

## 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### GROWING WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

The 2012/2013 school year began with *Our River, Our Future*, a new sanctuary educational initiative. The project engages students, teachers and the community in meaningful watershed experiences in an effort to raise the level of watershed conservation awareness and action. Helping people make personal connections to natural and cultural resources is key to building a community of responsible stewards of the Great Lakes. With funding from NOAA BWET Great Lakes, the project team reached more than 1000 students this year, including 695 trained in watershed monitoring.



### ANNUAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES MARITIME HERITAGE

The 12th 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 on 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.



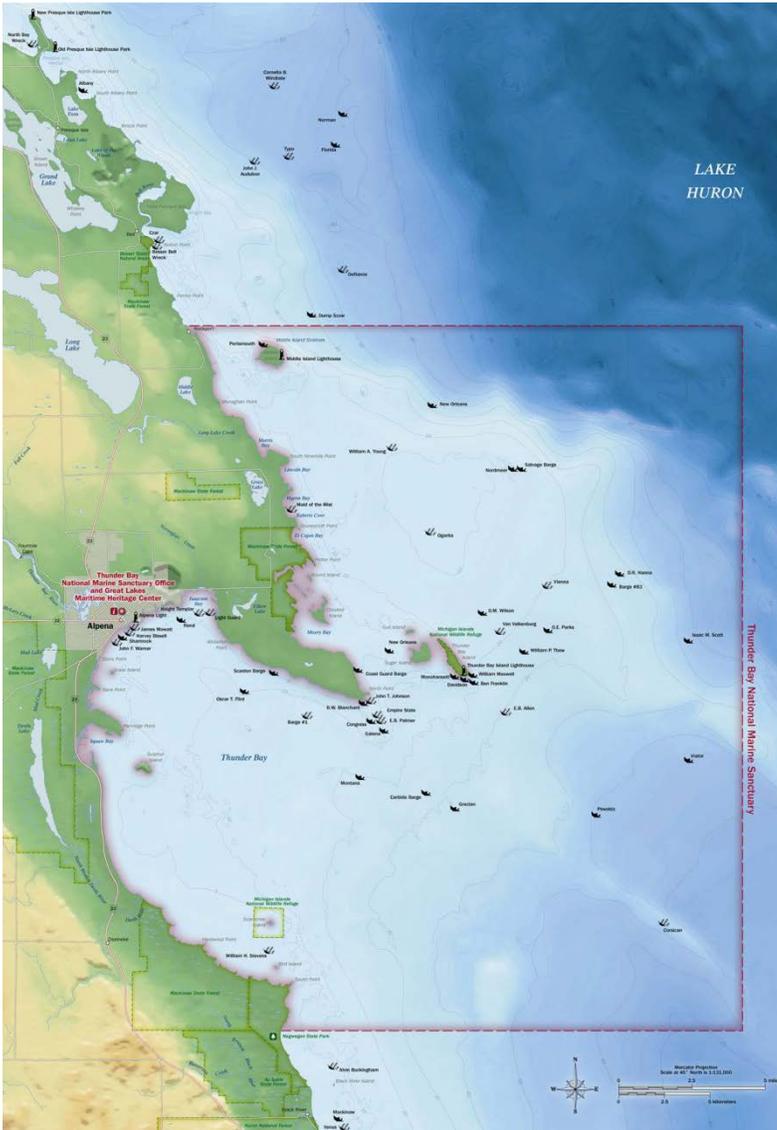
### OUTREACH ABOARD SHIPWRECK CRUISES

Last year, thousands of visitors explored the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary first-hand without getting wet. On the 65-foot glass bottom boat *Lady Michigan*, sanctuary staff and volunteers accompanied the daily cruises and provided information about the sanctuary's maritime landscape. The sanctuary continues to work closely with Alpena Shipwreck Tours to make visitor's experiences a meaningful and entertaining part of their visit to the region.



### COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

As part of a \$2.85 million training grant from a U.S. Department of Labor, Thunder Bay worked with Alpena Community College to launch a new associate of applied science degree program in marine technology in summer 2012. The program emphasizes design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). Courses in scientific diving, archaeology/history, and ocean and Great Lakes issues were taught at the sanctuary's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, while on-water instruction of the program took place in the sanctuary.



## LOOKING AHEAD

- Thunder Bay is leading a community-wide branding effort that promotes the area as the “Sanctuary of the Great Lakes.” Consisting of local governments, economic development agencies and businesses, the team is working to build a sustainable economy based on cultural and natural resources, wellness and educational opportunities.
- With more than 84,000 visitors last year, the sanctuary’s visitor center has become a regional tourism anchor. Continued efforts to attract new audiences will be enhanced in 2013 with the addition of a new exhibit area featuring NOAA’s Science on a Sphere.
- In 2013, Thunder Bay NMS will install its 30th shipwreck mooring. The moorings facilitate public access to popular sanctuary shipwrecks sites, while preventing anchor damage to these often fragile, one-of-a-kind places. Used by kayakers, snorkelers and divers, the moorings help cultivate heritage tourism in the Alpena area.



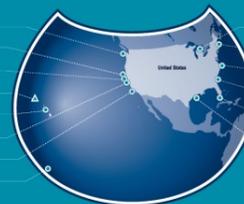
“As your Sanctuary of the Great Lakes, Alpena is a haven from daily life. Culturally rich and surrounded by natural beauty, Alpena is the place to relax, rejuvenate, and inspire the happy, healthy, and creative you.”

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary** boasts nearly 100 shipwrecks preserved by the cold, fresh waters of Lake Huron within its 448- square-mile boundary. Thunder Bay’s unpredictable weather and treacherous shoals have earned it the nickname “Shipwreck Alley,” and its collection of wrecks represents a cross-section of the diverse vessels that have traveled the Great Lakes since the 19th century. From wooden schooners to modern freighters, these cultural treasures provide a window into the region’s rich maritime history. Established Oct. 7, 2000.

*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>