array of marine life, including walruses, beluga whales, and several species of sea birds. The sanctuary’s mission is to conserve and protect the marine environment, and to promote understanding and appreciation of the region’s marine resources.

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