

A Look Ahead

As we reflect on the year's accomplishments, our tremendous partnerships stand out. From the community college to community businesses and from international companies to our local friends group, Thunder Bay's partners share our passion to protect the Great Lakes and their rich history. With these committed members of the sanctuary community, we will expand and enhance our research and education programs. Thunder Bay will work with local leaders and private business to promote economic development through sustainable tourism and innovation as part of our commitment to better protect and understand the Great Lakes.



NOAA/TBNMS



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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 Dessenberg
Maritime History/Interpretation: Kathleen Hubbard
Alternate: vacant
Citizen-at-Large: Jerome Meek

Alternate: John McVeety
Tourism: Deb Pardike
Alternate: Dennis Bodem
Education (K-12): vacant
Alternate: Shari Davis
Fishing: vacant
Alternate: Charles LeFebvre
Diving: Steve Kroll
Alternate: John McConnell

Governmental Members

Local Government

Alpena County Board of Commissioners: Bill Estlack
Alternate: n/a
City of Alpena: Carol Shafto
Alternate: Michael Nenneley

Sanborn Township Board of Trustees: Lynda VanDusen
Alternate: Kenneth Gauthier
Alpena Township Board of Trustees: Marie Twite
Alternate: n/a
Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve Committee: Joe Sobczak
Alternate: Mike Lakin

State Government (non-voting)

State of Michigan: Sandra Clark

Tribal Government (non-voting)

Chippewa Ottawa Tribe: Jane Teneyck

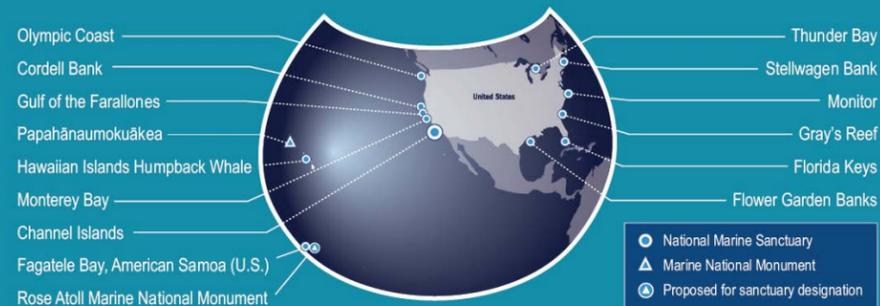
Federal Government (non-voting)

NOAA Thunder Bay NMS: Jeff Gray

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator
Jean Prevo

<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



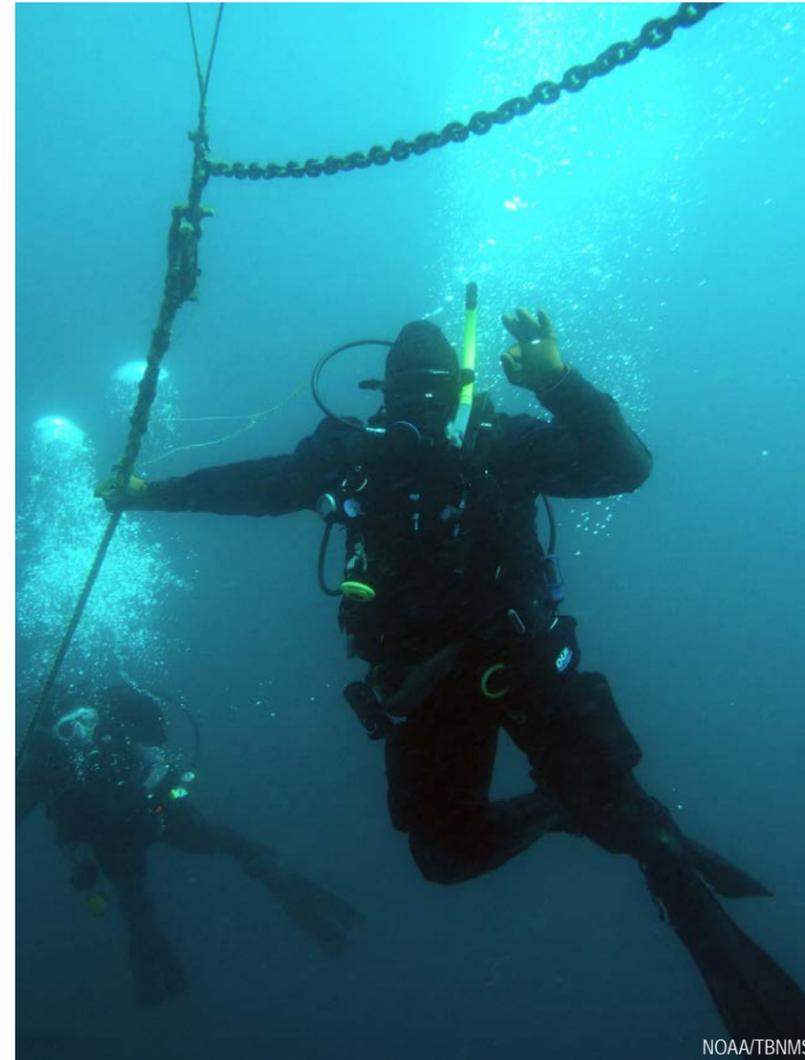
NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



