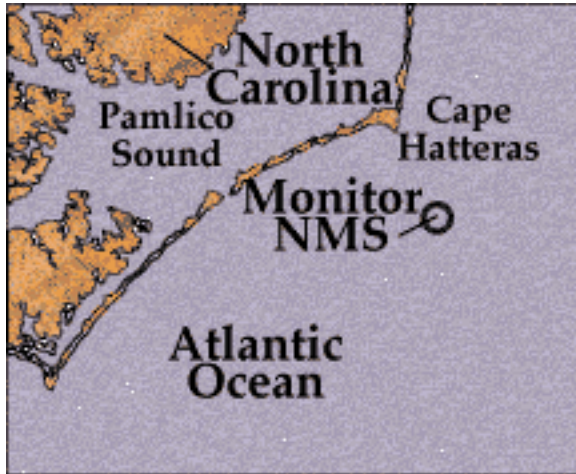


Monitor

(North Carolina)



Description:

On January 30, 1975, the nation designated its first national marine sanctuary. The site was the wreck of the USS Monitor, a Civil War vessel that lies off the coast of North Carolina. The 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 nineteenth century. Designed by the Swedish engineer John Ericsson, the vessel contained many of the emerging innovations that revolutionized warfare at sea.

Habitats and Key Species

Habitats

Pelagic, open ocean

Artificial reef

Key Species

Amberjack

Black sea bass

Red barbier

Scad
Corals
Sea anemones
Dolphin
Sand tiger shark
Sea urchins

Specifications

Location: 16 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

Protected Area: a circle one mile in diameter, centered on the wreck

Designation: January 30, 1975

Education Activities

Because of the Monitor's location, the majority of the American public cannot visit the site. An active education program includes posters, brochures, a paper model, an activities report, and public presentations designed to bring the Monitor to the public.

Research Activities

Natural resource assessment to document and study the condition of the wreck

Deployment of instrumentation such as thermographs and current meters to gather information about the sanctuary environment

Historical research into construction of various components of the wreck, including the propeller and turret

Technical support to private researchers, both at the sanctuary and in the archives

Administration and Support

The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia serves as the principal museum, providing curatorial services for the Monitor Collection and contributing to programs and products

The United States Coast Guard provides surveillance and enforcement for the sanctuary

The United States Navy has provided logistical and technical support for scientific expeditions to the sanctuary

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