

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



DIAMOND SHOALS LIGHTSHIP MANAGEMENT

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office signed a Memorandum of Agreement to jointly manage the wreck of the *Diamond Shoals Lightship No. 71* (LV-71), located off Cape Hatteras. Under the agreement, sanctuary staff will conduct archaeological fieldwork, develop a management plan, assist with the National Register of Historic Places nomination and partner with the community on educational initiatives. The German submarine U-140 sank LV-71 during World War I in August 1918. It is the only lightship sunk in the 20th century as a result of enemy action.



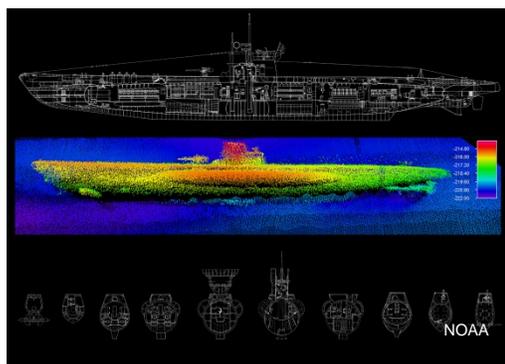
SANCTUARY HOSTS STEM EDUCATION FAIR

In collaboration with Clarke County Public Schools, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) hosted a three-day science, technology, engineering and mathematics fair for more than 2,500 students, teachers and parents. Students were introduced to sanctuaries and learned how NOAA works to protect our ocean's cultural resources. Elementary students learned about maritime heritage and shipwreck exploration while building their own remotely operated vehicles. In culmination, MNMS staff conducted a lecture on the importance of maritime heritage resources in connecting people to the ocean.



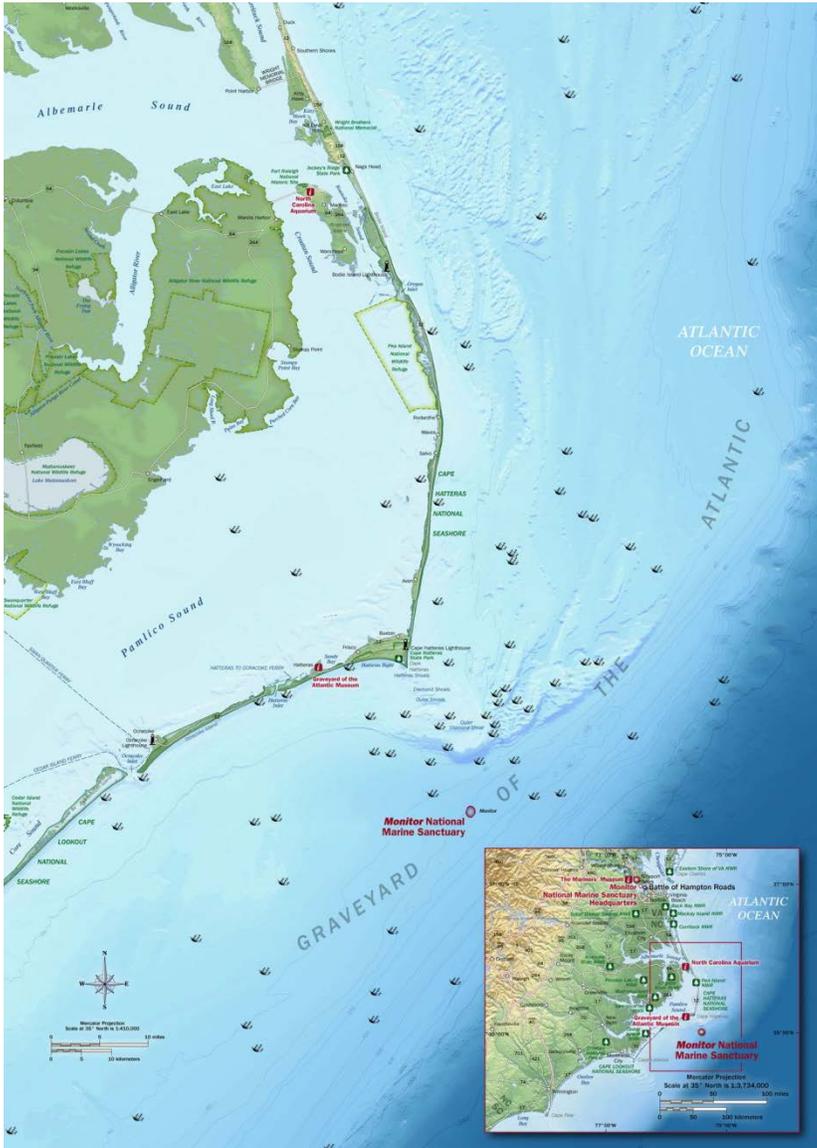
VOLUNTEER DIVERS SURVEY SHIPWRECK

During the summer, MNMS collaborated with volunteers from the Battle of the Atlantic Research Expedition Group to survey the World War II merchant freighter *Caribsea*. The data acquired from this project was instrumental in a study designed to illustrate and interpret deterioration processes affecting steel shipwrecks. This type of volunteer-based project provides growth and expansion benefits for the sanctuary by promoting continued access to these diminishing resources, coordinating scientific research and supporting maritime heritage tourism for local economies.



DISCOVERY OF U-576 AND BLUEFIELDS

Following nearly six years of historical research and searching, MNMS located the remains of the German U-boat, U-576, within 250 meters of its victim, Nicaraguan freighter *Bluefields*. The discovery was the culmination of a strategic partnership with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, East Carolina University, the National Park Service and other NOAA offices. This discovery represents an entire lost battlefield. Additionally, it serves as both a perfect example of a classic convoy battle on the east coast and as a memorial for those lost in the engagement.



LOOKING AHEAD

- The sanctuary will conduct a scientific expedition to the remains of the *Diamond Shoals Lightship (LV-71)* in the summer of 2015. The Lightship was sunk by the German submarine U-140 in 1918.
- To celebrate MNMS' 40th anniversary, Monitor staff will host a number of outreach events including a history fair in Greenpoint, New York on the original grounds of the Continental Iron Works where the USS *Monitor* was built.
- In partnership with local dive shops, MNMS will unveil a new maritime heritage program designed to encourage responsible access to important shipwrecks. ANCHOR (Appreciating North Carolina's Historic Ocean Resources) is designed to enhance wreck diving in North Carolina and build a greater awareness of these important historic sites.

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary in 1975. The site protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, best known for its battle in 1862 with the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* at Hampton Roads. In partnership with The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, the sanctuary is working to conserve more than 1,500 artifacts recovered from the famous shipwreck and works to preserve, study and educate the public about this iconic piece of our nation's maritime past. The sanctuary was established on January 30, 1975.

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.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast
Cordell Bank
Gulf of the Farallones
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Monterey Bay
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.)



Thunder Bay
Stellwagen Bank
Monitor
Gray's Reef
Florida Keys
Flower Garden Banks

○ National Marine Sanctuary
△ Marine National Monument
Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>