

Researchers use tools such as this Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to investigate deepwater wrecks like the Jacob Luckenbach in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



Courtesy Bob Schwemmer,
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program serves as the trustee for a system of 13 underwater protected areas, encompassing over 18,000 square miles of waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. NOAA's National Ocean Service has managed National Marine Sanctuaries since passage of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act in 1972.

This intact lantern is one of over 440 artifacts recovered from the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary when NOAA and the U.S. Navy recovered the famous ironclad's turret during Monitor Expedition 2002.



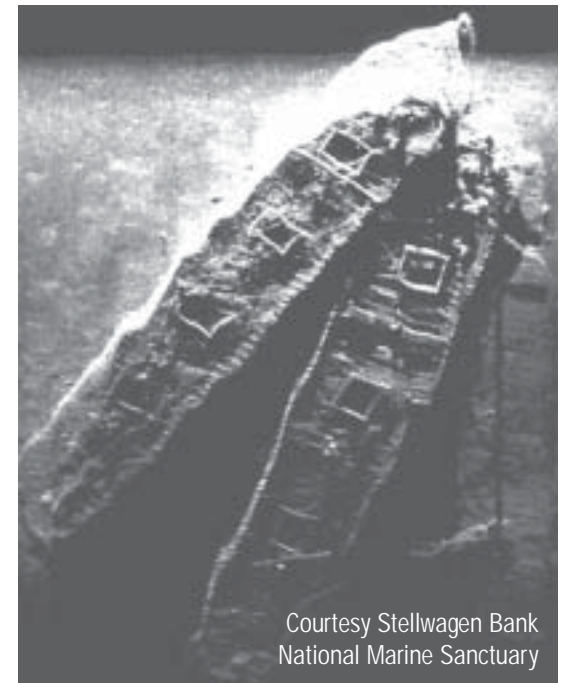
Monitor Collection, NOAA



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MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

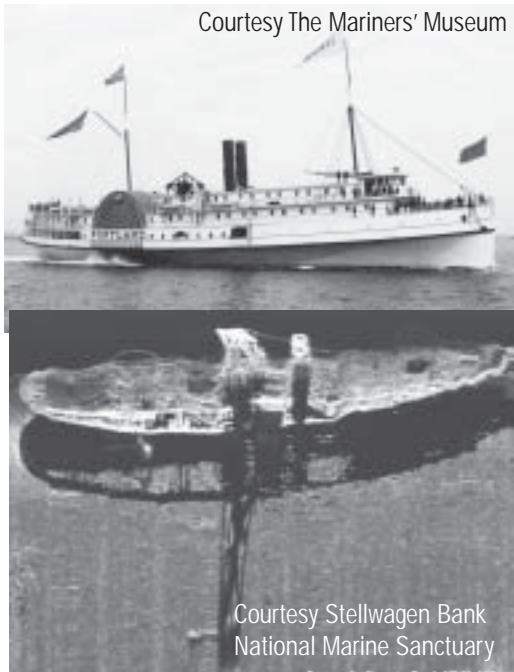


Courtesy Stellwagen Bank
National Marine Sanctuary

National Marine Sanctuary Program
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Maritime Archaeology Program (MAP), formally created in 2002, is an initiative of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Protection of historic shipwrecks and other maritime archaeological sites within the boundaries of the 13 National Marine Sanctuaries has always been an integral component of each sanctuary's management plan. The new MAP, however,



The 281-foot side paddle wheel steamship Portland sank in 1898 and is known as one of New England's greatest sea tragedies. Using advanced deep-sea search technology, a team led by staff from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary confirmed the site of the Portland using side scan sonar.



The San Pedro was part of the Spanish treasure fleet wrecked by a hurricane in 1733. This historic wreck is now part of the Shipwreck Trail in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

provides a more structured program that includes components for location, protection, management, research, and education.

As with natural resources, numerous user and interest groups—from archaeologists to recreational divers to salvors—seek to interact with submerged cultural resources in various ways. These resources are also impacted by the elements (storms, currents,



The Defiance, a wooden schooner, was lost on October 28, 1854. It is one of over 100 historically significant wrecks protected by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.

corrosion, etc.). Therefore, responsible, informed decisions must be made on how to manage these resources since, unlike living resources, archaeological resources are non-renewable. Additionally, the cultural resources within NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries, if properly studied and interpreted, can add an extra dimension to our education programs designed to increase public enjoyment and appreciation of each sanctuary's resources.

The primary mission of the MAP is to assist the National Marine Sanctuaries in their efforts to manage and protect submerged cultural resources within their boundaries. The MAP also will provide assistance and consultation to other Federal and State agencies on issues concerning submerged cultural resources, and seek to develop new methods, tools, and partnerships for achieving program objectives.