NOAA/TBNMS



NOAA/TBNMS

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary works to protect the Great Lakes and their rich history for future generations through research, education and resource protection. Thunder Bay's unpredictable weather and treacherous shoals earned it the nickname "Shipwreck Alley." From an 1840s sidewheel steamer to a modern 500-foot-long German freighter, the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay represent a microcosm of maritime commerce and travel on the Great Lakes. These sites not only provide a vivid window into our past, but they also connect us to the Great Lakes themselves. Established October 7, 2000.



NOAA/TBNMS



Company launches new shipwreck tour cruises in sanctuary

Visitors to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary can now explore shipwrecks first-hand without getting wet. In its inaugural season, thousands of passengers have toured the sanctuary on 65-foot glass bottom boat *Lady Michigan*. The sanctuary is working closely with Alpena Shipwreck Tours to develop meaningful and entertaining interpretation of the sanctuary's shipwrecks and the Great Lakes. During its inaugural year, 8,500 passengers toured the sanctuary on *Lady Michigan*.



Annual festival celebrates Great Lakes maritime heritage

The 11th annual Thunder Bay Maritime Festival enhanced public awareness of sanctuary resources and fostered appreciation of the regional maritime landscape. Thousands of visitors toured the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, listened to live maritime music, feasted on local whitefish, kayaked the river, cheered on the feats of cardboard boat regatta teams, toured research vessels, built boats big and small, and piloted remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). The festival is an ongoing partnership between the sanctuary and the local business community to encourage maritime heritage tourism; it takes place every Fourth of July.



Project Shiphunt

In May, the sanctuary teamed up with Sony and Intel Corp. on *Project Shiphunt*. Five students from Saginaw, Michigan joined researchers from NOAA and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on an expedition to search for new shipwrecks. Using cutting-edge technologies, the team surveyed 45 square-miles of Lake Huron and discovered two historic shipwrecks. The expedition archeologically documented the 300-foot deep sites using 3-D video. A production team chronicled the project in a documentary, which has received global media attention. Thunder Bay is currently developing education materials and exhibits around the expedition to inspire students to explore science, technology, engineering and math. Visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html for more information.



Discover the Great Lakes new exhibit

In May, the sanctuary installed a traveling, hands-on exhibit to promote Great Lakes and environmental literacy. The exhibit was funded through a NOAA Preserve America grant and created in partnership with the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and the sanctuary. While thousands of visitors enjoyed *Discover the Great Lakes* at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, the traveling exhibit will now reach other locations around the region.



Thunder Bay reef restoration project

Along with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the sanctuary is a supporting partner in a local reef restoration project made possible by funding through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The project is restoring limestone reefs in Lake Huron's Thunder Bay to mitigate lost habitat by the deposition of cement kiln dust along the shoreline and lake bottom. This project will improve spawning habitat and reproduction of lake trout, whitefish, walleye and other species.



United by Water

This summer, fifty faculty members from community colleges across the country took part in a week-long workshop as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Landmarks of American History program. "United by Water: Exploring American History through the Shipwrecks and Maritime Landscape of the Great Lakes Workshop" was developed by the sanctuary in partnership with Alpena Community College. This highly competitive professional development experience combined engaging classroom learning with immersive field experiences above and below the waves.



Volunteer divers assist with sanctuary research

2011 ushered in the first-ever NOAA certified volunteer divers for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The shipwreck *Montana* was documented with the help of members of the National Association of Black SCUBA Divers (NABS). NABS divers began the project by completing the requirements to be certified NOAA Science Equivalent Divers. They also participated in tutorials on multi-beam sonar survey and artifact conservation. Thunder Bay has been working with NABS members for several years in order to create a strong group of sanctuary volunteers to assist in maritime heritage resource protection at Thunder Bay and throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System.



Virtual shipwreck experience

To promote tourism in the region, the sanctuary teamed up with diving manufacturer Fourth Element and utilized the company's newly developed web based technology, created specifically for divers and wreck enthusiasts. Seven of Thunder Bay's best-preserved wrecks have been archeologically mapped by sanctuary researchers and this data turned into interactive 3D maps allow users to take a virtual dive around the wreck showing points of interest, wreck history and stunning underwater photography.