



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Action Plan Summary

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

THE ISSUE:

The area encompassed by the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is rich in cultural and historical resources, and has a long and interesting maritime history. A myriad of heritage treasures lie covered by water, sand, and time. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and site regulations mandate the management and protection of cultural and historical resources in the sanctuary.

OUR GOAL

The National Marine Sanctuary Program's goal, and thus a goal of the MBNMS, is to develop a program aimed to identify, protect, and raise awareness of the cultural and historical resources in California's three west coast sanctuaries.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The term "Maritime Heritage" means shipwrecks and other sites or objects which are of **archaeological**, historical, or cultural significance found in, on or under the seabed, and which have been underwater for at least 50 years. Included within are "archaeological resources" (physical remains of past human activities), "cultural heritage resources" (native and indigenous groups and traditional practices), and

"historical resources" (existing, still standing objects of historical interest). The sea floor preserves remnants of the sites where people lived and of the vessels in which they conducted trade and fought wars. Ships, boats, wharves, lighthouses, lifesaving stations, whaling stations, prehistoric sites, and a myriad other heritage treasures lie covered by water, sand, and time.

USS Macon (ZRS-5) and Curtiss F9C-2 "Sparrowhawk" aircraft July 1933



Captain Wiley USS Macon

Courtesy of Monterey History and Art Association

The history of California's central coast is predominantly a maritime one, or one relating to the sea. From the days of the early Ohlone inhabitants to the exploration and settlement of California to the present, coastal waterways remain a main route of travel, a way of life, and a supply route. Ocean-based commerce and industries (e.g., fisheries, shipping, military, recreation, tourism, extractive industries, exploration, and research) are important to the maritime history, the modern economy, and the social character of this region. These constantly changing human uses define the maritime heritage, the history of human use and interaction with the sea, of California sanctuaries and help interpret our evolving relationship with the sanctuary resources. Ports such as San Francisco and Monterey, and smaller coastal harbor towns, developed through fishing, shipping, and economic exchange. Today these have become major urban areas, bringing millions of people in proximity to national marine sanctuaries. Many of these people are connected to the sanctuaries through commercial and recreational activities such as surfing, boating, and diving.

Records indicate that 430 vessel and aircraft losses were documented between 1595 and 1950 along California's central coast from Cambria north to Bodega Head, including the Farallones Islands. Specifically, 173 in the GFNMS, 257 in the MBNMS, and none documented within the CBNMS. Some sites have been located and inventoried by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Park Service (NPS) in the GFNMS region. The GFNMS and MBNMS have also collaborated with state and federal agencies and the private sector to gather resource documentation and to create opportunities to locate and record submerged archaeological resources. MBNMS recently completed a shipwreck inventory from established shipwreck databases and review of primary and secondary source documentation. These studies provide a foundation for an inventory of the historic resources in the sanctuaries.

The GFNMS and MBNMS, and possibly CBNMS, are also faced with the challenge of identifying and monitoring historic and non-historic shipwrecks that may pose environmental threats to sanctuary marine resources. Lurking in the deep are potentially hazardous cargoes, abandoned fuel, and unexploded military equipment inside sunken vessels that are slowly deteriorating in a corrosive marine environment. Shipwrecks already identified as a concern are the oil tanker *Montebello* (near the MBNMS) that may retain over three million gallons of unrefined crude oil, and the C-3 freighter *Jacob Luckenbach* (GFNMS), containing **Bunker-C fuel oil**. In 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard contracted the removal of 85,000 gallons of Bunker-C fuel from the *Jacob Luckenbach*.



