

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Photo: TBNMS

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center Awarded LEED Gold Certification

The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Michigan, home of the offices of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, is now a Gold Certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building. Sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, the LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center's systems, fixtures, flooring, furniture and landscaping demonstrate NOAA's commitment to an environmentally sustainable future. Energy and water consumption are greatly reduced through efficient design, including a geo-thermal heating and cooling system and low volume and waterless toilets. The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center has also won two U.S. Department of Energy awards: the "You Have the Power" Award and the Federal Energy Savers Award, as well as the GSA Special Achievement for Real Property Innovation.



Photo: TBNMS

Thunder Bay Leads the Way with Telepresence Programming

Thunder Bay increased its capacity for distance learning in 2008 with new equipment and new live programming. Taking the lead in distance learning initiatives for the sanctuary program, Thunder Bay has acquired two new systems to complement existing distance learning technology at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. A national marine sanctuary mobile telepresence unit allows for production of live programs from sanctuary research vessels, and was used in conjunction with the R/V *Laurentian* in September for a series of live broadcasts highlighting 2008 field work. These programs streamed live over the Internet and are archived as part of the 2008-09 Immersion Presents Ocean Exploration program, a nationally distributed distance learning initiative. Immersion Presents is accessed by over 250,000 students annually in classrooms and after-school programs around the country. A new mobile studio at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center will also allow the sanctuary to offer distance learning programs from anywhere in the center.



Photo: TBNMS

Researchers Locate and Document Shipwrecks

In September 2008, the sanctuary identified two large targets while conducting a side-scan sonar survey covering a 100-square-mile area off Presque Isle County with funding from NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration. One target was identified as the schooner *Kyle Spangler* and the other is likely the steamer *Messenger*. An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) was also used in shallow water near Thunder Bay Island, and though no targets were located, the technique proved effective in shallow conditions. Also in September, sanctuary staff documented the *Kyle Spangler*, which was located prior to the sonar survey by local diver Stan Stock. This two-masted schooner lies in 190 feet of water off Presque Isle County. Documentation included development of a traditional site plan and a photomosaic, as well as an artifact inventory. A National Register of Historic Places nomination will be sought for this shipwreck.

