



# Monitor



## Habitats

Pelagic, open ocean

Artificial reef

## Key Species

Amberjack

Black sea bass

Red barbiar

Sand tiger shark

Dolphin

Sea anemones

Corals

Sea urchins

## Monitor National Marine

**Sanctuary** was designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary on January 30, 1975. 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 all of the emerging innovations that revolutionized warfare at sea. The *Monitor* was constructed in a mere 110 days.

## Research Activities

In recent years a dramatic increase in the rate of deterioration of the *Monitor* has been documented. In response, NOAA with the help of the U.S. Navy and other partners, embarked on an ambitious multiyear effort to stabilize the hull and recover selected components. These efforts culminated in 2002 with recovery of *Monitor's* gun turret. Restoration of the many artifacts recovered will continue for the next several years. Intensive historical research into the construction of these components is being carried out by sanctuary staff as well as continuing to provide support to private researchers through the *Monitor* Collection, which includes historical information as well as visual documentation of the wreck.

## Education Activities

Because of the *Monitor's* remote location, the majority of the American public cannot visit the site. However, the public can witness the restoration of many *Monitor* artifacts including the gun turret and steam engine at The Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia.



**Location**  
16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

**Protected Area**  
1-square mile

**Designation**  
January 1975

**Address**  
The Mariner's Museum  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

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Above: wreck resting on gun turret before 2002 recovery; left to right: gun turret breaking the surface after 140 years; Monitor's anchor; line drawing of a brass signal lantern, 1st artifact recovered from the Monitor