THE SANCTUARY'S ACTION PLAN

The sanctuary's "Cultural Resources Action Plan" was developed jointly with a variety of stakeholders and partners and includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Developing a maritime heritage resources program to identify and protect submerged archaeological sites, and to increase public awareness about the maritime history associated with individual sanctuaries
- Creating an inventory of potential shipwreck sites
- Assessing shipwrecks and submerged structures for hazards
- Developing a protocol to manage, **monitor**, and protect submerged sites within the three sanctuaries in partnership with appropriate local law enforcement agencies
- Conducting public outreach with traditional user and ocean-dependent groups and communities
- Establishing maritime heritage focused education and outreach programs

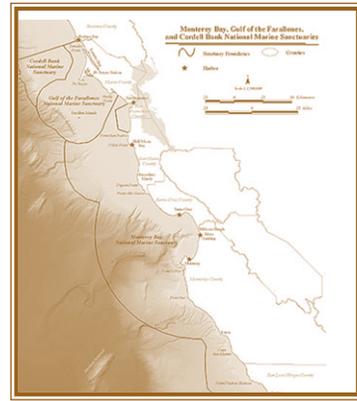
The Sanctuary Program recognizes traditional user and ocean-dependent groups are interconnected with the sanctuaries and are an integral part of our history.

For a complete listing of the sanctuary's "Cultural Resources Action Plan" please visit http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/m_reptoadd.html and scroll down the page to "Cross Cutting Action Plans".

The Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR)

"Maritime Heritage" is one of the action plans in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Draft Management Plan. The MBNMS Draft Management Plan includes twenty-eight plans that, once finalized, will guide sanctuary management for the next five years. The plan is a revision of the original management plan, adopted with sanctuary designation in 1992, and is focused on how to best understand and protect the sanctuary's resources.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is updating the management plans for the Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries a process known as the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR).



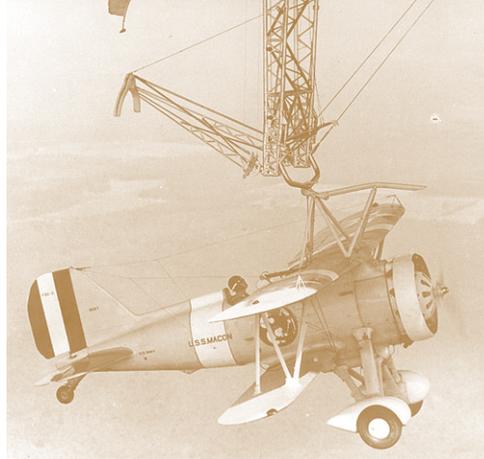
GLOSSARY

Archaeological: Of or pertaining to the scientific study of ancient cultures through the examination of their material remains, for example, buildings, graves, tools, and other artifacts usually dug up from the ground.

Bunker-C fuel oil: Heavy fuel oil that requires heating to liquefy.

Monitoring: Organized assessment of changes through time.

Photo # 80-G-441979 Curtiss F9C-2 "Sparrowhawk" hangs on USS Macon's trapeze, 1933



U.S. Naval Historical Center/National Archives
Curtiss F9C-2 "Sparrowhawk" fighter hanging from the trapeze of the *USS Macon*

How You Can Get Involved in the MBNMS Management Plan Process

The MBNMS welcomes your ideas about important resource management issues in the sanctuary. A Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for release to the public in 2006. Following their release, hearings will be held in several locations throughout the region to gather public comment. Written comments will be accepted as well. To find out about public hearings, or how to submit written comments, please visit our website at <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>.

Resources

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Submerged Cultural Resources:

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/resmanissues/culturalres.html>

THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 276 miles of shoreline and 5,322 square miles (4,625 nautical miles) of ocean, extending an average distance of 30 miles from shore. At its deepest point, the sanctuary reaches down 10,663 feet (more than two miles). The sanctuary was established for the purposes of resource protection, research, education, and public use. Its natural resources include one of our nation's largest kelp forests and one of North America's largest underwater canyons. It is home to one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world, including 33 marine mammal species, 94 seabird species, 345 fish species, and numerous invertebrates and plants. This remarkably productive marine environment is fringed by spectacular coastal scenery, including sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, rolling hills, and steep mountains.

