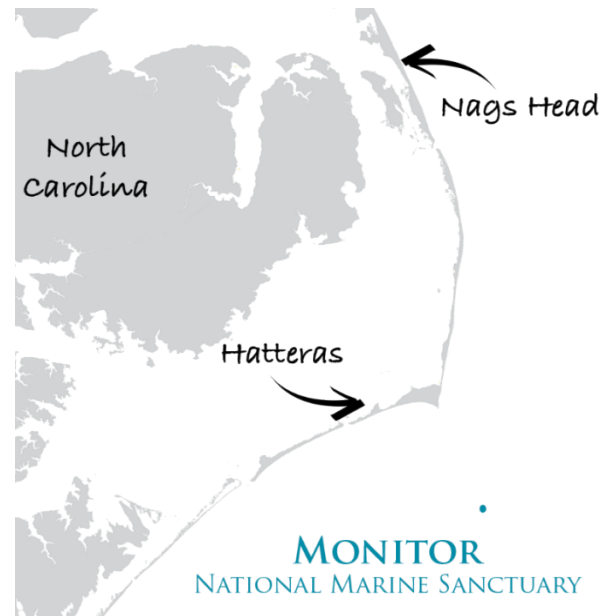


## Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

Designated in 1975 as the first national marine sanctuary, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary protects the wreck site of the USS *Monitor*. *Monitor* was the prototype for a class of U.S. Civil War ironclad, turreted warships that significantly altered both naval technology and marine architecture in the 19th century. The sanctuary protects the wreck for future generations and works to share this vessel's historical and cultural legacy with the public. With more than four decades of protecting and preserving our nation's maritime heritage, the sanctuary and its partners focus on science and the stories of the USS *Monitor*, and strive to serve the community using innovative and engaging technologies.

Visit [monitor.noaa.gov](https://monitor.noaa.gov) for more information.



### 20th Anniversary of the Monitor's Turret Recovery

The sanctuary and longtime partner, The Mariners' Museum and Park, hosted a week-long celebration to honor the men and women who recovered the famous Ericsson gun turret from the site of the USS *Monitor* 20 years ago. A three-day celebration, including a webinar by Dr. John Broadwater, an evening reception to honor the recovery team for their efforts, and a day-long family celebration at The Mariners' Museum reached over 800 members of the public. Among the countless activities offered at the museum, sanctuary staff pioneered one of the many media products generated from the *Valor* in the Atlantic expedition: a virtual reality dive on the USS *Monitor*, using VR headsets.



Visitors virtually visit the wreck of the USS *Monitor* using footage acquired from the *Valor* in the Atlantic Expedition. Photo: NOAA

### ROV Summer Camp

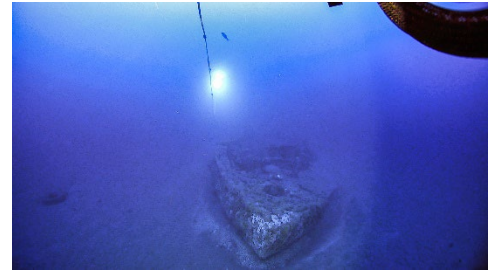
Trinity Gbla, an undergraduate from Hampton University, interned with *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary through NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions to help generate and execute the sanctuary's first underwater engineering summer camp. The Mariners' Museum and Park partnered with the sanctuary to host this three-day camp designed to teach middle school students the fundamentals of remotely operated vehicles that culminated in a competition to test the designing, building, and operating skills of each student.



Students show off their ROV designs in preparation for the competition. Photo: NOAA

## Valor in the Atlantic Expedition

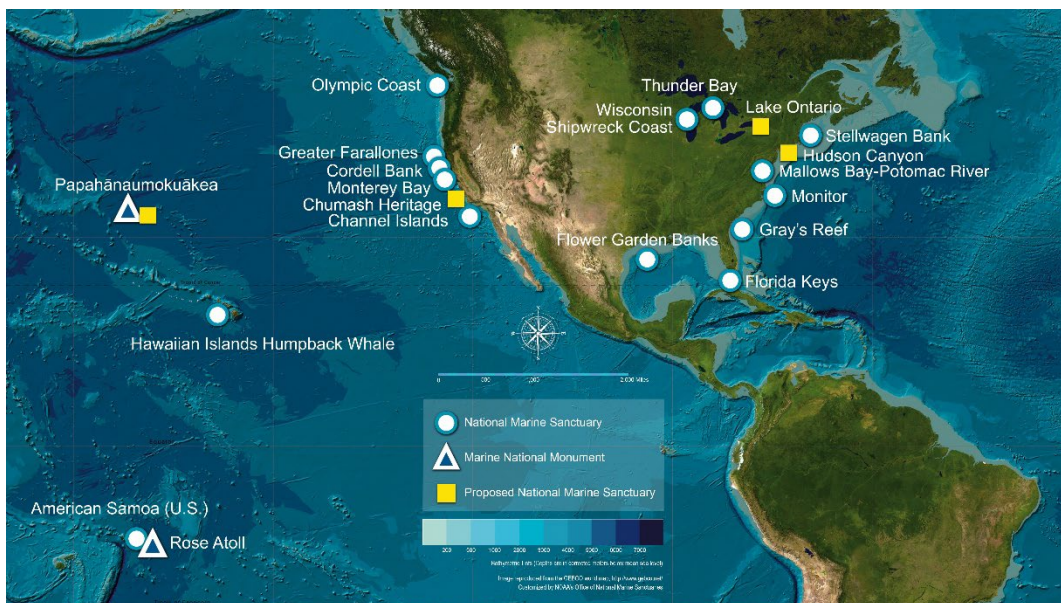
*Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary and partners mounted an expedition to return to the wreck of the USS *Monitor* for the first in depth multidisciplinary survey since NOAA and the U.S. Navy recovered the warship's famous turret in 2002. Using the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration's Remotely Operated Vehicles and satellite capabilities, the team aboard the NOAA Ship Nancy Foster surveyed *Monitor* as well as four additional sites and broadcasted in real time to the public. In addition to being live streamed, the dives were recorded to aid in the wreck site's historical and ecological characterization, climate related research, and provide content for education, outreach and media products for years to come. In-person viewing parties for the expedition reached almost 1000 people!



The ROV Yogi descends upon *Monitor*, approaching from the bow. Photo: NOAA

## Looking Ahead

- 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the discovery of *USS Monitor*, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the identification of the site as *Monitor*, and 2025 will mark 50 years since the site of the *USS Monitor* was designated our nation's first national marine sanctuary!
- To enhance the upcoming celebrations, the sanctuary will partner with The Mariners' Museum and Park and their B-WET educational stewardship programs to engage the local high school students and their communities through Virtual Reality experiences.
- To spread the message of these exciting anniversaries, sanctuary staff will be fully utilizing a brand-new mobile exhibit trailer to bring the sanctuary to the people.



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.